

Scarsdale Sentinel



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United States of America
PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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House of Representatives

RECOGNIZING SHORELINE PUBLISHING

CONGRESSMAN GEORGE LATIMER SPEAKING ON THE FLOOR

Mr. Speaker, in a world where local newspapers and radio stations are disappearing, it is valuable to recognize and salute those organizations that are continuing to provide information about our local communities' life and times.

In Westchester County we owe a public debt of gratitude to Shoreline Publishing, which serves the people of southern Westchester with five community newspapers; a countywide Jewish monthly newspaper and a full-color quarterly magazine, *Westchester Women*.

Under the leadership of president and publisher Edward Shapiro, Shoreline provides and information lifeline across out towns with the *Pelham Post*, *Scarsdale Sentinel*, *Harri-son Herald*, *Larchmont Ledger*--as you can see, alliteration still has its appeal--and the *New Rochelle Review*.

Editors Cynthia Pena and Joyce Farrell ensure timely local news reaches the readers in each community, as well as the readers of *Westchester Jewish Life*, which is always avail-able in the local synagogues and temples. Other key Shoreline executives round out the local team, including Lauren Levine and Mary DeYoung.

I thank Shoreline Publishing from the floor of the House of Representatives for con-tinuing to keep local news at the forefront of our hometowns.

Community Update: Shaping Our Future Together

BY JUSTIN AREST,
MAYOR OF SCARSDALE



Mayor Justin K. Arest

For generations, the Village-owned Freightway site has been a topic of much debate and several unfinished chapters. Efforts to develop this area date back to 1995, 1981, and even earlier. The village is pleased to begin a proactive, commu-nity-led process to redevelop the Freightway site that keeps community input at the heart of how this vital area evolves.

As we look toward the future of our Village center, we can build on what we have learned from past efforts and move forward together with a fresh approach.

Overview of our Most Recent Experience

The Freightway Steering Committee was created by the Village Board in 2017 with a mandate to “develop a community-based vision and set goals for redeveloping the un-derutilized Freightway site...” It issued a report

in 2018, which led to a devel-oper selection process in 2019. However, the Board paused the process in 2020 because many felt the community’s voice was being lost. We recognize that much of the unease stemmed from the traditional model approach, where a developer is chosen first and then leads the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) process based on their specific development proposal. Under that model, the developer prepares the EIS

and the Planning Board typically serves as the Lead Agency (the body with the authority to oversee the environmental review process and evaluate the EIS). While this is standard for most projects, in this context it may have cre-ated a perception that key decisions regarding the scale and density of the project had already been made and that a project’s approval was inevitable.

We are flipping that process upside down.

continued on page 4



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Terri Simon Named the 2026 Scarsdale Bowl Award Winner; the Spotlight Award Goes to the Scarsdale Historical Society

The Scarsdale Foundation announced that Terri Simon will receive the 2026 Scarsdale Bowl. The venerated Bowl award is presented annually since 1943 to those who have “given unselfishly of time, energy, and effort to the civic welfare of the community.” Simon’s many years of service and dedication to the Scarsdale community, along with her commitment and compassion, have earned her this honor.

The Scarsdale Foundation also continues its newer tradition of honoring either an individual or an organization who has made a tangible difference in the community’s quality of life in one specific area. The Spotlight Award, established in 2023, this year goes to Scarsdale Historical Society for bringing together Village residents to celebrate our rich history.

We invite everyone in Scarsdale to help celebrate the Foundation’s honorees at the Bowl Dinner on Thursday, April 23. The Scarsdale Foundation promotes and celebrates volunteerism and also administers grants and scholarships, provides need-based college scholarships



Terri Simon

for sophomores, juniors and seniors and recognizes extraordinary volunteers who work toward the betterment of the community.

Terri Simon

Terri Simon has been a Greenacres resident since 1989. She has served in numerous leadership positions and as a



Scarsdale Historical Society Board: Back row, left to right standing: Lori Rothman Kaplan, Dana Matsushita, Deidre Michael, Treasurer, Deborah Skolnik, Secretary, Shivi Bansal. Front row, left to right sitting: May Cowan, Jordan Copeland, Vice President, Randy Guggenheimer, President, Leslie Chang, Social Media, Christine Weston. Not pictured: Karen Ceske, Seth Kaller, Lesley Shearer

member of myriad organizations. Notably, Simon has made significant contributions as Board of Education President and trustee; as President of the Scarsdale Library Board; at My Sister’s Place as President; and at Temple Bet Am Shalom in important roles including Chair and President.

Bowl committee chair Pam Fuehrer notes, “For more than 30 years, Terri’s unwavering dedication to volunteerism and service has profoundly enriched the Scarsdale community. Since she arrived in town in 1989, she has exemplified the spirit of civic engagement and community leadership that the Scarsdale Bowl Award seeks to celebrate. The Bowl Committee is grateful for this opportunity to recognize the breadth and depth of Terri’s extraordinary impact. Her compassion and warmth, willingness to listen, professionalism, and a tireless work ethic have helped steer multiple boards and committees through significant challenges. Her guidance by example makes her an inspiring mentor to many.”

A dedicated advocate for education, Simon served as President of the Scarsdale Board of Education (2005-2006), Vice President (2004-2005), and Trustee (2001-2007). During her tenure, she worked tirelessly to ensure the district’s excellence, leading key initiatives such as the School District Capital Construc-

tion project and serving on the Advisory Committee on Legislative Issues. Simon’s leadership began at the elementary school level, where she was President of the Greenacres Elementary PTA (1994-1996) and Secretary of the Scarsdale Council of Parent-Teacher Associations (1996-1997).

On the Scarsdale Library Board of Trustees, Simon served as President and took a significant role on the Capital Campaign committee from 2015-2018, to help grow and modernize the library. At Bet Am Shalom Synagogue she has served as President and Board Chair, and helped to guide the congregation with strategic vision. At My Sister’s Place, Simon is a passionate voice addressing intimate partner violence, championing the agency’s mission, and driving impactful programs that uplift vulnerable populations.

Additionally, Simon has served on the School Board Nominating Committee as a member, vice-chair, and multiple times on the Administrative Committee. She has served on the District Capital Construction Coordinating Committee and co-chaired the District Communications Committee for Facilities Bond Campaign. She has also served on the Hoff Barthelson Board of Trustees, and as a chair of the Scarsdale Bowl Committee. Beyond her volunteer roles, Simon’s

continued on page 9

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Scarsdale Village Board Approves SEQRA Reviews

BY STEPHEN E. LIPKEN

Village of Scarsdale Mayor Justin K. Arest convened the January 13 Board of Trustees meeting by saying, “As we begin 2026, we look ahead to several important observances in the weeks to come, including Martin Luther King, Jr. Day. Dr. King’s legacy reminds us of the ongoing work of service, justice and building community work that remains very much unfinished.

