



THE OFFICIAL
Heritage Hills
Newsletter



APRIL 2025



Heritage Hills Society Information

Address 8 Heritage Hills, Somers, New York 10589
Website www.hhsociety.org
Television Channel 21

CONTACT INFORMATION - EMAIL

Society society@hhsociety.org
Activities Office activities@hhsociety.org

CONTACT INFORMATION - TELEPHONE

Security	914-276-2592	Bus	914-276-2877
Society Office	914-276-2908	Library	914-276-7655
Activities Office	914-276-2636	Fitness Center	914-669-5028
Society Fee			
Financial Office	914-276-2509		

EMERGENCIES 9-1-1

Hours of Operation

Activities Center

Building 9 am to 11 pm
Activities Office 9 am to 5 pm
Society Office 9 am to 1 pm
Fine Arts Center Group instruction and free time are scheduled by the Activities Office at 914-276-2908
Library Monday thru Friday 10 am to 3 pm, Saturday 10 am to 1 pm
Fitness Center & Gym Daily 4 am to 11 pm
Lake Lodge 9 am to 11 pm
Meadowlark Park Dawn to Dusk
Park Place Dawn to Dusk

Bus Service - Weekdays Only (except holidays) - 914-276-2877

Goldens Bridge MetroNorth Station Trips

Morning to/from: (out only) 5:15, 5:45, 6:45, and 7:45 - **Reservation Required**
Evening **PICK-UPS ONLY**: 4:45, 5:35, 6:35, 7:35 and 8:35 - **No Reservation**

Midday Trips - Reservations Required

To/From Activities Center, Lake Lodge, Meadowlark Park, and off site, including Goldens Bridge MetroNorth Station
Outbound, hourly 8:45 am to 12:45 pm
Inbound, hourly 9:10 am to 1:45 pm (last train station pick up 12:45 pm)
To/From Pools 2 thru 5 / Tennis areas
To: 8:45 am (pool 4), hourly, 9:45 am to 1:45 pm
From: Hourly from 9:10 am to 2:10 pm

UTILITIES CONTACT INFORMATION

Comcast	800-934-6489	NYSEG	800-572-1131	Water/Sewer (Veolia)	877-426-8969
ConEd	800-752-6633	Verizon	800-922-0204		

SERVICES FOR SENIORS

TOWN OF SOMERS SENIOR SERVICES - 914-232-0807

Princess Guerra, Director

Hot Lunch

- At Van Tassel House - **Free Transportation Available**
Monday thru Friday at noon
- Delivered to home-bound, Monday thru Friday
Meals leave Van Tassel House for delivery starting at 11:30 am
Suggested contribution: **\$3** per meal

Medical Appointments - Transportation Available

Tuesday thru Thursday, for appointments between 10:30 am to 2 pm
Suggested round-trip donation: **\$10**

Shopping Trips by Bus

Mondays and Fridays, pickups start at 10 am
Suggested round-trip donation: **\$2**

OTHER SENIOR SERVICES

RideConnect - 914-242-7433

Transportation services seven days a week. Call to register.

Medicare - 800-633-4227 and medicare.gov

Medicare Rights Center - 800-333-4114

EPIC - 800-332-3742

New York State Senior Prescription Reduction

Westchester County Senior Programs and Services - 914-813-6300

Referral agency for senior services including legal - 914-949-1305
Social Services: 914-995-5889

SERVICES FOR ALL AGES, INCLUDING SENIORS

AA - 914-949-1200. Info and literature National Council on Alcoholism

Adult Protection Services Intake - Natalie Siler 914-995-2259.

Cancer Care - 800-ACS-2345

Northern Westchester Hospital - 914-242-8115

Putnam Hospital - 845-279-5711

The Dominican Sisters - Family Health Service 914-941-1654

Long- and short-term registered nurses.

Hospice - 914-666-4228 - Visiting Nurse Association State-certified program providing home health care and emotional support for terminally ill patients and their families

Project Time Out / Jewish Community Services - 914-761-0600 - Provides in-home respite services matching families with trained sitters/companions.
Contact Judy Fink, Coordinator, ext. 340; Carol Kobroff, Respite Specialist, ext. 310

Transportation for Cancer Treatments (free):

American Cancer Society Road to Recovery program. 800-227-2345

Transportation for Disabled Residents - County Office of Transportation 914-813-7777

Para-Transit - 914-995-7272 provides modified vans with ramp for curb-to curb service. Fare \$5 each way. Medical pre-authorization required. For eligibility call 914-995-2960.

Private Ambulette Services

Superior Brewster 845-278-6992
CLC Trans 914-241-0112

Ambulance: Westchester EMS 866-666-9367. Accepts Medicare.

Westchester County Office for the Disabled, includes hearing-defect

Lighthouse Inc. - New York City 212-821-9200. For sight impaired.

Veterans Guide to VA Health Care Benefits -

VA Hudson Valley Health Care System - 800-269-8749
Monday through Friday 8 am - 4 pm

VVNA Home Health Services, part of Northwell Health at Home

914-666-7616 - 8:30 am - 5 pm - Home care aides, nursing

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845-208-8151 - freeman@halstonmedia.com - HalstonMedia.com
Contact Brett Freeman for advertising in any of our publications or online.

FOR INFORMATION ABOUT THE HOSTS OF THE BELOW EVENTS, SEE THE ACTIVITIES / CLASSES / CLUBS SECTION OF THIS NEWSLETTER. WHEN GUESTS ARE WELCOME, UP TO FOUR PER UNIT ARE ALLOWED



SOCIETY BOARD

BOARD CANDIDATE APPLICATIONS

Must be received no later than 1 pm on April 1

The Election Committee is accepting applications from unit owners interested in running for the Society Board of Directors. All unit owners, spouses, and domestic partners may run for a three-year term commencing July 1, 2025.

Applications are available in the Activities and Society offices and on the Heritage Hills website (hhsociety.org/heritage-hills-society). They must be received in the Society office no later than 1 pm on April 1.

The Society Board of Directors is responsible for the operation and maintenance of the Heritage Hills assets that serve the entire community. Those assets include the Activities Center; Fitness Center; Lake Lodge; Maintenance Yard; Meadowlark Park and Park Place; Bocce, Pickleball, and Tennis Courts; Pools; Shuttle Bus Service; and "A" and "B" Roads, and any "C" Roads that serve two or more condominiums. The Society Board is comprised of 15 members who are elected by Unit Owners.

MONTHLY MEETING

**Wednesday, April 16, at 1:30 pm
in the Heritage Room**

All unit owners are welcome to attend the meeting in person. It will be broadcast on Comcast's channels 21 and 1070 while in progress and will be rebroadcast daily on those channels at 2 and 7 pm until the next meeting occurs. It can also be viewed on the Society website at hhsociety.org; go to Heritage Hills Society, then choose Board Meetings & Documents.

Owners are welcome to raise matters of concern in person at the meeting. Residents who cannot attend may send an email to society@hhsociety.org, call 914-276-2908, or mail them to Society Board, 8 Heritage Hills, Somers, New York 10589. They will be discussed at the end of the meeting. **Provide your name and unit number on written correspondence.**

HERITAGE HILLS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Chair/Editor in Chief: Susan Statkowski-Rivals
Writers/Editors/Photographers: Patricia Adams, Rosetta Benson, Phyllis Bradbury, Dassi Citron, Terry Clifford, Karl Milde, Elizabeth Royston, Keri Reitman Schnapper

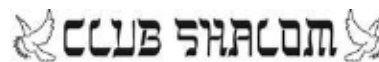


SEASON ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Wednesday, April 2, at 3 pm in the Heritage Room

Come sign up for Bocce League. If you have any questions, call Diane Purr at 914-617-9338 or Reno DiChristofaro at 914-500-5160.

* * *



By Aimee Feerst

If you have any questions regarding the following events, call Alan Tepper at 914-342-3279 or email him at astepper@gmail.com.

PASSOVER BINGO

**Friday, April 4, at 1 pm
in the Heritage Room**



Join us for an afternoon of fun and cash prizes as we anticipate the coming holiday of Passover. Pharaoh said, "so let it be written, so shall it be done..." **PLAY BINGO!**

Light refreshments; admission is \$5 per person. Watch your email for the flyer to be filled out and placed with your check in our mail slot **by April 2.**

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ON THE COVER

The photo on the cover, showing a weeping cherry tree in full bloom, was taken by Alison Minton.

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COMING EVENTS

WEST POINT MILITARY ACADEMY JEWISH CHAPEL CHOIR

Sunday, April 20, at 2 pm in the Heritage Room

Join us for an entertaining performance by The West Point Jewish Chapel Choir. This Cadet Group of men and women has performed at synagogues, Jewish cultural centers around the country, and even THE WHITE HOUSE!

The Choir members look forward to conversing with you after their performance.

Admission \$5 per person for Passover refreshments.

Auditorium seating. Check your email for a flyer to be filled out and placed in our mail slot with your check **by April 16.**

LERNER AND LOEWE SONGFEST

Saturday, May 17, at 7 pm in the Heritage Room

We are delighted to present Alexandra Frederick, singer and pianist from London, appearing often in New York City, who will entertain us with a special program devoted to Lerner and Loewe's beloved musical theater classics!