“We had a Budget meeting earlier in Rutherford Hall, where we looked at First Pass Highlights and proposed Fiscal Year ’27 Budget for parks, recreation and conservation. I would also like to remind everyone of our Mayoral Community Update Letter about the future of Freightway [parking garage] site. For anyone that has not had a chance to review the information, I encourage you to visit our site, scarsdale.gov and search for Freightway.”

Editor’s note: Arest’s update letter can also be read in this issue of the *Scarsdale Sentinel*.

Trustee Jeremy A. Gans requested continuation of Public Hearing for proposed Local Law to amend Chapter 251 of the Village Code. Chapter 251 deals with Site Plan Review, requiring approval from the Planning Board for nonresidential and multifamily developments, expansions or significant disturbances, focusing on design, traffic, safety and harmony

with the community, covering aspects like setbacks, parking, landscaping and building scale through specific sections and design guidelines.

Consent Agenda items included Resolutions directing Village Staff to distribute a Notice of Intent to be the Lead Agency for State Environmental Quality Review Act ((SEQRA) review of the Cushman Road et al Drainage Improvement Grant Application; Notice of Intent to be the Lead Agency for SEQRA review of Griffen Avenue Drainage Improvements Grant Application; Lead Agency for SEQRA review of George Field Park Drainage Improvements Grant Application; and Lead Agency for SEQRA review of Brite Avenue Drainage Improvements Grant Application.

Agenda Items encompassed Resolution approving contract with MRB Group for Tax Map Services, amounting to \$24,400 with additional contingency charge of \$4,500; Resolution of gift of \$500 by Sang and Lisa Han to Scarsdale Fire Department Gift Account; gift of \$5,000 from Fenway Golf Club Charitable Fund to Scarsdale Fire Department; and \$2,000 donation from Matthias Bowman to Scarsdale Police Department Gift Account.

Finally, Resolution of Trustee Jeremy Wise awards VM Contract #1326 for Catherine Road Box Culverts Replacement Project, amounting to \$1,367,100.

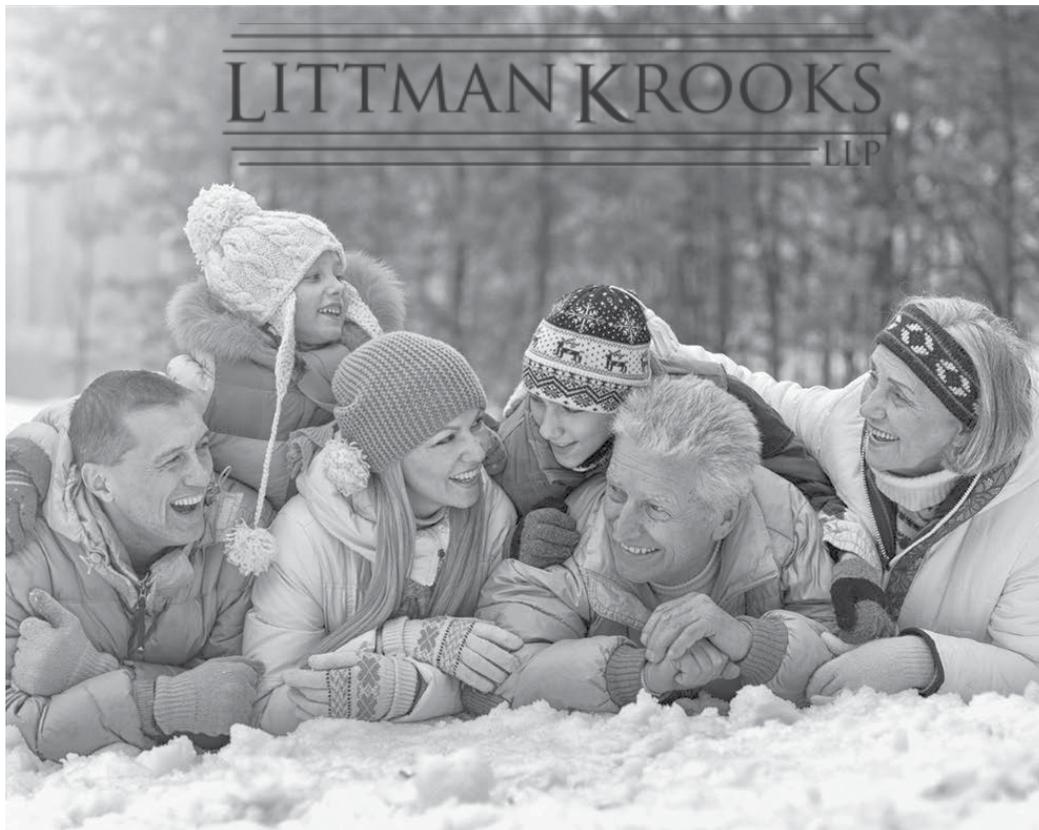
Scarsdale School District Considers \$98 Million Bond Referendum

The Scarsdale Public Schools has embarked on a planning process for a potential bond referendum in 2026. In anticipation of significant debt service falling off in the 2027-2028 school year, the District has engaged with BBS Architects and Arris Contracting Company to develop a long range capital plan. A Capital Projects Steering Committee (CPSC) formed in March 2025 charged with presenting a recommendation to the Board of Education of a scope of work consistent with the Strategic Plan. That initial recommendation was made on September 15, 2025, kicking off a phase of discussion and feedback with the Board and members of the public.

The current bond proposal is \$98,537,034. The bond would fund renovations and updates to the district’s oldest classrooms and accommodates current and projected enrollment changes at Edgewood and Fox Meadow elementary schools. Air conditioning would be upgraded at all district schools and field upgrades are planned for Greenacres and Quaker Ridge elementary schools.

Jim Dugan, President of the Scarsdale Board of Education, addressed the Capital Projects Bond process, which has been underway since early last year, at a recent board meeting. He stated, “We come now to a crossroads, where we have before us an exciting opportunity to secure the successful future of our schools and, concomitantly, our community, for the next 50 years and beyond. The improvements that we will be able to implement via our proposed bond will be extensive, affecting student learning and experience in myriad ways. At a basic level, this work will elevate the student learning experience and bring necessary upgrades and enhancements to our buildings, the lack of which would, over time, result in the deterioration and loss of functionality in our buildings, to the detriment of all of our students. I am excited to be part of this wonderful opportunity to confirm our commitment to the future of our children and the continued vitality and leadership of our community in matters of public education. We should all be proud of what we have accomplished so far, but we can and must do more to continue to be a school district others look to for leadership and as a measure of what is possible for a public school to be.”

The bond referendum could be held on Tuesday, May 19, 2026, when the school budget and Board of Education vote takes place.



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In simple terms, we are asking the community to help define what could be possible on the Freightway site before any developer is engaged.

By first conducting a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS), the Village Board is choosing to do the hard work of planning together and transparently with the community upfront. This is a broad planning and environmental review that will inform us of the type and extent of redevelopment the site can support. The Village Board will retain direct control of the process by acting as the Lead Agency, drafting the GEIS (through the Village Planner and retained land use consultants), ensuring that your elected representatives are the ones setting the standards. Together, we will analyze various “what if” scenarios by examining different heights, densities, and development configurations to determine the potential impact on our schools, traffic, and infrastructure. This study will establish the requirements that any future redevelopment of the site must meet.

To ensure this process is exhaustive and transparent, the Village will soon engage professional planning consultants to provide essential expertise in areas including traffic, school demographics, and economics. Most importantly, we are committing to a process that keeps residents at the center through:

- **Community Scoping Session(s):** Formal meeting(s) where the community identifies the specific environmental, social, and economic impacts that must be analyzed in the study.
- **Public Working Group Presentations:** Open sessions where our consultants will present data on key topics such as school enrollment and traffic to ensure transparency while the study is being drafted.
- **Community Visioning Workshops:** Interactive sessions to discuss the preferred look, feel, and scale of any redevelopment to ensure the final study considers Scarsdale’s unique character.

This approach represents a significant commitment of Village resources, but it is also an investment in community confidence. By funding this study ourselves, we ensure that the planners and engineers work exclusively for the Village, not for a private developer. While the Village will lead this effort, we are under no obligation to proceed; if the final study shows that redevelopment cannot meet our community standards, we will not move forward. After the conclusion of the GEIS process, if a preferred developer is ultimately selected, the Village expects to be reimbursed for costs incurred in conducting this study.

The Village Board invites Scarsdale residents to be a part of this journey. Below are Frequently Asked Questions to help explain how this new process works. Let us build something together of which we can all be proud.

Frequently Asked Questions: The GEIS Process

What exactly is a Generic Environmental Impact Statement (GEIS)?

- A GEIS is a formal study used to consider broad planning actions for a specific area. Unlike a typical review that looks at one specific building plan, a GEIS looks at a range of possibilities.

- It allows the Village to set “thresholds,” which are legal limits on things like traffic, building size, or school impact that any future project must respect.

Who ultimately decides what happens?

- The Village Board of Trustees serves as the Lead Agency. In this role, the Board determines which topics are examined in the GEIS, ensures the sufficiency of the data collected, and makes final decisions based on expert reports and studies.

- However, the GEIS process is designed so that public input informs the GEIS Scope (the document that sets forth what will be studied), the Draft GEIS (the document which explains the data collected and conclusions

reached), and the Findings Statement (the final document that sets the requirements for any future development of the site).

- The Board’s decisions will be based on the data provided by experts and the consensus built through community engagement workshops.

How much will this cost and who pays for it?

- The Village Board is currently finalizing the budget for this work, which will be informed by the competitive RFP process.

- To ensure total independence, the Village is paying the upfront costs. This ensures the data is unbiased and the experts are accountable only to the Board and the community.

- Under New York State law, the Village can recover a significant portion of these costs via “charge-backs” to any developer who eventually moves forward with a project that utilizes this study.

Is “no development” an option?

- Yes. Every GEIS is legally required to study a “No Action” alternative. This study will provide the data to understand the costs and benefits of keeping the site as it is today versus various change scenarios.

Where can I find all project documents and updates?

- The Village has a dedicated project page on our website at <https://scarsdale.gov/536/Freightway-Redevelopment-Document-and-VI>. All formal documents, including the GEIS Scope, Draft GEIS, and data presentations, will be posted there as they become available.

- You can also sign up for NotifyMe to receive Village email notifications about im-

portant topics including Freightway, at <https://www.scarsdale.gov/list.aspx>

How can the community get involved?

- This process is designed to be public, visible, transparent, and participatory. The community can participate through the formal GEIS Scoping process, written comment periods, and public hearings.

- The GEIS study will be managed by a Village Center Transit Oriented Development (VCTOD) Working Group consisting of the Mayor, Village Board Land Use Committee Chairs, Village staff, and professional consultants. All findings will be presented in public meetings for review, with final oversight and decision-making by the Village Board of Trustees.

What is the preliminary timeline for 2026?

- January: Issue the RFP to hire the professional team with expertise in planning, traffic, school demographics, economics, and other relevant fields.

- February/March: Select the team and begin the formal Public Scoping process.

- Spring: Hold Community Scoping Session(s) and initial Data Workshops while the community is in session.

- Summer: Consultants conduct technical analysis and data compilation. To ensure maximum participation, no formal public scoping sessions or hearings will be held during the peak summer travel months.

- Fall: Present the Draft GEIS (DGEIS) for full community review and public hearings.

- Future Steps: The schedule for the Final GEIS, Findings Statement, and any potential Zoning Code changes will be determined after a DGEIS is adopted by the Board.

Volunteers Needed for Scarsdale Boards, Councils and Committees

Scarsdale has a long-standing tradition of volunteerism and civic engagement. The Personnel Committee of the Village Board of Trustees invites residents who are interested in serving on Village Boards, Councils, and Committees to submit their names for consideration. The Village seeks candidates who bring a broad range of experiences and perspectives. New terms begin on April 6, 2026.

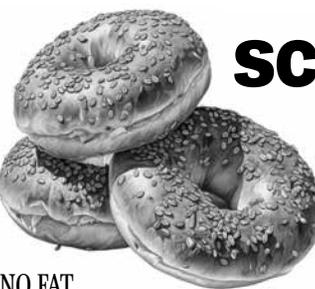
For more information on the various Boards, Councils, and Committees, including their areas of focus, visit <https://www.scarsdale.gov/182/Boards-Councils-Committees>.

Applications must be submitted on or before February 13, 2026. Applications may be submitted online at <https://www.scarsdale.gov/FormCenter/Boards-Commissions-4/Boards-Commissions-and-Councils-Applicat-43> or by mailing or hand-delivering a printed application addressed to Attn: Trustee Kofman, Village Hall, 1001 Post Road, Scarsdale, NY 10583.

Scarsdale residents may recommend individuals for consideration or seek additional information by contacting Trustee Jason Kofman at jkofman@scarsdale.gov or Deputy Mayor Dara B. Gruenberg at dgruenberg@scarsdale.gov. For administrative assistance, Taylor Emanuel of the Village Clerk’s Office is available at 914-722-1175 or temanuel@scarsdale.gov.