Admission is \$15 per person. Cabaret style seating. Watch your email for a flyer to be returned **no later than May 14.**

* * *

10-A-MEN CLUB

By Mike McBride

WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE

Wednesdays at 10 am in the Heritage Room

April 2 **John Katzenstein**

Alzheimer's Discussion

April 9 **Chet and Mary Edwards**

Honor Flights

April 16 **Dr. Wenth, Keyhani Eye Associates**

Ophthalmology

April 23 **Anthony Ciriaco, Somers Town Councilman**

April 30 **Harry LeFevre, Somers School Superintendent**

Budget Discussion

All adult residents are welcome. Women are encouraged to attend. Doors open at 8:30 am. \$2 admission. Bagels and coffee are available until 9:45 am. Folks mingle and chat until 10 am, when the Pledge of Allegiance is said. That is followed by speakers and discussions until 11 am.

Come join us to meet your neighbors, ask questions, and find out what is happening in Heritage Hills and around Somers. As always, we respect, welcome, and listen to all.

EAST HILL MEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION

By Ken Freeman

For more information on the following, reach out to Membership Chair Sandy Lieberman at golfer61345@gmail.com or 914-438-6762.

SEASON OPENER

Thursday, April 3 at Somers National Golf Club

The 2025 season is about to begin, with our first round on Thursday, April 3. If you can't make it for that first round, that's okay. You can begin enjoying our weekly Tuesday and Thursday morning 9-hole rounds whenever you're ready. No pressure. You can play as much or as little as you want.

EARLY SEASON BREAKFAST

Wednesday, April 16, at 9 am at Lake Lodge

Since some of our members spend the winter down south and may not be back until April, our early season breakfast will be on Wednesday, April 16. It's a good chance for new members to meet the veterans and for returning members to reconnect with one another.

* * *

Independent and Foreign Film Club



By Steve Klepner

GHOSTLIGHT

(United States, 115 minutes, 2024)

DATE CHANGE: Sunday April 6, at 7 pm in the Heritage Room

In this first screening of our 2025 season, when a construction worker unexpectedly joins a local theater production of Romeo and Juliet, the drama onstage starts to mirror his own life. A real family portrays the film's principal characters.

Because of the film's length, the evening will start promptly at 7 pm. A discussion, led by Bill Costanzo, retired film studies instructor, follows the screening.

See pages 10 and 18 for membership information.

* * *

SINGLES CLUB

The Singles Club Board

BINGO

Wednesday, April 23, at 6:30 pm in the Heritage Room

\$5 for Members, \$8 for non-members. Leave your checks in our mail slot in the Activities Center **no later than April 18.**

Snacks will be served. BYOB.

If you have any questions, contact Pat Caruso at 914-649-3232.

CONTINUING EDUCATION

By Karen Baker

The following events will take place in the Heritage Room. Admission is \$10 per event, paid at the door. If you have any questions, call Ann at 914-617-9434.

ROBERT H. JACKSON: LEGACY OF JUSTICE

A lecture by Kristen MacMahon, President, Robert H. Jackson Center, Jamestown, New York

Tuesday, April 8, at 1:30 pm

The mission of the Jackson Center is "to advance public awareness and appreciation of the principles of justice and the rule of law as embodied in the achievements and legacy of Robert H. Jackson, United States Supreme Court Justice and Chief Prosecutor at Nuremberg." This lecture will focus on Jackson's role in the Nuremberg Trials and then trace the evolution of international humanitarian justice from 1945/46 to the present. It will include overviews of the special courts for Yugoslavia, Rwanda, and Sierra Leone; the creation of the International Criminal Court; and current mechanisms of justice around the world.

A CONCISE HISTORY OF WESTERN CLASSICAL MUSIC

A lecture by Harold Rosenbaum, acclaimed Conductor and Professor Emeritus at the University of Buffalo

Tuesday, April 15, at 1:30 pm

This one-hour lecture/piano demonstration covers music from antiquity to the present: Medieval, Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, Romanic, and modern times. It will focus on the differing styles and the development of forms, such as opera, symphonies, and concerti; and will delve into the lives of the greatest composers, the times in which they lived, and their relationships to patrons, promoters, religious institutions, and the public.

UNITED STATES SUPREME COURT: ANNUAL UPDATE

A lecture by Richard Clinchy, Teacher Emeritus for Government & Law, John Jay High School

Tuesday, April 22, at 1:30 Pm

The United States Supreme Court, which once had public approval ratings near 90%, is currently at half that level. This lecture will look at the situation the "John Roberts' Court" finds itself in after seeing America's system of law attacked as overly political - not only by those on the right, but also by some on the left. Mr. Clinchy will discuss the court's relationship with Donald Trump, as well as prospects for possible retirements in the coming years. He will review major cases decided last term, as well as the basic facts and fundamental issues of those on the docket for this term. The future of Tik-Tok, LGBTQ rights, immigration, disability rights, environmental law, freedom of speech, and gun safety are all on the current agenda

An involved and interactive audience is very welcome - come prepared to share your opinions!

THE MANY MOODS IN CHINA NOW

A lecture by Marjorie Miller, Professor Emerita of Philosophy and Asian Studies, SUNY Purchase

Tuesday, May 6, 1:30 pm

An overview of Dr. Miller's most recent trip to China and current research, including attitudes towards Xi Jinping, the Chinese Communist Party, the economy, increased retirement ages, the status of women, and LGBTQ and emigration issues.

* * *

WOMEN'S CLUB

Submitted by Phyllis Bradbury

BINGO

Wednesday, April 9, at 1:30 pm in the Heritage Room

The Women's Club is hosting its annual fun afternoon of Bingo. There is no admittance charge for members, while non-members will pay a \$5 fee. We'll have prizes, a 50/50, and, of course, dessert, coffee, and tea. Flyers are available at the Activities Center.

Non-members can join our group by paying the annual dues of \$12. For more information, contact Joan Jendras at 914-276-0488.

* * *

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

By Flo Brodley

ANNUAL FAMILY AND FRIENDS CPR TRAINING

Wednesday, April 9, from 5 to 7 pm in the Heritage Room

The certified instructor is Steven Pilla, LLC. This is a non-certificate course that includes CPR and AED for adults, children, and infants, with choking.

The cost of this course is \$40 payable at the time of the class. Wear comfortable clothing, as you will need to get down on the floor for the skills portion of the class. Snacks will be available.

There is a limit of 15 participants. Register by email only to flo613@comcast.net

CARFIT PROGRAM

Saturday, April 26, at 9 am, in the Parking Lot at Meadowlark Park

We present again the unique and **FREE** CarFit Program for Heritage Hills residents!

This safety program for older adults is part of Mercy College's Occupational Therapy Program. you will have a personal safety check while seated in your car. Trained technicians will review and advise you on your car's safety features. There will be information and resources to take away.

To register for an assigned time slot, you must do so by email only to flo613@comcast.net. Provide your name, unit number, and cell phone number. There is a limit of 20 participants, so first to email, first on the list at the time you want!



TED TALKS AT HERITAGE HILLS

By Karl Milde

Friday, April 18, from 3 to 5 pm in the Heritage Room

Join hosts Ami Stokhamer and Karl Milde, both Heritage Hills residents, as they lead open discussions after viewing each of the following insightful, thought-provoking videos:

- It's Time for Infectious Generosity. Here's How* – by Chris Anderson
- My year of saying yes to everything* – by Shonda Rhimes

This event is FREE for all residents. Light refreshments will be served. For further information, call Ami at 914-486-9677 or Karl at 914-342-3068.

The next TED Talks event will be held on **Friday, May 16**.

* * *



CIAO ITALIA

By Michale Lanotte



**FREE MOVIE NIGHT
ANALYZE THIS
Robert DeNiro and Billy Crystal**

**Saturday, April 26, at 7 pm in the Heritage Room
Doors open at 6:30 pm**

MEMBERS and NON-MEMBERS are welcome. We'll have coffee/tea and dessert after the movie.

Pick up a flyer outside the Activities Office or print a copy from the email blast; complete the bottom portion, so we have an accurate account of attendees; and place it in our mail slot outside the Activities Office **by April 19**.

* * *

FAMILY NETWORK GROUP

By Keri Reitman Schnapper

FREE MOVIE NIGHT IN MEADOWLARK PARK

Wednesday, June 18 - not a school night

Save the date. Details to follow.

SPRING BULK PICK-UP

**Saturday, April 26 – Condos 1 thru 15
Saturday, May 3 – Condos 16 thru 30**

Place all items for pickup by your Condo trash bins the evening before the scheduled pickup.



The following items are **not accepted** for bulk pickup:

- Aerosol cans
- Appliances
- Asbestos
- Batteries
- Chemical products
- Computers
- Demolition/Construction materials
- Flourescent bulbs
- Liquids
- Medical Waste
- Propane tanks
- Tires

And, of course, hazardous, toxic, radioactive, corrosive, highly flammable, explosive, biomedical, or infectious waste are not accepted.

See page 27 for information on **E-Waste Recycling Day** in town.

* * *

MUSICAL NOTES FROM THE CONCERT SOCIETY



The best classical music value in Westchester and beyond!

By Teddi Meltzer

CLAREMONT TRIO

Sunday, May 4, at 3 pm in the Heritage Room

The long winter snooze is about over. The bears in their dens are stirring, yawning, and scratching themselves, as some of our classical music lovers are doing as well. We are getting ready for the first concert of the Heritage Hills Concert Society's 2025 season.



Come welcome the **Claremont Trio!** Lauded as "one of the finest young chamber groups" by *The Strad* magazine, the Claremont Trio is sought after for its thrillingly virtuosic and richly communicative performances. Recent engagements include those at Carnegie Hall, the Kennedy Center, and the Library of Congress.