To review the full guidelines for membership, terms of office, and member responsibilities for Scarsdale’s Citizen Boards, Councils, and Committees, visit <https://www.scarsdale.gov/399/Volunteer-to-Serve>.

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Harrison Teen Becomes First Local Girl Scout in 16 Years to Earn Gold Award

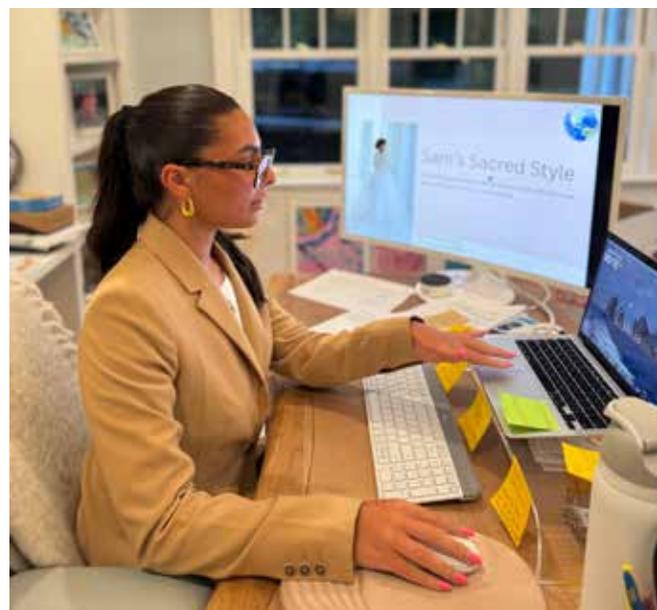
Harrison High School junior Samantha Ferrara earned the Girl Scout Gold Award, the highest honor in Girl Scouting, on October 20, 2025. She is the first Girl Scout from Harrison to receive the Gold Award in at least 16 years.

The Gold Award is rare and highly selective. Only about 5 percent of eligible Girl Scouts nationwide earn the distinction, reflecting the level of leadership, planning, and sustained community impact required.



Ferrara earned the award for her project, Sam's Sacred Style, which addresses textile waste and clothing insecurity. Through the initiative, she collected, restored, and redistributed gently worn white Communion and Confirmation dresses to families in need.

To date, Ferrara has collected and redistributed 352 dresses and diverted more than 1,400 pounds of textiles from landfills. She was mentored by a co-founder of Helpsy, a textile reuse and recycling company, reinforcing the project's environmental focus. She also partnered with Food for the Poor and Angels of Hope to distribute dresses globally to girls facing clothing insecurity and to orphanages, expanding the project's reach beyond Westchester and the United States.



Beyond her Gold Award project, Ferrara has demonstrated a broader commitment to environmental education. She has published a children's book, *Compost with Coco*, focused on composting and the environmental benefits of food waste reduction, and has written and published a research paper examining consumer behavior and sustainability in the fast fashion industry.

"I wanted to show that meaningful change can start locally and still reach far beyond our community," Ferrara said. "Many of the girls I worked with felt embarrassed or discouraged because their families couldn't afford a new dress. Being able to support them, restore their confidence, and show them how reusing clothing also helps the Earth was incredibly meaningful."

Ferrara serves as vice president of the Harrison High School Environmental Club and interns with the Harrison Sustainability Committee, where she supports local initiatives related to composting, recycling, and sustainable practices. She hopes to pursue a future that combines science, research, teaching, and community-based impact, allowing her curiosity to drive hands-on learning and service.

The next Sam's Sacred Style dress distribution event is slated for early March at St. John's the Baptist Church in White Plains. For updates and additional information, follow Sam's Sacred Style on Instagram.

A Valentine's Day advertisement for Sportech. The ad features a pink and white color scheme with heart shapes. At the top, the Sportech logo is displayed with the address 124 S. Ridge St., Rye Brook, NY 10573, phone number 914-934-0001, and website SportechRyeBrook.com. The main headline reads "Let's make it a Special Valentine's Day". Below this, there are three heart-shaped callouts: "FOR THE RUNNER" suggesting sneakers and layering pieces; "FOR THE RACQUET SPORT PLAYER" listing racquets, paddles, footwear, and apparel for tennis, squash, and pickleball; and "KIDS LOVE SPORTECH!!" highlighting growing kids' needs and offering gift cards. A final heart-shaped callout at the bottom right says "LOTS of New Spring Apparel Has Arrived." The ad is framed by a pink border with heart cutouts.

Edgemont School Board Nominating Committee Seeks Volunteers

Looking to help the community? The Edgemont Community Council (ECC) encourages all residents, whether or not they have children in the schools, to consider volunteering for the School Board Nominating Committee (SBNC) or to submit names of residents they would like to suggest for membership.

About the SBNC For nearly nine decades, the SBNC has been charged with encouraging qualified residents to serve on the Edgemont School Board, and with implementing a fair and judicious means for evaluating and recommending candidates.

Work of the SBNC The SBNC (which is sponsored by the ECC) solicits qualified residents for the Edgemont School Board, interviews nominees, and recommends candidates. The SBNC consists of three voting members from each of Edgemont's eight neighborhoods, as well as one student representative from Edgemont High School. The work of the SBNC begins each year in autumn and runs through the nominee interviews and Candidate Forum in the spring. SBNC members also must attend at least three school board meetings.

Qualifications to Serve To serve on the SBNC, residents must:

Be a resident of the school district for at least three years at the date of their election to the SBNC.

Not be the spouse, parent, sibling, child, sibling of a parent, or child of a sibling of a current member of the Edgemont School Board.

Not be the spouse, parent, sibling, child, sibling of a parent, or child of a sibling of a current member of the SBNC.

Not have served on the SBNC within the last three years.

Election Process The ECC Nominating Committee is responsible for compiling a list of Edgemont residents from which the voters of the Edgemont School District shall elect members of the SBNC. The SBNC Election shall be held on the same day as the School Budget vote, typically the third Tuesday in May. If there are an equal number of nominees as there are SBNC vacancies for any neighborhood, the nominees shall be deemed elected by unanimous consent and no election shall be required for that neighborhood.

Whom to Contact To express interest in serving on the SBNC, contact the ECC Nominating Committee by Tuesday, March 3, 2026 at NomCom@EdgemontECC.org. Include your address to determine which neighborhood you would represent on the SBNC if elected. Residents are also encouraged to recommend other residents the ECC Nominating Committee should contact regarding SBNC service.

Scarsdale Calendar



Birds, Books and Baked Goods
Tuesdays, February 10 and 24, 10 AM to 11:30 AM

Lasdon Public Gardens, 2610 Amawalk Road, Route 35, Katonah
Observe wildlife at the bird feeders and nearby habitat at Lasdon House. We'll peruse our bookshelf of resources, make notes in our journal and learn about bird-friendly plantings. Optional: Bring a baked

good to share with other participants, or bring a scoop of food or suet cake for our feathered friends. Coffee, tea and treats will be provided. Free admission. To register, go to <https://www.lasdonpublicgardens.org/event/birds-books-and-baked-goods/2026-01-20/>



Lunar New Year Celebration
Sunday, February 8, Noon to 3 PM
Katonah Museum of Art, 134 Jay Street

Mark the Lunar New Year with a day of creativity and cultural tradition for the whole family! Discover the work of artist Shen Wei, experience a dynamic Lion Dance, enjoy performances by the Li Garden Dance Company, and create Lunar New

Year-themed art projects. All ages and abilities welcome. To register, go to <https://www.katonahmuseum.org/events/?eid=962>



Teodosia: An Alt-Valentine Oratorio
Saturday, February 14, 4 PM
St. James Church, 296 Titicus Road, North Salem

The Academy of Sacred Drama will present an outrageous alternative to the romance story: Alessandro Scarlatti's *Il martirio di Santa Teodosia*, the story of a fearless saint who spurns suitors, turns down marriage,

and embraces martyrdom instead of a wedding veil. With dazzling baroque arias, dramatic duets, and an inspiring chorus, the performance flips the usual love-song script on its head. For tickets, go to <https://luma.com/teodosia-ns>



Maple Sugaring Party
Sunday, March 1, 10 AM to 3 PM
Greenburgh Nature Center, 99 Dromore Road, Scarsdale

The sugary sweet aroma leads to the sugar shack for live evaporation demonstrations that show how maple syrup is made. Taste sap tapped straight from the Nature Center's trees and watch how boiling sap cre-

ates maple syrup. Learn more at <https://naturecentergb.org/maple-sugaring-party/>

Bobby LaVell Jazz Quintet
Friday, February 6, 5 PM to 8 PM
Hudson River Museum, 511 Warburton Avenue, Yonkers

Celebrate Black History Month with an evening of live jazz featuring the Bobby LaVell Jazz Quintet. A longtime Yonkers resident, LaVell has performed worldwide with legends including Ray Charles, B.B. King, and Cab Calloway. Enjoy two sets of original and classic jazz compositions from the American Songbook at 5:30 PM and 6:45 PM. For more information, call (914) 963-4550.

An Evening of Chamber Music
Saturday, February 7, 8 PM

Hitchcock Presbyterian Church, 6 Greenacres Avenue, Scarsdale
The New Choral Society under the direction of Dr. John T. King will perform a program of beloved chamber works by Brahms, Dvořák, Eric Ewazen, Haydn, Vivaldi, Zemlinsky and other composers. The music spans the centuries and includes familiar and lesser known works. Ticket prices range from \$20 to \$35. To purchase tickets, go to www.newchoralsociety.org.

Westchester Jewish Council's 50th Anniversary Gala
Saturday, February 7, 7:15 PM

Congregation Kol Ami, 252 Soundview Avenue, White Plains
This celebration of five decades of community and connection will honor Stu Seltzer, Pam Goldstein and "Run for Their Lives." The evening includes a reception, program and after-party catered by Foremost Caterers/Jeff Becker. For more information, email Donna@wjcouncil.org.

Webinar—The Mind-Behavior Connection: How Mental Health Can Influence Substance Use, Wednesday, February 11

Mental health challenges like anxiety, depression, or ADHD can increase the risk that a young person turns to nicotine, alcohol, or other drugs to cope. Substance use can also trigger or worsen mental health struggles. When both happen together, it is called co-occurring disorders. In this webinar, Linda Richter, PhD, with Partnership to End Addiction, explains this connection and shares warning signs and ways to support your child and reduce risk. To register, go to <https://www.operationparent.org/webinars#register>

Book Author Talk with Neurosurgeon Dr. Theodore H. Schwartz
Thursday, February 12, 7 PM to 9 PM

Scarsdale Public Library, 54 Olmsted Road
Scarsdale resident and renowned neurosurgeon Dr. Theodore H. Schwartz will discuss his book *Gray Matters: A Biography of Brain Surgery*. Dr. Schwartz offers a rare and accessible look into the art, science, and humanity of brain surgery through compelling case studies that include both well-known figures and deeply personal stories. The discussion will be moderated by filmmaker James Solomon and promises to be an engaging community event that brings together science, storytelling, and the human experience. For more information, call (914) 722-1300.

Valentine's Day Brunch
Saturday, February 14, 11 AM to 1 PM

Hilltop Hanover Farm, 1271 Hanover St., Yorktown Heights
Attendees will prepare a three-course meal together to share while picking up new skills to learn how to cook for your loved ones! \$15 per person. Pre-registration is required. For more information, call (914) 862-5050.

Movie Matinee: Hidden Figures
Thursday, February 19, 1 PM

Jewish Community Center of Mid-Westchester, 999 Wilmot Road, Scarsdale
This powerful and uplifting film tells the true story of the brilliant women whose work helped shape NASA's early space missions, celebrating their intelligence and perseverance. The movie will be followed by a post-screening discussion with New Rochelle Public Library Adult Services librarian and film historian Chris Poggiali. For more information, email adult_programs@jccmw.org.

Upcoming Events at the Scarsdale Public Library

Read For the Gold Winter Reading Challenge February 1 - 28
The 2026 Winter Olympics will be held in Italy! Athletes will compete in fun sports like skiing, snowboarding, and ice skating in the snowy mountains and on the ice. Celebrate by logging your reading during the month of February and earning Olympic-inspired badges throughout the month. Can you earn a gold medal and read 300 minutes? For Babies through 5th grade. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/read-gold-winter-reading-challenge>

Author Talk: Motion Dazzle with Jocelyn Cox Monday, February 2, 7 PM
Motion Dazzle: A Memoir of Motherhood, Loss, and Skating on Thin Ice follows her journey as an athlete, coach, then caregiver when her mother was diagnosed with dementia even while Cox was becoming a mother herself. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/author-talk-motion-dazzle-jocelyn-cox-131463>

Author Talk: The Tides Come Around with Yuliana Kim-Grant Saturday, February 7, 2 PM
Join authors Yuliana Kim-Grant and Jimin Han for what is sure to be a captivating discussion. This novel explores how we are all strangers, uncertain travelers in a world that is never quite what we think or might positively become. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/author-talk-jimin-han-140290>

Hand Health with ONS Wed, February 11, 2 PM

Keep your hands going strong with this practical and informative look at hand health from occupational therapist Janet Krzemienski. We'll explore topics such as arthritis, carpal tunnel, and injury recovery as well as some of the basics of hand anatomy. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/hand-health-139123>