Annual subscriptions for 4 concerts are \$90 per person, or pay \$26 per person at the door. Subscription Forms are available at the Activities Center. If you have any questions, call Teddi at 914-277-1418 – but not before 9 am!



FRIENDS IN THE HILLS

By Deb Ferrara

Fasten your seat belts and wear your dancing shoes, because Friends in the Hills is back and better than ever.

**MR. ENTERTAINMENT
BOBBY WILSON & THE CHICLETTES**

Friday, May 16, at 7:30 pm in the Heritage Room
Doors open at 7 pm

Our first event features, Mr. Entertainment himself, Bobby Wilson, son of the late Jackie Wilson, and the Chiclettes direct from Las Vegas. A three-time Grammy-balloted Artist, Bobby gives you all he's got whether performing his Father's famous hits or Motown.

This **MEMBERS ONLY** event is \$30 per person. Put "Bobby" on the outside of your envelope when placing it in our mail slot.

BINGO NIGHT

Friday, May 31, at 7 pm in the Heritage Room
Doors open at 6:30 pm

This **MEMBERS ONLY** event is \$10 per person. There will be a 50/50. Put "Bingo" on the outside of your envelope when placing it in our mail slot.

FUTURE DATES: June 20, July 25, August 22.



THE NEWSLETTER WELCOMES ARTICLES AND PHOTOS FROM HERITAGE HILLS RESIDENTS

OUR DEADLINE IS THE 6TH OF THE MONTH.

Authors' names will be indicated. We cannot guarantee that every item will be used, and all submissions are subject to being edited for format, length, acceptability of language, and suitability of content. Submissions should be in email attachment format (preferably Word) or by hand or mail to the Heritage Hills Activities Office or Society Office at 8 Heritage Hills, Somers, NY 10589.



EMAIL ADDRESS: HHillsNewsletter@gmail.com.

When Submitting Photos:

If using your phone instead of a camera, please use the highest resolution. Unless it's a scenic vista, concentrate on faces. Most photographs are taken from too far away, and if the image is cropped, the faces will be blurred. Get closer.

Please do not incorporate art or a photo in a Word file. Attach it and Word files to emails as separate items.

We cannot use anything taken from the internet without authorization from the source.

WHEN WALKING ON OUR ROADS, ALWAYS WALK FACING TRAFFIC, SINGLE FILE, HUG THE CURB, AND WEAR BRIGHT CLOTHING



SOCIETY BOARD NEWS

Compiled by Susan Statkowski-Rivalsi

WELCOME NEW OWNERS

By Anna Milani
Society Office Administrator

During the month of February, ownership changed for 6 units. If you're a newcomer, you should have received a *New Resident* folder when obtaining your photo ID in the Activities Office. The folders are also available in the Society Office, open Monday through Friday from 9 am to 1 pm.

SUMMARY OF PORTIONS OF THE MARCH 19 BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

Compiled by Susan Statkowski-Rivalsi

This is a summary of some portions of the meeting. Videos of these monthly meetings have been posted on the Society Board website, hhsociety.org. The minutes of this monthly meeting will be published after they are approved at the next monthly meeting on April 16.

Board members in attendance: Gloria Anderson, Gene Archer, Denise Elliott, Ann Harper, Dorinda Haskell, Joe Kelly, Jack Mattes, Karl Milde, Patricia Ploss, Deica Ruiz, Art Singer, and Alan Tepper

Board members absent: Ralph Fatigate, Bruce Prince, and Jay Wright

Also attending: John Milligan, Rob Casasanta, Prosecur Security

OPENING REMARKS - GLORIA ANDERSON

I have to start this meeting with some very sad news for our community. Our much beloved and respected Society President, Dom Rubino, has submitted his resignation from the Board. He was reluctant to do so, and we members of the Board were very reluctant to accept it. But, for personal reasons beyond his control, he really was not able to continue to carry out his duties. So my position on the Board was previously as First Vice President, and according to Society Bylaws, I now have moved into the position of President.

During Dom's six-year term as President, he led the Board to implement a lot of meaningful changes...the one that springs to mind...in encouraging us and leading us through the process of purchasing the nine-hole golf course and turning it into Meadowlark Park...Dom led us through this process while keeping everything here in the Community in very good condition - also keeping us fiscally sound.

We're going to miss him tremendously, and he is irreplaceable but we're going to do our best to carry on in the way that he mentored

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us and taught us how to do [things].

My first official act as President was to appoint [former Board Member] Dorinda [Haskell] to fill Dom's remaining term on the Board – that is for the next few months. Her nomination by me was approved by the Board members. We're very happy to have her back...She's the President of Condo 1, and administrator of the Family Network, here... she hosted a Welcome to Heritage event...a Toys For Tots event...a Halloween event...We're delighted to have her back.

FINANCE & BUDGET, COMMITTEE – GENE ARCHER, CHAIR

Treasurer's Report

February Financials:

Income \$ 544,620.44
Expenses (418,223.12)
Net Positive \$ 126,397.32

Cash on hand at month end: \$1,097,623.71

- We will shortly be going into the summer pool season, so those numbers will start to diminish a bit, in terms of Net Positive at the end of each month.

[Gene then elaborated on the administration of the budget and bill-paying procedures, which can be seen on the rebroadcast of the meeting.]

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE – ANN HARPER, CHAIR

There are three new activities:

- Let's Talk Senior Care [see page 18]
- Thriving in Your Prime [see page 18]
- Nutritionally Yours, which begins April 28, hosted by a Nutritionist.

If you have an idea for something new that will benefit the community... contact me (I'm listed in the directory) or speak with Andrew Kaplan in the Activities Office.

ELECTIONS COMMITTEE – JOE KELLY, CHAIR

- Ballot printing order has been placed.
- The Ballot Counting Committee has been secured – 6 residents – to take place on Tuesday, June 17.
- Candidates Night is scheduled for May 21 at 7 pm in the Heritage Room.
- We have five seats open. Four incumbents (including Dorinda) have decided to run again.

FITNESS CENTER COMMITTEE – JOE KELLY, CHAIR

February Usage:

- Exercise room: 3,405 swipes
- Gymnasium: 839 swipes
- **Free Consultations:** Certified Personal Trainers Mary and Jonathan did 19 of these.
- Several machines were repaired. And two new floor mats were acquired.
- The Fitness Center was closed on February 26 for a deep cleaning and some maintenance issues, painting the vestibule and men's locker room, and we replaced a few defective shower heads.

MEADOWLARK PARK – PATRICA PLOSS, CHAIR

- The **Pollinator Garden** folks are planning to expand the garden.
- **Food Trucks** will return every Thursday for 15 weeks from Memorial Day weekend to Labor Day.
- **Concerts:** We have 2 scheduled this summer: July 10, The Independents return, and another one will be on August 7. On both evenings, there will be two food trucks and an ice cream truck.
- **Long-Range Plan:** The Committee is going to work on a long-range plan, looking 7 years out. Some of the things we're considering are continuing development of our trail system, a shelter, adding 2 gazebos (one by the playground area), and the fate of the maintenance building.

LANDSCAPE COMMITTEE – PATRICIA PLOSS, CHAIR

- **Spring Plantings:** Will be planted between Mother's Day and Memorial Day, We're looking to increase the number of Daisies and Cornflowers, which attract pollinators.
- **Lake Lodge Back Parking Lot:** We hope to fill the slope.
- **Pool 5 Median:** Last year's tree efforts didn't work, so we'll replace them with flowering pear trees.

REDECORATING COMMITTEE – GLORIA ANDERSON, CHAIR

We've been taking care of little things – no big ticket items.

- **Activities Center:** Mostly painting and the like, and there will be new signs over each room's door.
- **Fitness Center:** Locker rooms have been painted.

OPERATIONS REPORT – JOHN MILLIGAN, PROPERTY MANAGER

- **New Shuttle Bus** is being purchased for less than previously paid. It was part of this year's budget.
- **New Fitness Center Equipment:** We're going to replace two treadmills for less than we replaced two of them last year. And we're replacing the light fitness cable station for less than we budgeted for these purchases.
- **Turf Tennis Courts** will be prepared (and then groomed monthly).
- **Security Office Phone System:** Will be upgraded. (Prosecur covers the cost.)
- **Roadway by Lake Lodge:** We're working with Veolia to have it re-paved.
- **Pools**
 - Pool 3: We've been hoping to get new mechanical equipment for three years. The first two years the hold-up was the Department of Health; this year there's Veolia paperwork for our engineer to do.
 - Pool 4: We're managing the leak situation.
 - Pool 1: We're hoping to create ID Card access at both gates.
- **Heritage Room Stage Side-Curtains:** Have been replaced.
- **Heritage Room Audio System:** We now have wireless microphones.
- **Lake Lodge HVAC:** We will install the modern split systems, so we can eliminate the oil-fired boiler there. We will also be able to control the temperature in each room individually.
- **Activities Center Art Studio Doors;** Are being replaced, as they've rusted.
- **Pickleball Patio:** We're moving forward with the awning installation.

POST-MEETING DISCUSSIONS

Gloria discussed two emails regarding electric vehicle stations. Gene Archer and John Milligan explained this had been looked into a few years ago, when there wasn't much probable demand – most folks charged their cars at home. Also, location was problematic as the cost to trench and run electric lines would be quite expensive for the Board.

Gloria also mentioned an email about the dangerous intersection coming out of Condo 11 onto West Hill Drive (near the top of the hill up from Warren Street) – whether a speed hump would be in order. John Milligan explained that due to the Department of Transportation guidelines as to where speed humps can be installed render it not do-able. The problem is folks drive too fast. So the Speed Sign will be erected at that location (on the downhill side) to remind folks to slow down.