Virtual: Scarsdale Reads - A Black History Celebration Wednesday, February 18, 7 PM
We are pleased to present a diverse panel of readers, including local authors and staff, offering selected prose and poetry to commemorate and celebrate Black History Month. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/virtual-scarsdale-reads-black-history-celebration-140289>

Understanding Alzheimer's and Dementia Thursday, February 19, 11 AM
Join us for a practical and compassionate look at the differences between regular forgetfulness and early signs of dementia. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/understanding-alzheimers-and-dementia-132435>

A Musical Celebration of African American History with Rhonda Denet Saturday, February 21, 2 PM
Rhonda Denet returns to take you on a musical journey back to the vibrant 60s and 70s, celebrating the iconic rhythm & blues and soul that defined an era. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/rhonda-denet-music-black-history-month-132439>

Parks for the American People - The Legacy of Frederick Law Olmsted Sun, February 22, 2 PM
Landscape designer and educator Jennifer Yates explores Olmsted's legacy and showcases the natural beauty of the parks he helped to build during a formative time in the nation's history. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/parks-american-people-legacy-frederick-law-olmsted-132899>

Using AI Tools Mindfully Mon, February 23, 1 PM
Through hands-on examples, participants will see both the strengths and weaknesses of agentic large language models in regular tasks and gain a greater appreciation for when AI can prove useful and when it is an unreliable shortcut. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/mindful-look-ai-platforms-140164>

Author Talk: Hormone Havoc with Dr. Amy Shah Monday, February 23, 7 PM
Drawing from her new book Hormone Havoc: A Science-Backed Protocol for Perimenopause and Menopause, Dr. Shah shares practical insights into the latest research on menopause and a nutrition-forward approach to managing symptoms. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/author-talk-hormone-havoc-dr-amy-shah-139201>

Health for Life - Information Session Wednesday, February 25, 12:30 PM
Come learn more about an upcoming Health for Life series run by the New York Office for the

Aging and Livable Communities Westchester County meant to help empower older individuals for healthy aging and managing chronic conditions. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/health-life-information-session-139232>

Movie Screening & Discussion - The Organization (1971) Friday, February 20, 2 PM
A twisty, well-pedigreed conclusion to the character of Virgil Tibbs in film, steeped in the gritty action and moral ambiguity of 1970s police thrillers. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/movie-screening-discussion-organization-1971-140457>

VIRTUAL: Successfully Navigating College Admissions This Winter - Wednesday, February 25, 7:30 PM
This Zoom program provides a clear and strategic overview of what students should prioritize for a successful college admissions journey. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/virtual-successfully-navigating-college-admissions-winter-140528>

Film Screening & Director Q&A - The Waiting Game with Michael Husain Friday, February 27, 1 PM
Learn about the little-known story of a renegade basketball league that inspired today's NBA. <https://www.scarsdalelibrary.org/event/film-screening-director-qa-waiting-game-michael-husain-132430>

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COMMUNITY HOUSING INNOVATIONS

New Year's Resolutions

BY BERNARD A. KROOKS, CERTIFIED
ELDER LAW ATTORNEY
SPECIAL GUEST CONTRIBUTOR:
JOEL KROOKS, ESQ.

As we enter 2026, there are important federal and New York State estate tax changes that should be on every client's radar. Whether you're updating an existing estate plan or starting one for the first time, understanding the updated exemption amounts, gift tax figures, and planning opportunities is essential to protect your legacy and minimize tax exposure.

Due to the One Big Beautiful Bill, the federal estate and gift tax exemption for 2026 is \$15 million for each individual, up from \$13.99 million in 2025. Thus, in 2026, a married couple can give away during lifetime or on death (or a combination thereof) \$30 million without incurring federal estate or gift tax.

New York, of course, has its own estate tax which kicks in for taxable estates over \$7.35 million, up from \$7.16 million in 2025. However, New York does not have a gift tax, although any lifetime gifts made within three years of death are "clawed back" into the decedent's New York taxable estate for purposes of calculating their New York state estate tax. New York's estate tax has a notable "cliff" provision: if your estate's value exceeds the exemption by more than 5 percent, the entire estate—not just the excess—is subject to tax. This makes precise valuation and planning critical for estates close to the exemption threshold.

In addition, each individual is still permitted to give \$19,000 in 2026 to as many people as they wish in any calendar year. This number did not increase from 2025. Thus, a married couple who has three children and seven grandchildren, can give \$38,000 (\$19,000 each) to each of them in 2026, an aggregate of \$380,000, without paying gift taxes or even having to file a gift tax return. Moreover, gifts made for educational or medical purposes are not subject to the \$19,000 limit so long as the gifts are made directly to the educational or medical provider. Annual gifting remains a highly effective tool to reduce the size of your taxable estate over time. Coordinating gifts with your overall estate plan can shift future appreciation out of your taxable estate and help avoid both federal and state estate taxes.

Lastly, beginning in 2026, new limitations will apply to charitable deductions for taxpayers who itemize.

Charitable contributions will be deductible only to the extent they exceed 0.5 percent of the donor's adjusted gross income (AGI). This means that smaller charitable gifts may not generate any tax benefit for itemizers unless total contributions rise above this threshold. As a result, clients may wish to reconsider the structure of charitable giving, particularly with respect to year-end contributions and donor-advised funds. Furthermore, taxpayers who claim the standard deduction will be eligible for an above-the-line charitable deduction starting in 2026. This provision allows deductions of up to \$1,000 for individual filers and \$2,000

for married couples filing jointly, providing a limited tax incentive for charitable giving even when itemizing is not advantageous.

If you do not yet have an estate plan in place, consider making it a priority this year to have one prepared by an experienced estate planning attorney. If your existing plan has not been reviewed recently—or if you have experienced significant life changes—now is an ideal time to revisit your strategy. With the updated 2026 exemption amounts in effect, coordinating with an estate planning attorney and your financial advisor can help ensure your legacy goals are preserved

as the tax landscape continues to evolve.

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.

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Terri Simon Named the 2026 Scarsdale Bowl Award Winner; the Spotlight Award Goes to the Scarsdale Historical Society

continued from page 2

professional career as a partner at Kehl, Katzive & Simon brought her expertise in business litigation and education law into her community advocacy, enriching her ability to serve effectively.

Simon and her husband, Eric Levine, raised their two sons in Scarsdale, where they both attended Greenacres, Scarsdale Middle School and graduated from Scarsdale High School. Her younger son and his wife live in Quaker Ridge with Simon's two grandchildren. Her older son and his wife live in North Carolina.

"I am feeling so, so honored by this recognition, finding it very profound to be included in the roster of extraordinary volunteers who've done so much for our shared community," honoree Terri Simon said.

The Bowl Committee, a diverse group of 14 community volunteers representing all areas and demographics of Scarsdale, selects the recipient after reviewing and vetting many worthy candidates who are nominated by the community. Following the Bowl Committee vote, committee chair Pam Fuehrer along with Seema Jaggi, President of the Scarsdale Foundation, Tim Foley, Secretary of the Bowl Committee, and Bowl Committee member Laura Miller surprised Simon at her home with the news. Also serving on the committee this year are: Penny Bauersfeld, Lisa Copeland, Warren Haber, Nadine Pepin, Daniela Retelny, Toby Milstein Schulman, Ali Doll Seiden, Rob Tepper, Claudia Uribe-Galeano and Julie Zhu. Sharon Higgins is serving as Treasurer.

Scarsdale Mayor Justin Arest said, "Terri Simon truly embodies the best of Scarsdale. Her years of service on the Board of Education and the Library Board of Trustees reflect a deep and enduring commitment to our community. She played a pivotal role in shaping and securing approval for our new library, and I was fortunate to work alongside her throughout that process. I greatly valued her thoughtfulness, perseverance, and collaborative spirit, which made a lasting difference."

The Spotlight Award Goes to Scarsdale Historical Society

The Bowl Committee also selected a Spotlight Award winner for the fourth year. While the Bowl award recognizes the depth and breadth required of the Bowl winner, the Spotlight Award recognizes meaningful contributions in a specific area or a problem solved after focused effort.

"At a time when the importance of connections and community cannot

be overstated, The Scarsdale Historical Society has brought our shared past to light, creating cohesion and pride in our remarkable village. Their work allows us, as neighbors, to explore Scarsdale's rich history and local stories through a multi-faceted and innovative journey. This dedicated all-volunteer organization continues to provide and ensure a sense of place. It is a truly deserving recipient of the Spotlight Award," shared Bowl chair Pam Fuehrer.

The Bowl Committee reviewed many worthy individuals and organizations before voting Scarsdale Historical Society to be the 2026 recipient of the Spotlight Award. Scarsdale Historical Society President Randy Guggenheimer was thrilled to learn of the award. "We're proud to be recognized for bringing local history to life as a unifying force within the community with this year's Spotlight Award," said Randy Guggenheimer. "Thanks to technology, there have never been more ways to connect with Scarsdale's past—including through our films, social media, digital archives, community programs, and our upcoming podcast."

Established in 1973, the Scarsdale Historical Society has been documenting and sharing local history for more than 50 years. According to its mission statement, "The Scarsdale Historical Society exists to discover, preserve and disseminate historical information, as well as inspire others to learn about and contribute to the history of Scarsdale and the Central Mid-Westchester Region." Their broad vision is to change the way people think about historic preservation. "The Scarsdale Historical Society will identify opportunities to preserve our historical record and foster understanding, awareness and enthusiasm of the historical significance of our village and region. In partnership with other community organizations, we will promote and support activities that not only preserve but create history through active engagement."

Mayor Arest notes, "The Scarsdale Historical Society's educational work is vital to preserving our shared story and helping residents understand the roots of our community. History matters deeply in Scarsdale, and I am sincerely grateful for all that the Historical Society does to keep that history alive. I look forward to working together as we mark America's 250th birthday and celebrate Scarsdale's 325th anniversary."

In its founding years, the Scarsdale Historical Society renovated the Cudner-Hyatt House on Post Road as a museum. In recent years, local histori-

ans have joined the Scarsdale Historical Society Board of Trustees and focused on groundbreaking media to document Scarsdale's history, including a series of 12 documentary videos exploring many aspects of life in the Village. Through innovative programming, accessible public events, and creative storytelling, Scarsdale Historical Society has brought together residents of all ages, backgrounds, and lengths of residency to engage meaningfully with Scarsdale's shared past.

Seema Jaggi, President of the Scarsdale Foundation said, "For the 83rd year, the Scarsdale Foundation and the

Scarsdale Bowl Committee are thrilled to celebrate the spirit of volunteerism at our annual Scarsdale Bowl Dinner on April 23. We are proud to honor Terri Simon as this year's Scarsdale Bowl recipient, recognizing nearly four decades of leadership and service that have enriched the Scarsdale community. Her boundless enthusiasm and warmth have touched countless lives. We are also delighted to present this year's Spotlight Award to the Scarsdale Historical Society, whose creative storytelling brings Scarsdale's vibrant history to life for today's residents."

Scarsdale Police Blotter

Monday, December 15, 2025, 10:28 AM: Police charged a Port Chester man with operating a motor vehicle with a suspended registration, third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle and operating a vehicle without insurance after a traffic stop on Post Road.

Wednesday, December 17, 2025, 9:36 AM: A Harvest Drive resident reported that the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles never received the license plates he mailed after the sale of his vehicle.

Wednesday, December 24, 2025, 1:08 PM: An open suitcase containing several articles of clothing was found at the bus station on East Parkway.

Monday, December 29, 2025, 7:13 AM: The head custodian of Edgewood Elementary School, 1 Roosevelt Place, reported that people are dumping trash into the school's garbage bins, causing them to overflow and it has become an ongoing problem for the school.

Friday, January 2, 2026, 3:32 PM: A Scarsdale resident reported that while she was shopping, her gray Range Rover was hit while it was parked on Palmer Avenue.

Friday, January 2, 2026, 7:57 PM: A Jefferson Road resident told police that someone threw eggs at his front door on two separate occasions over the past two days.

Sunday, January 4, 2026, 1:05 PM: A Scarsdale man reported that his Webster Bank accounts were frozen after a man tried to open a business account in his name at a Rhode Island branch of the bank.

Sunday, January 4, 2026, 3:40 PM: A set of keys on a heart keychain was found on Mamaroneck Road.

Tuesday, January 6, 2026, 8:35 PM: A River Road resident reported that packages containing sneakers, women's dress pants and a fan were stolen from his porch earlier in the day.

Tuesday, January 6, 2025, 7:42 PM: A 23-year-old Valhalla man was ticketed for speeding, operating a motor vehicle without stoplights and third-degree aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle after police stopped his car on Post Road.

Thursday, January 8, 2025, 8:31 AM: A vehicle was towed from the Scarsdale train station, 1 Depot Place, after police found it was uninspected and did not have a parking permit or proper license plates.

Thursday, January 8, 2026, 11:26 AM: A Scarsdale man told police that he purchased audio equipment for \$7,000 using PayPal and never received it.

Friday, January 9, 2026, 10:28 AM: A man was observed on a Ring camera measuring the front door of a home on Innes Road before departing in a gray pickup truck.

Friday, January 9, 2026, 4:16 PM: A Brookby Road man reported that a \$2,500 check was stolen from his mailbox and cashed.