A resident raised the issue of an email that a group of the Pollinator Group of the Garden Club submitted quite some time ago regarding Meadowlark Park, including converting areas to meadows. She was advised that a response would be forthcoming "after the Holidays." She never received a response. Patricia Ploss stated she thought she had responded. Patricia said a small pilot meadow project will be done first. It was decided a meeting of the group would be arranged.

A resident asked about the possibility of using smaller electric shuttle buses, so they could go into the tighter areas here (C Roads). John Milligan advised that such vehicles would be much more expensive, and, due to our area's conditions (including all the hills and turns) and the distance the buses travel each day (150 miles), the vehicle charge may not last.



SECURITY

By Rob Casasanta, Prosegur Security

FEBRUARY SECURITY CALL REPORT

During the month of February, our Security staff received and responded to a total of 219 calls including the following matters:

Service	60	(29 lift assists, 7 welfare checks, 4 persons locked out, 6 battery change, and 140 other)
Medical.....	80	(1 Security EMT rode in ambulance to hospital)
Security	36	
Open Garage Doors	15	
Police	9	(6 Somers, 3 State)
Fire Calls	7	(2 automatic fire alarms, 2 smoke/CO2 alarms, 1 fire, 2 other)
Maintenance.....	5	
Motor Vehicle Accidents.....	5	(3 property damage, 2 personal injury)
Parking Violations.....	1	(in handicapped spaces, fire lanes, A roads, or B roads)

If you have any Security questions or concerns, feel free to reach out to me directly either by phone at 914-276-2592 or by email at *Robert.Casasanta@prosegur.com*.

COUNCIL OF CONDOS

By Terry Clifford

The February meeting was attended by representatives of the following Condos: 1, 2, 6, 8, 11, 12, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 21, 22, 25, 26, 28, 29, 30.

Condo Leadership Roles of the President and Management Company

- **Board of Managers:** The President is the leader in most Condos, and Board Members serve as advisory members to maintain the grounds, construction, drainage, and paving.
- **Management Company:** Manages daily issues, finances, implements Board decisions; some provide vendors for the above-mentioned areas, and keeps the Board informed.
- **The Board of Managers and the Management Company must have a good working relationship.** The management company's contract outlines their responsibilities, so the relationship works.

Tree Removal – Using Forestry Company vs. Tree Removal Company: Davis Stowell from Condo 15

- Most Condos currently budget thirty to forty thousand dollars a year to care for trees that are damaged by storms, overgrown, diseased, and threaten structures.
- Condo 15's Board is trying to find a better way to manage forested areas and mature trees.
- They are looking at hiring a Forester to maintain wooded areas and remove trees using a timber company.
- The Forestry Company will pay the condominium to remove large, rounded tree trunks that are too close to each other. Their business is selling wood.
- Condo 15 will contact foresters in New York State to see if this is feasible in Heritage Hills. Stay tuned for more information on this subject.

Condos with Carports: Jack Mattes shared pictures of the supports that hold up units above carports. The photos showed the aged poles with pooling water around the steel, causing damage. Condo 6 developed a working plan to replace all supports and improve them by putting protective materials such as PVC/Plastic and epoxy at the base of them – extending this protection above ground level by 8 to 10 inches – and pitching the cement around the supports to remove water. Jack advised that the contractor understands all aspects of the work. The building structure must be supported completely during the replacement process. This project must have Town of Somers work permits.

Gun Club Update: Jack Stein, Condo 22. Jack's letter to the editor was published by the *Examiner* and he is collaborating with a writer at the *Examiner* to draft an article on the Town of Carmel and their handling of this situation. He is also going to encourage others to put more pressure on the Town of Carmel by calling them to explain how disturbed they are with the handling of this from an environmental and noise standpoint.

NYSEG Bills: Folks have many ways to pay their NYSEG bill, and

continued on page 10

different experiences. If you live in a unit that is 100% electric, you may have experienced sticker shock this past extremely frigid winter. There are several ways to pay your NYSEG bill.

- Year-Round "Balanced Billing"
- Use an ESCO with a lower rate. However, you still pay a delivery charge to NYSEG and the ESCO usually does not have a night rate.
- Apply for Solar Electric through "Sustainable Westchester," which gives you a discount on your bill.
- Pay NYSEG for actual monthly use, depending upon the weather and how much electricity you use.

The "Council of Condos" invites at least one member from each of the thirty Heritage Hills Board of Managers to attend meetings on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm in the Activities Center.

* * *

PURCHASERS' CONTRIBUTIONS

By Susan Statkowski-Rivalsi

At the top of the 2025 Budget seen in the February issue of this *Newsletter*, under the "Miscellaneous Income" heading, we saw \$180,000 projected income from "Purchasers Contribution Sale." That projection is based on the fact that in 2024 ownership changed for a little over 5% of the units here - 132 of them (an average of 11 per month) - which resulted in contributions totaling \$198,000 (\$1,500 x 132).

* * *



COMMUNITY THEATRE

By Helen Berman

We are thrilled to announce that we have cast our June show *Exit Who?*. Thank you for attending our auditions. We appreciate your talent.

Information concerning when we will start receiving reservations will be in our fliers at the Activities Office, and via emails.

The dates of the performances are Friday and Saturday, June 27 and 28, at 7:30 pm, and Sunday, June 29, at 3 pm.

Looking forward to seeing you.



Petunias and Blue Spruce, by Dassi Citron

Independent and Foreign Film Club FILMCLUB

By Steve Klepner

The annual fee is \$20 for these nine monthly films. Pay at the door - checks preferred, payable to IFFC - or leave it in our mail slot in the Activities Center (include name and unit number). If you have any questions, contact Steve Klepner by email at spk010@yahoo.com or by phone at 845-297-7706.

2025 SCHEDULE

All screenings take place in the Heritage Room.

Sunday, April 6, at 7 pm. *Ghostlight*

United States. 115 minutes. 2024. When a construction worker unexpectedly joins a local theater production of Romeo and Juliet, the drama onstage starts to mirror his own life. real family portrays the film's principal characters.

Sunday, May 4, at 7 pm. *The Wonder. Ireland*

United Kingdom. 103 minutes. 2022. Set shortly after the Great Famine, it follows an English nurse sent to a rural Irish village to observe a young 'fasting girl' who is seemingly able to miraculously survive without eating.

Sunday, June 8, at 7 pm. *Amelie*

France. 122 minutes. 2001. This is a fantasy in which a painfully shy woman makes a discovery where her life is drastically changed for the better. She then dedicates herself to helping others. This film is sassy and whimsical.

Thursday, July 13, at 7 pm. *Small Things Like These*

Ireland, Belgium. 98 minutes. 2024. This film is dedicated to the women victims of the Magdalene Laundries run by Catholic nuns and the Irish government between 1922 and 1996. It explores the silent complicity of a whole community.

Thursday, August 10, at 7 pm. *Whale Rider*

New Zealand. 101 minutes. 2002. At its core, *The Whale Rider* is about a conflict over gender roles. Koro Apirana refuses to treat Kahu as a future chief of their New Zealand village, simply because she is a girl.

Sunday, September 21, at 7 pm. *The Mad Woman's Ball*

France. 121 minutes. 2021. Eugenie has a unique gift: She hears and sees the dead. Her parents have her institutionalized where she plots to escape with the help of one of its nurses. A supernatural thriller.

Friday, October 24, at 1 pm. *The Duke*

United Kingdom. 95 minutes. 2020. Comedy/drama, based on the 1961 theft of a famous painting. The thief is a social justice activist. Ransom notes are sent demanding license-free TV for the elderly. Film details his eventual trial.

Friday, November 28, at 1 pm. *One Life*

United Kingdom. 110 minutes. 2023. The story of Nicholas Winton, who orchestrated the 1939 rescue of 669 children from German occupied Czechoslovakia. The film alternates between the actual events and his later reminiscences.

Sunday, December 24, at 1 pm. *The Mad Adventures of "Rabbi" Jacob*

France. 100 minutes. 1973. A bigoted Frenchman is taken hostage by Silmane, an Arab revolutionary. The two dress as Hasidim to evade the police and assassins. A comedy with many subplots follows.

Library

APRIL BOOKS OF INTEREST

This month, the Library is adding several books of special interest from new and established authors. William Boyle's new book, *Saint of the Narrows Street*, featuring many well known Brooklyn locations, is a tragic comedy of two sisters trying to dispose of a body. Emma Knight's first novel, *The Life Cycle of the Common Octopus*, is not about an octopus, perhaps much to the disappointment of fans of *Remarkably Bright Creatures* by Shelby Van Pelt. Instead, the book uses the life of an octopus as a metaphor for motherhood. If you have not read the Van Pelt novel, it is also available at the Heritage Hills Library.



As well as new books from beloved authors such as Sandra Brown, Harlan Coben, Tess Gerritsen, and new favorite Freida McFadden, we are adding *On the Hippie Trail* by Rick Steves, an intriguing tale of the famed travel writer's treks around Asia.

Happy Reading!

BOOK REVIEW

For a review of *Finding Margaret Fuller*, by Allison Pataki, see page 35. This historical novel is part of the Library's collection.

NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION IN APRIL

To reserve any of the following books, stop by or call the Library at 914-276-7655.

Fiction

- Bohjalian, Chris *The Jackal's Mistress*
- Knight, Emma *The Life Cycle of the Common Octopus*
- Lipman, Elinor *Every Tom, Dick & Harry*
- O'Connor, Joseph *The Ghosts of Rome*
- Wilkerson, Charmaine *Good Dirt*

Mystery

- Boyle, William *Saint of the Narrows Street*
- Brown, Sandra *Blood Moon*
- Coben, Harlan *Nobody's Fool*
- Gerritsen, Tess *The Summer Guests*
- McFadden, Frieda *The Crash*
- Sandford, John *Lethal Prey*

Non-Fiction

- Goodman, Matthew *Paris Undercover: A Wartime Story of Courage, Friendship, and Betrayal*
- Steves, Rick *On the Hippie Trail*

* * *

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JUST SOLD - Lake Mahopac



JUST SOLD - Patterson Village



Outstanding. Hope Mazzola is far beyond just our agent. She is a very knowledgeable and caring person. She is now a friend. (CL, HH Buyer)

Hope Mazzola is a smart, kind and hardworking agent who was a pleasure to work with. She made a stressful process a lot more pleasant with her support and help. (JR, HH Sold)

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GENERAL CLUB/CLASS INFORMATION AND REGULARLY OCCURRING ACTIVITIES

Produced by the Activities Office

Phone: 914-276-2636 or go to Activities at hhsociety.org

Advance registration is required. To book a space for your group/club, contact Andrew Kaplan in the Activities Office by email at activities@hhsociety.org or by phone at 914-276-2636.

ARTS & CRAFTS

I LOVE ART CLASS: After school Art in Heritage Hills for children ages K to 6. Hosted by Miss Judika, M.S. To register, call Judika at 914-438-6750.

LEARN TO BEAD WITH ALLISON: Mondays at 11 am in Room B. Each class is \$25 including materials fee. You go home with a piece of jewelry that you made for yourself or for a special someone. Come and join the fun. To enroll or for more information, contact Allison Rubin at 914- 629-3655 or ahrubin521@yahoo.com.

CRAFTERS IN THE HILLS: Fourth Wednesday of the month from 10 am to noon and from 6 to 8 pm in the Activities Center's Lower Level Studio B. Each week we explore new crafts or work on current projects. Meetings are open to Club members first. When space is available, we open up the session to nonmembers. Some crafting sessions are free (you supply your own materials) and other sessions have a fee, based on materials. Please reach out for more information and to register at craftclubhh@gmail.com.

NEEDLECRAFT GROUP: Charitable Group that meets Wednesdays at 12:30 pm in the Game Room. All skill levels are welcome. \$20 annual dues. Proof of vaccination is required. For questions or to register, call Linda at 914-277-2776.

PAINT & SIP WITH JUDIKA: Create a different painting in each class once a month. Step-by-step instructions given, and everyone leaves with a masterpiece! \$40 per class includes all supplies. Bring your creative spirit! To register, call Judika at 914-438-6750.

PHOTO CLUB: Second Friday of each month at 2 pm in Room 2 of the Activities Center. All are welcome to join regardless of experience in photography. For more information, contact Myra Hopper at 520-390-5523 or myrahopper@gmail.com.

SILK FABRIC PAINTING CLASS: Fee \$135. Must sign up for a full 4-week session at the Activities Center. Space is limited. For more information, contact Evey at 914-276-0737 or email her at evemusart@comcast.net.

SKETCH WORKSHOP: Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 am in Studio A in the Activities Center. Portraits, figures, still lifes. Bring your choice of paper, pen, pencil, watercolor, pastel, etc. Models are welcome to pose for 20 minutes (clothed!). No fee, no teacher, but guidance available.

WOODCRAFT CLUB: The shop on the Lower Level at the Activities Center is available Monday thru Saturday from 9 am to 4 pm. For information and to register, contact Club President Ed at 914-276-0671 or 914-552-2303.

CONTEMPORARY FICTION BOOK CLUB: First Tuesday of each month from 2 to 3:30 pm in the Activities Building. For more information contact Myra Hopper myrahopper@gmail.com or 520 390-5523.

CIAO ITALIA: Membership, open to all residents, is \$12 per person for the year. Fill out a Membership Form available outside the Activities Office and include it in an envelope with your payment. Watch for flyers and TV notices announcing upcoming events.

CLUB SHALOM: You don't have to be Jewish to love Club Shalom, a Club dedicated to providing quality entertaining and educational Jewish cultural programs for residents. Watch for information about upcoming events. All residents are welcome.

CONCERT SOCIETY: We present four classical concerts, featuring the best and brightest of classical music's Rising Stars, in May, June, September, and October on Sundays at 3 pm in the Heritage Room. Annual subscriptions are \$90 per person or pay \$26 per person per concert at the door. Subscription Forms are available at the Activities Center. If you have any questions, call Raina Lefkowitz at 914-262-4407.

CONTINUING EDUCATION: Our mission is to educate and entertain with monthly presentations by experts in the fields of art, literature, music, theater, history, and politics on specified Tuesdays at 1:30 pm in the Heritage Room. For more information, see the COMING EVENTS section of this *Newsletter* or call Ann at 914-617-9434.

CULINARY CLUB: Our Culinary Club meets once a month to prepare, share, and enjoy dishes from many cuisines. We hope to increase our expertise and, in the process, enjoy each other's company. Our membership is limited by our facilities and is full at this time. However, there is a waiting list, and if you would like to add your name, please contact Barbara Gangemi at 914-617-9037.

DANCE

FRIDAY NIGHT SOCIAL DANCE: First Friday of every month from 7 to 10 pm in the Heritage Room. \$10 per person includes coffee and cake. BYOB. For more information, call Angela Viscogliosi at 914-393-8736.

EXERCISE CLASSES

CHAIR ZUMBA/TONING WITH THERESA: Mondays at 9:45 am by Zoom only. Zumba for anyone who prefers a seated workout. Contact Theresa for more information at zumbawithme@aol.com.

GENTLE YOGA WITH LISA: Mondays at 11:30 am and Fridays at 10 am on Lake Lodge's 2nd floor. \$12 for a 75-minute class. Lisaathomas@optonline.net or 914-497-0243.

TAI CHI AND CHI GONG WITH MASTER ELLEN: Mondays from 12:30 to 1:30 pm in the Gym. \$70 per month. First class free. All levels welcome. Wear loose fitting, comfortable clothing. Contact heritagehillstaichi@gmail.com.

LINDA'S LAKE LODGE CLASSES: Body Conditioning: Tuesdays and Thursdays at 8:30 am. Rock & Roll Workout: Tuesdays at 9:30 am. Yoga Pilates: Thursdays at 9:30 am. Sports Conditioning: Sundays at 9 am. All classes are \$10 per class. Register at the start of the month for the classes you plan to attend. Contact Linda Zeiss instructor at Labzeiss@gmail.com or 718-541-0861.

CARDIO/STRENGTH/STRETCH CLASS WITH LORI: Tuesdays and Thursdays from 9:30 to 10:30 am in the Gym. Join me for a fun, safe, effective workout. Low impact cardio, resistance training, balance, stretch and breath work – all set to great music! Appropriate for all levels. Resistance bands and weights available. No mats needed. Fee: \$10 per class. Try the first class for free! Class is also available on Zoom. Email Lori at eefyjig@gmail.com.

CHAIR YOGA WITH SATISH: Practice Tuesdays from 10 to 11:15 am in Lake Lodge with Satish Gambhir, Registered Yoga (500-RYT) and acupressure teacher with over 20 years of experience. Chair Yoga aimed at toning the entire body and increasing flexibility. Breathing and meditation for relaxation and mind-body connection. Live music. \$10 per class. Call or email to register at 914-646-0887 or Satishgambhir@gmail.com.

BALANCE AND AGILITY FOR ACTIVE SENIORS: Wednesdays at 10:30 am on the 2nd floor at Lake Lodge. Navigate obstacles; strengthen balance; move better for walks, hikes, or pickleball. Learn from a master teacher with years of experience, Elena Remais. \$80 for 4 weeks, \$25 for drop-in. Elenathetrainer@yahoo.com and 917-848-3174.

MOVE AND GROOVE WITH THERESA: Wednesdays at 11 am in the Fitness Center and on Zoom. Easy-to-learn and easy-to-follow beginner Line Dances to ALL music genres. Contact Theresa for more information at zumbawithme@aol.com.

ENERGY HEALING FOR SELF, FAMILY, FRIENDS AND PETS WITH MELANIE GAMBINO: First Wednesday of the Month (starts April 9) at 7 pm Lake Lodge's Room 3. \$20 per class. Preregistration required. For more information and to reserve your place in class, call, text, or email Melanie at 914 588 2450 or melaniegambino1@gmail.com.

CONTINUUM/FLUID FORM MOVEMENT, MINDFULNESS, AND MEDITATION WITH MELANIE GAMBINO: Fridays at 9 am in Lake Lodge's Room 3. \$15 per class. Preregistration required. for more information and to reserve your place in class, call, text, or email Melanie at 914 588 2450 or melaniegambino1@gmail.com.

ZUMBA GOLD WITH THERESA: Fridays at 10 am in the Fitness Center and on Zoom, and Saturdays at 10 am on Zoom only. Fun, easy to follow, low impact dance fitness class. Contact Theresa for more information at zumbawithme@aol.com.

GETTING BACK ON TRACK (15-15-15) WITH THERESA: Fridays at 10:50 am at the Fitness Center and on Zoom. Light cardio and balance, functional strength and stretch, and restorative breathing and relaxation. Great class to begin or continue your fitness journey. Contact Theresa for more information at zumbawithme@aol.com.