Table Hopping with Morris Gut Get Ready for Lunar New Year Feasts

February is loaded with foodie indulgences. The Chinese Lunar New Year, 'Year of the Fire Horse' celebration runs from February 17 to the 23rd. Many Asian eateries will be extending the festivities thru the month with special dishes and menus. Be sure to check ahead for exact dates, times, and pricing. Here are some tasty suggestions...

SOUP DUMPLINGS AT MISTER CHEN: Mister Chen in Mamaroneck and Scarsdale serves a modernized Chinese menu espousing popular traditional regional dishes. It is carving out a place all its own thanks to owner Paul Chen and his mom who is head chef. I was excited about the dumpling station where you can watch the cooks prepare a variety of Chinese dumplings from scratch. Take a careful bite and suck up that delicious warm broth, then savor the delicious pork or crab filling. If you are a novice, the staff will show you how. Have also enjoyed their Pork Belly Sandwich, meaty Spareribs, General Tsao's Chicken, spicy Kung Pao Chicken, and Jumbo Prawns with garlic sauce. There's even old fashioned Chow Mein. Mister Chen, 265 Mamaroneck Ave., Mamaroneck. 914-777-1212 www.misterchenny.com www.misterchenseafood.com

Aberdeen Seafood & Dim Sum, 3 Barker Ave., White Plains (914-288-0188), in the Residence Inn, will be offering a special Chinese New Year's menu. You can also celebrate with a run through their popular Dim Sum, or from the regular menu. www.aberdeenwhiteplains.com.

Ku Asian Bistro, 480 New Rochelle Road, in the Chester Heights section of Bronxville (914-668-8877), has a fine hand with their regional Chinese fusion specialties. 'Ku' is a Chinese word meaning 'fantastic', so let the chefs surprise you with their delightful Asian fusion flavors. From the Chinese kitchen try the Spareribs, Shrimp with Long Bean, Moo Shu Pork, Kung Pao Chicken, and General Tso's Chicken. Free parking. www.kuasianbistro.com

Jewel of Himalaya, 751 Central Park Ave., Scarsdale (914-874-5506) & 34 Triangle Center., Yorktown Heights; a tasty fusion of Tibet/Indian/Nepal cuisines serving Momo Dumplings and Stir-Fried Noodles. www.himalayarestaurantny.com

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

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From Despair to Hope: Conquering Peripheral Neuropathy

“My feet feel like they’re on fire.” “Each step feels like I’m walking through wet paint.” “I can’t sleep because my hands and feet tingle all night.” “I live in constant fear that I’ll fall.”

What do all of these people have in common? They each suffer from Peripheral Neuropathy (PN). It is estimated that more than 20 million people in the United States have PN. Unfortunately, this figure may be significantly higher as the disease is often misdiagnosed due to its wide array of symptoms.

Ginnette Diaz, Licensed Acupuncturist, founder of White Plains Acupuncture, shares the belief that PN is more common than even the worst estimate. “I’ve been treating neuropathy, in all its various forms, for over 15 years, and so often my patients come to me because of the symptoms, not because of a diagnosis. They read one of my news articles, or read the testimonial of another patient, and say to themselves, ‘Hey, I feel the same thing.’”

Frankie M. of Rye testified to this: “I remember my husband driving me to my consultation and I saw a woman running just outside our neighborhood. I was so envious- I

just kept thinking ‘I would give anything just to walk again.’ My primary care doctor told me my troubles with pain and balance were just symptoms of old age and gave me a prescription. I was so depressed.”

Fortunately, Frankie would eventually see Ginnette Diaz on the local news talking about similar symptoms and how she offers a real solution at White Plains Acupuncture. “I just knew I had to see her. She was my last hope.”

“Almost all of our patients come to us with a story similar to Frankie’s. They’ve been everywhere else. They’ve been told there’s no hope. They’ve been told it’s ‘just part of getting older,’” shares Jeinny, a Patient Care Technician at White Plains Acupuncture. “It just breaks my heart, but I know how much we can help people like Frankie, so I’m always so happy when they walk through our door.”

Peripheral neuropathy is a result of damage to the nerves, often caused by (and always compounded by) a lack of blood flow in the hands and feet. This lack of blood flow results in a lack of nutrients, and the nerves begin to degenerate and die. This causes pain and other sensations ranging from

uncomfortable to debilitating. Because neuropathy is a degenerative condition, once those nerves begin to deteriorate they will continue to do so until they are completely expired, leaving those suffering with crippling balance issues. “In this case, the absence of pain is not necessarily a good thing,” shares Ginnette Diaz. “This usually indicates that your nerves are hanging on by a fragile thread.”

Those diagnosed with peripheral neuropathy often face a very grim reality: Western medicine declares that there is no solution, while alternative therapies offer little to no results. Ginnette Diaz and the staff at White Plains Acupuncture have a track record that proves that they are different, and they pride themselves on being “the last resort with the best results.”

So exactly how is Acupuncturist Ginnette Diaz able to reverse the effects of this degenerative disease? Through a unique blend of one of the most time-tested therapies and the most cutting-edge. “Acupuncture has been used to increase blood flow for thousands of years, and it helps get the necessary nutrients to the affected nerves. But the real magic happens when I integrate ATP Resonance BioTherapy®. This is a technology that was originally developed by NASA to expedite healing and recovery.”

“I just can’t say enough about White Plains Acupuncture,” Frankie shares through tears of joy. “My husband and I moved here 3 years ago and he’s gone to the beach almost every day. I always stayed home because of the pain and discomfort. But yesterday, I walked on the beach with him! And next week we’re starting dancing lessons. I am truly living life these days.” “According to Frankie’s test

results, she has seen a 74% improvement in pain and functionality, which is on par with a majority of our patients,” shares Jeinny. “But more important than those test results is the joy she’s expressed in being here, and getting to hear about all the amazing things she’s able to do because she feels great!”

By seamlessly blending the ancient science of acupuncture with modern medical solutions, Ginnette Diaz has achieved a 90% success rate in reversing the effects of neuropathy. She starts each patient with an initial consultation during which a sensory exam is performed. “This not only aids in making a proper diagnosis, but it helps to define just how much nerve damage has occurred,” explains Ginnette Diaz. “This is important because if a patient has suffered more than 95% damage, there is little that I can do to help them. I’m familiar with the medical miracle but I know my limits as a practitioner and the limits of my medicine.”

When it comes to treating Peripheral Neuropathy, regardless of its origin, early detection greatly improves your chances of a full recovery.

If you or someone you love are suffering with chronic pain that presents as burning, tingling or ‘pins and needles,’ or you’ve recently been diagnosed with Peripheral Neuropathy (PN), it’s important to know that there are options.

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