VINYASA YOGA WITH JOE: Saturdays at 9 am in Lake Lodge's Upper Level. \$12 per class. To register, email Joe Ferrari at josephferrari@me.com

FAMILY NETWORK GROUP: Arranges organized family-oriented gatherings, days and evenings, several times a year. Go to [Facebook.com](https://www.facebook.com) to join the group "Heritage Hills Family Network" or email keri.reitman@gmail.com

FOREIGN LANGUAGE GROUPS

FRENCH CONVERSATION GROUP: Second and fourth Friday of the month in Lake Lodge's Room 1 from 11 am to noon. Members should have a basic knowledge of French conversation but need not be fluent. Refresh your French language skills and laugh and learn with us. If you have any questions, call Carole Ellis at 914-260-9182 or by email her at carellis14@yahoo.com.

SPANISH CONVERSATION GROUP: First Thursday of the month in Lake Lodge's Room 1 at 11 am. Group is open to intermediate through fluent Spanish speakers. ¡Vengan! Contact Mike at elprofesor55@aol.com.

FUN & GAMES

BRIDGE – DUPLICATE: Mondays and Thursdays at 12:30 pm in the Activities Center. For information, call Marie at 914-277-4266.

BRIDGE – SOCIAL: Wednesday mornings from 10 am to noon at Lake Lodge. For information, call Marie Sugar at 914-277-4266.

CANASTA CLUB: Saturdays from 12:30 to 4 pm. Contact Doris Simon at 914-276-0111 or Doris1121@me.com or Nancy Heilman at 914-224-7180 or Nancy.C.Heilman@gmail.com.

CHESS CLUB: Wednesdays from 1 to 3:30 pm in Lake Lodge's Room 3. We are a group of chess enthusiasts who enjoy coming together to play some friendly games of chess! Beginners are welcome! Bring your chess set if you have one. Some playing pairs may choose to use a chess clock; bring this, also, if you have one. For more information, contact Pat Posluszny at patpugs@comcast.net or 914-276-6550.

FRIENDS IN THE HILLS CLUB: Open to all adult residents. Each event will be a night of fun and socializing with your neighbors. See the COMING EVENTS section of this *Newsletter* for event details. Email us at Friendsinthehills@aol.com with any questions or contact Debbie Ferrara at 914-924-3003 or Mary Ann Walrath at 914-318-1227.

MAH JONGG: Mondays at noon in Lake Lodge (contact Sue Furino 914-617-9110); Wednesdays at noon in the Activities Center (Contact Carol Tocci 914-471-5689); Fridays at 1 pm in Lake Lodge, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 1 pm (Contact MaryAnne McMullen at 914-414-9116 or Terry Colomer at 914-342-3610).

SCRABBLERS: Thursdays starting promptly at 1 pm in Room 2 in the Activities Center. Casual Scrabble game play. Play one or more games. All levels of play, including newbies, are welcome. For more information, just walk in or contact Susan at 914-617-9228 or ciwhitestar@comcast.net.

YACHT GROUP ("HHYC"): The HHYC is a fee-free social club of past and present water fans (swimmers, boaters, fishers, cruisers, surfers, whatever). At our monthly pot luck "dock parties" on the first Friday of the month in the Lobby at Lake Lodge, we share our experiences and plan future ones (theme parties, day trips/activities, or even cruises). For more information, contact Commadorable Susan at ciwhitestar@omcast.net or 914-617-9228.

GARDEN CLUB: For information, including questions on membership and use of the Community Garden, send an email to hhgardenclubsecretary@gmail.com.

HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE

Blood Pressure Screenings With a Smile: Nurse Ellie Eidam offers screenings on the second Friday of the month from 9 to 11 am in the Activities Center's Game Room. Your temperature may be taken. Do not come if you have tested positive for Covid-19, were recently exposed (within 14 days) to the virus or traveled to areas that have experienced high levels of the virus. Contact Ellie at elliebob1@gmail.com or 914-617-2109 for more information.

Alzheimer's/Dementia Caregivers Support Group: Caring for someone with Alzheimer's/Dementia is a difficult and painful challenge. A support group can help. Meetings take place the first Thursday of the month at 12:30 pm in Lake Lodge's Room 1. Fee: \$20

per session. Facilitated by Linda Ludwig, Psy.D. To register, call 914-617-9328 or email ludwiglr@aol.com.

Spousal Bereavement Group: Led by Linda Ludwig, PsD, we will resume meeting in the Spring.

HIKERS & WALKERS GROUP: Weekly hikes from September to June. Information and our schedule are available in the Activities Center mailroom.

INDEPENDENT AND FOREIGN FILM CLUB: Monthly screenings in the Activities Center's Heritage Room, followed by a discussion. April thru December. \$20 for the series. Schedule is posted in the Activities Center and on the Society website. For information, contact Steve Klepner at 845-297-7066 or spk010@yahoo.com.

LET'S TALK SENIOR CARE: Second Friday of the month at 1 pm. Stephanie Roberti, MHA, will introduce different senior care topics to help educate us on this important subject. For more information, Stephanie Roberti at 914-357-3049 or Sroberti@Newbeginningsforseniors.com.

LIBRARY: Open Monday through Friday from 10 am to 3 pm and Saturdays from 10 am to 1 pm. For information on the collection, visit the Heritage Hills Library webpage at hhsociety.org or call 914-276-7655.

MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP: Discussion group on current event topics. Meets Mondays from 9:30 to 11 am in the Activities Center. For information, email Ken Benjamin at kenbenja@aol.com or call him at 914-617-9817.

RAINBOW CONNECTION CLUB: A social group for LGBTQ members and their families, friends, and neighbors. All are welcome. Meets the first Thursday of each month at Lake Lodge from 5 to 7 pm. For more information contact Teresa Duffy at 914-617-9785

SHAKESPEARE GROUP: Tuesdays from 10 to 11:30 am in the Activities Center's Game Room and on Zoom. See a film of a classic Shakespeare play, then read it and join in lively discussions. All are welcome! For more information, call Susan Ray at 914-391-6686 or Margaret Howlett at 973-746-7816.

SINGLES CLUB: If you are interested in joining the club, contact Pat Caruso at 914-649-3232 or carusop515@comcast.net. Membership dues are \$12 per year.

SPORTS

BOCCE GROUP: Wednesdays and Saturdays (weather permitting) starting at 9:30 am. For more information contact Reno DiCristofaro at 914-500-5160 or Diane Purr at 914-617-9338.

EAST HILL MEN'S GOLF ASSOCIATION: Enjoy weekly Thursday 9-hole casual competitions in a variety of formats, as well as Tuesday Stroke Play opportunities, from April thru November at Somers National Golf Club's course right here on Heritage Hills' West Hill. For more information, contact Membership Chairman Sandy Lieberman at 914-438-6762 or golfer61345@gmail.com.

PICKLEBALL COMMITTEE: On the outdoor courts, it's open play, no reservations required. The Gym is also available for indoor play. For details on both, and about the Pickleball Committee and community, email PickleballHH@Outlook.com. See you on the courts!

PING PONG: Thursdays at 10 am in the Activities Center's Game Room. Open to all residents. Come hang out and play!

SHUFFLEBOARD GROUP: Wednesdays from 1 to 3 pm, and on Saturdays from 9:30 am to noon, October through March, in the Gym.

TENNIS COMMITTEE: All Tennis reservations are made via www.playtomic.io, or you can download the playtomic app, which offers many additional features. Once on the playtomic website, type "Heritage Hills" and click on "tennis" as the sport choice. For general information about the tennis group, call Dena at 914-589-3560. The Friday night Round Robin runs from May through September.

TED TALKS: Third Friday of the month, from 3 to 5 pm in the Heritage Room. Hosts Ami Stokhamer and Karl Milde (residents) present two thought-provoking TED Talk videos, after which there is open discussion. Free event with light refreshments. For more information, see the COMING EVENTS section in this *Newsletter*, or call Ami at 914-486-9677 or Karl at 845-545-1959.

10-A-MEN CLUB: Come to the Heritage Room on Wednesdays at 9 am and have continental breakfast for \$2. The meeting starts at 10 am.

THRIVING IN YOUR PRIME: Every other week on Thursday at 1 pm in Room 3 of Lake Lodge. We discuss relevant topics and learn strategies that will help those over the age of 50 navigate the challenges they are confronted with. Each time, we discuss a new topic, and you learn strategies you can implement in your own life. The investment in each gathering is one hour of your time and \$5!

WOMEN'S CLUB: Second Wednesday of the month, except for January, July, and August. See the COMING EVENTS section of this *Newsletter* for specific upcoming event details. We welcome new members! Dues are \$12 for the year. Insert your check in an envelope with your name, unit number, phone number, and email address, and put it in the Women's Club mail slot. Application forms are available outside the Activities Office. For more information, call Membership Chairperson Alfreda Savarese at 914-617-2007.

WRITERS WORKSHOP CLASS: Workshop on *Google Meet!* Mondays at 1 pm and Saturdays at 10:30 am in Lake Lodge. Email Linda Spear, workshop facilitator, to arrange to join us! Lindaspear211@gmail.com.

HAIKU FOR APRIL

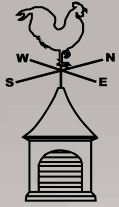
Text and verse by Sue Shea

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So welcomed after Winter

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MEET YOUR NEIGHBOR FATHER JOHN VIGILANTE

Text and photo by Rosetta Benson

Father John was ordained a Catholic priest in 1972. He is 79 years old, the oldest of six children. He bought his Heritage Hills home in 2015 but didn't occupy it full-time until he retired – after 49 years – in July 2021. "If you're retired," I asked, "why were you working this morning?" He explained that when Cardinal Dolan

heard he was going to retire, he asked him to stay until age 80. Father John, despite his awareness of the rapidly increasing shortage of priests, declined. Instead, he makes himself *available as needed* to the Catholic churches in Armonk and Mahopac.

Father John practices what he preaches. For example, he is a firm believer in *lifelong learning*. He earned a BA in Philosophy at St. Joseph's in Yonkers, then an MS in Philosophy, an MS of Divinity, and finally a Ph. D. in Education at Fordham University. In 1982 to 1984, he went to Washington, D.C. to study Canon Law. For twenty-five years thereafter, he served on the Catholic Church's Law Court – hearing, primarily, *annulment* cases. I asked Father John if an annulment allowed members to remarry. His answer was both learnedly wise and empathetic. "Marriage was never intended to condemn a couple to live in misery for a lifetime."

Between 1981 and 2014, he also served as a Chaplain in the National Guard, fulfilling his military obligation in the Army Reserves at Camp Smith in Peekskill. However, there were two instances, at least, that were far from routine. On July 17, 1996, after TWA's Flight 800 crashed into the Atlantic Ocean near East Moriches, it was Father John who was called to go to Shinnecock, Long Island for two weeks to meet the needs of soldiers and others. Again, after the 9/11 attack, this military priest was selected to be a First Responder. For two months he traveled daily to minister to the soldiers mobilized to the World Trade Center site.

And what does he do for fun? In 1972, Father John was bitten by the travel bug. For the next fifteen years, he sailed around the world – *taking working vacations* – serving as a priest for Celebrity Cruises (for the first ten years) and for Holland America (for the next five years)! Plus, over the years serving in the Army Reserves, he was assigned to two tours (each tour is two weeks) in Germany, two tours in Italy, and 13 tours in Hawaii. His home is filled with beautiful art and artifacts – mementos of his travels.

Father John's life has indeed been a "life well-lived." And more. He continues to make himself *available* to help others do the same, and that's made all the difference.

GARDEN CLUB: WE'RE PLANT-BASED

Text by Garden Club Executive Board, photos by Joanne Meder

The Garden Club, one of Heritage Hills' oldest clubs, started in 1976 as the first residents arrived here. As interest in gardening has grown, the Club has used its limited land resources as efficiently as possible to increase the number of gardens that can be assigned on a yearly basis.



There are many ways in which the Club contributes to the larger community. Around 2010, Club volunteers started cultivating crops to donate to local food pantries. Since then, Club members have generously contributed some of their own produce to weekly collections.

Under the direction of the Club's Food Pantry Committee, last year the Club donated 207 pounds of fresh vegetables, herbs, and cut flowers to St. Luke's Food Pantry.



In 2022, a small group of Club members proposed the creation of a pollinator garden in Meadowlark Park. Their passion for introducing more native landscapes in Heritage Hills led to a successful collaboration with the Society's Meadowlark Park and Landscape committees, resulting in the creation of four pollinator gardens. A photo collage depicting the story of the first pollinator garden is on display in Park Place. These gardens are enjoyed by everyone who walks through the Park, especially on the Heritage Trail uphill from the children's playground. Tours of the gardens were offered to all residents last summer during one Food Truck Thursday. Special pollinator-themed art activities were offered to children in 2023 and 2024. Residents who are interested in this project can join the Garden Club as Associate Members to participate in this enjoyable and worthwhile endeavor.

Consistent with the Club's mission, special programs are being offered to a growing number of our residents. Those programs have included presentations on the value and benefits of native landscapes and gardening in small spaces. Even without a garden assignment in the Club Garden, it is usually possible to garden on one's patio or deck using containers and canvas grow bags (depending on your Condo rules).

For additional information on Club membership, please send an email to hhgardenclubsecretary@gmail.com.

PICKLEBALL LOVE

By Fran Boemio



On February 12, forty six ladies came together at Oscars II to celebrate Galentine's Day!

Everywhere you looked, ladies dressed in red and hearts were chatting, laughing, hugging and having a great time.



Pickleball Community Cares Subcommittee Debbie Montalvo, Celia Stowell, Jeri Bennett, and Fran Boemio

Our Pickleball Cares Committee asked everyone to donate specialty items for the ladies who benefit from St. Luke's Food Pantry. Well over one hundred items were collected! There was an abundance of hair shampoos and conditioners, foam soaps, lotions, and body scrubs. Our very generous group made many ladies very happy, especially on Valentine's Day.

* * *

MARY HAS A LITTLE...

By Susan Statkowski-Rivalsi

Well, not so little (I'll get to that shortly)...and, no, it's not a lamb. It's an ant farm. I happened to learn about it while playing Scrabble at the Activities Center one Thursday afternoon. When I played the word "ant," a player at my table mentioned her neighbor Mary's hobby.

When I said, incredulous, "IN THE HOUSE???" the player explained that Mary's husband, much as he loves her, and try as he might, was very uncomfortable living with her ant farm indoors, particularly because it's *practically the size of an end table!* So, instead, it rests in a corner of the garage, where there's no risk of their car bumping into it. (Of course, it being so large, it's necessary their car be a small one.)

I decided to visit Mary to see her gargantuan ant farm, and I can testify it truly is impressive. Unfortunately, Mary would not allow me to take any photos, as she fears if some of her cluster-mates and/or Condo's board members learn of it, they might demand it be removed. Yes...Mary and hubby are very careful that no one is around when they open the garage door to pull their car into or out of it.*

**For more details, see page 27.*

WHO'S FLYING THOSE "NEW JERSEY" DRONES?

By Karl Milde

The 2024 United States drone sightings, also known as the New Jersey drone sightings, were a series of reports between November and December 2024 involving large, unidentified drones observed at night across several regions of the United States. The phenomenon began in New Jersey, where numerous sightings were reported over multiple counties. The sightings raised concerns among residents and garnered widespread attention in the news and on social media. In response, local, state, and federal authorities all initiated investigations. Similar reports soon emerged from neighboring states, including New York....

Wikipedia

It has been months, now, since that mysterious drone was first sighted in New Jersey. There have been many sightings since, including sightings here in Westchester County, but, after all this time, no one has fessed up to flying them. I discovered, quite by accident, that one of those drones belonged to, and is operated by, a Heritage Hills resident.

I've been interested in drones for some years now, ever since my then teenage son bought a horribly expensive one and started a business making drone videos. He made a few bucks – enough to *almost* pay for the equipment. After seeing his videos, I bought a small cheap drone and learned to fly it.

It was during one of these practice flights in the Somers Pointe parking lot that I met "Mr. X" (he agreed to be quoted for this article so long as I didn't reveal his name). He was driving by, saw me flying the little drone, and stopped to talk. He told me he was a freelance journalist, making money selling stories to online media. Because his business was increasing, he was looking to add to his team. Without saying so, it was clear he wanted to evaluate my "creds" and capability as a drone pilot. I wasn't interested in a job, though, so we ended up talking generally about drones.

I asked if he'd heard of the "New Jersey Drones."

"Yeah, sure," he said. "I know those guys."

"Really? You know them? Why are they doing that?" I asked.

"They're just having a bit of fun. They only fly at night, so you don't see where they're coming from. That's the whole point, you know. They're flying under the radar."

"Some have also been seen here," I said, remembering what I'd seen on the local TV news.

"Oh, that's me," Mr. X replied. "I'm a copycat, I admit, but I didn't want New York to be left out. We've got to keep up with those darned 'Jersey Drones'."

There you have it! Breaking news in the Heritage Hills Newsletter. Just remember, you read about it here first.*

**For more details, see page 27.*



EARTH MATTERS

ByCarolynn Sears

MAKE EVERY DAY EARTH DAY

On April 22, 1970, approximately 20 million Americans participated in rallies and demonstrations across the country to celebrate the first Earth Day. This event led to the creation of the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the passage of significant environmental legislation throughout the 1970s. The EPA protects the public’s health and the environment by regulating pollutants and waste, developing water quality standards, reducing greenhouse gas emissions, and more.

Fifty-five years later, knowing so much more about our environment and the care it needs, this April 22 is a good day to celebrate our precious planet. But we can make *every* day Earth Day.

In this column, I will present suggestions for changes we can make to do just that – make *every* day Earth Day. Here’s this month’s suggestion:

ONLY USE PAPER BAGS FOR RUBBISH

Doing so will reduce the amount of plastic entering landfills. Perfect for this are those sturdy paper “shopping bags” at DeCicco & Sons, Trader Joe’s, etc. To prevent leaks, wrap damp stuff in smaller paper bags or paper towels before placing it in the larger paper bags.

Save all soft plastic – bags, wrap, and cellophane “windows,” – and place it in the “RECYCLE” bins at supermarkets.



“HELP...I’VE FALLEN AND I CAN’T GET UP!”

By Susan Statkowski-Rivalsi

That opening line in a series of television ads starting back in 1989 immediately came to my mind when I read the total “lift assists” statistic for 2024 reported by our Security Manager, Robert Casasanta, (seen on page 6 of the February issue of this *Newsletter*).

Of the 3,255 calls our Security staff responded to last year, 426 of them were to provide lift assistance; that’s 13% of all calls! Almost all of that was for folks who fell and couldn’t get up. 426 in a 366-day year means days with multiple lift assists. Being mobility challenged, I’m particularly interested in these statistics.

There can be simple explanations for falling: walking around barefoot or in socks, or slipping on throw rugs. Also, as folks age they don’t lift their feet as high as they used to – “When did door jambs or curbs get higher?”

If a person falls more than once in a short period of time, it’s time to dig deeper to determine if the cause can be addressed to minimize or even eliminate future falls. Sometimes, once a cause is determined, all that’s required is that some simple steps be taken (awful pun).

Eliminating throw rugs and wearing non-slippery shoes/slippers at all times are easy fixes; balance issues may be remedied with a few minutes of simple exercises each day. Or it may be time to have a medication dosage adjusted; a discussion with a physician can address that possibility.

We all want to stay in our homes. Minimizing the risk of falling is one way to ensure we do so.

MY NEW HOBBY: ROCKETRY

Text and photo by Karl Milde

Ages ago, when I was still in grade school, I had a hobby of building and flying model airplanes. I installed a tiny piston engine to take them aloft, then watched with wonder as they floated down in “free flight.” I continued this hobby all through high school and beyond, first with “control line” airplanes that flew in a circle and, finally, with radio-controlled aircraft that I took off and landed on a ballfield.

When I moved to Mahopac, I joined a model airplane club called “Tri-County Eagles,” whose members flew radio-controlled planes at the hilltop of Baldwin Place Farm. That was hugely satisfying, but when drones made their appearance, I moved on with the times. I bought and flew one, but flying it just wasn’t the same. I preferred the exhilaration of winged flight.

Unfortunately, I couldn’t continue with model planes. Baldwin Place Farm was sold to a developer leaving the Tri-County Eagles without an airfield. What’s a hobbyist to do?

Turning the page, when I joined the Woodcraft Club in Heritage Hills I built a model boat: a classic radio-controlled Chris-Craft runabout. I enjoyed chasing geese around on one of the ponds, but this eventually became boring. The boat lacked the excitement of flying.

Next, I built an entire village with toy trains, made entirely from LEGOs, and displayed the set at the Christmas Toys-for-Tots program in 2022. This was fun, but what does one do with the four feet by eight feet table?

Fast forward to the present. I’ve discovered a new hobby...wait for it: *Rocketry*.



Rocketry is very similar to building and flying model airplanes. But instead of flying forward using a tiny piston engine, you fly straight up with the aid of a tiny rocket motor. A rocket of this type takes about eight hours to build from a kit, or twice that if you build it from scratch. A typical flight is only about ten minutes. One minute to go up and nine minutes or so to descend with its built-in parachute. You can repeat, and repeat it again, for a total of five or six flights in an afternoon.

No, you won’t reach the moon, but your rocket can go pretty high, depending on the engine size you choose. On my very first flight a few months ago, I chose too large an engine. The rocket shot up and, within seconds, it disappeared into the cumulous clouds overhead. Before it descended, the winds aloft had taken control. My friends and I caught a glimpse of that rocket floating over the faraway woods of Westchester Country.

For my next flight with my new rocket I’ll choose a smaller engine – and fly it on a cloudless day.

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*ARE YOU ONE OF OUR APRIL FOOLS?

Each April, the Newsletter staff likes to have a little fun. In case you took us seriously, the stories about the ant farm and New Jersey drones on page 21 are pure fiction. *Gotcha!*

* * *

DID YOU KNOW?

E-WASTE RECYCLING DAY

Saturday, April 26, from 9 am to 1 pm
at Somers Middle School, 240 Route 202

Acceptable e-waste and scrap metal: All electronics, appliances, computer equipment, keyboards, monitors, cords, data, cabling, washers, dryers, and TVs.

Your \$10 donation per vehicle benefits Somers PTA. For more information, call Claire or Moises at 914-461-6464.

NOW YOU KNOW!

* * *

SOMERS SENIOR SERVICES

Submitted by Princess Guerra, Program Director

For information on services and classes in addition to the following, see page 2, or go to somersny.com and scroll down to "Senior Services," or call 914-232-0807.

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FIT-BITS

By Mary Tedesco

SPRING CLEANING SHOULD INCLUDE GUT CLEANSING

This spring, try applying the concept of gut cleansing to your spring cleaning.

To give yourself a gut boost, incorporate probiotics into your diet. Probiotics help rid your body of harmful bacteria and also help keep the good bacteria in your gut. To do this, incorporate good dietary choices such as:

- Kombucha
- Kimchi
- Miso
- Honey
- Tempeh
- Onions
- Pickled foods
- Yogurt
- Cocoa
- Raw garlic
- Apple cider vinegar

Look for foods labeled with "live and active cultures," to be sure they contain probiotics. These will all support your gut health and boost your immune system.

Happy cleaning!

HOW DOES YOUR GARDEN GROW

GARDENING'S BEST KEPT SECRET

By Karl Milde



"Football is Life!" The mantra of Dani Rojas, the star soccer player in the once-popular TV Series, *Ted Lasso*, rang true with soccer fans. That just might be the key to understanding the fanatical affinity for this sport in many countries of the world (the United States excepted). As the saying implies, soccer is something more than just a sport. It draws upon what it means to be "alive" which is something we can all relate to.

Like soccer fans, we gardeners have an affinity for gardening that draws us back, year after year, to plant and nurture flowers and vegetables. Maybe, just maybe, it's because "*Gardening is Life.*"

We place dormant seeds in our incubator and add water, starting germination using their own store of nutrients. In the weeks that follow, we watch with wonder as stems appear and form seedlings that create tiny leaves. After carefully transplanting these seedlings to our gardens, they grow and slowly evolve, each into the particular species of plant that its seed prescribes. We're always amazed as our plants mature and bear fruit. They can turn into magnificent trees, gorgeous shrubs, beautiful flowers or delicious vegetables. Although we expect the seedlings to do what they do, we're repeatedly astounded at this miracle of nature.

If that's not *life*, what is?

"*Football is Life*" conveys the idea of soccer as a metaphor for life, reminding us of the challenges we all face and, no matter how hard we try, there will always be some objectives we cannot achieve. For many of us, however, this metaphor fails and falls flat. We can't fully relate to the game of soccer. We have difficulty understanding the challenges and forces faced by a professional soccer team.

By the way, the character Dani Rojas is portrayed by Cristo Fernandez, who was a professional soccer player before becoming an actor. That's why his mantra sometimes became "*Futbol is Life!*" I must say, it did have a ring to it.

How do plants do what they do? They grow from a seed through cell division, photosynthesis, and the absorption of nutrients and water.

Like everything else on this planet Earth, plants receive their energy from the sun. The sunlight enables photosynthesis, a process whereby water and carbon dioxide combine to form carbohydrates (sugars) and give off oxygen. The sugars combine with minerals from the soil to create proteins, fats, plant oils, and fibers. Plants use these substances to grow and to create new seeds for the next generation.

Gardening is Life! Maybe that's the reason gardening keeps beckoning and drawing us back to the soil every spring. This mantra is more than merely a metaphor (note the alliteration!). It's actually true.

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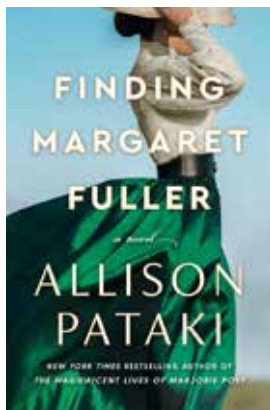
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THE BOOK SHELF

By Cindy Kennedy

During her lifetime, nineteenth century journalist Margaret Fuller was deemed the “most well read person in New England.” A contemporary of Ralph Waldo Emerson and Nathaniel Hawthorne, she is largely forgotten today. *Finding Margaret Fuller*, Allison Pataki’s luminous novel, shines a spotlight on the life and times of this remarkable woman.

The eldest of eight siblings, Margaret grew up in Groton, Massachusetts. She was taught the classics at home by her father, Congressman Thomas Fuller, who believed in the importance of educating women. His death in 1835 left his widow and children financially strained. To support her family, Margaret tutored and wrote articles.

As Margaret’s literary career flourished, Emerson invited her to his Concord home to be a companion to his ailing wife. Henry David Thoreau was part of the household, as a handyman of sorts. Admiring her intellect, Emerson encouraged Margaret to continue writing, not understanding that as a woman, Margaret did not have the advantages of male writers: “It is difficult to earn a living,” she thought. “I have neither a wife’s fortune, like Emerson, or an inherited house as does Hawthorne. As a woman I can’t live like Thoreau with time enough to write my great thoughts.”

While in Concord, Margaret was introduced to transcendentalist educator Bronson Alcott, taking his precocious daughter Louisa May under her wing. (Decades later, in her iconic novel *Little Women*, Louisa May Alcott would name the oldest March sister Margaret.)

To increase her earnings, Margaret collaborated with Emerson on his newspaper, *The Dial*. Her lecture series in Boston, which challenged women to think for themselves, caught the eye of Horace Greeley, founder of the *New York Tribune*. Greeley invited Margaret to be the *Tribune*’s literary editor.

For her research, Margaret was granted access to Harvard’s library—the first woman ever to be admitted there: “Candlelight dances along the stone walls. It is a hallowed sanctuary, a cathedral; in place of jewel-encrusted chalices, there are books. In place of pews, there are desks. In place of priests, there are pupils. All male pupils.”

Fluent in several languages, Margaret became the *Tribune*’s first foreign news correspondent. Sent to Rome to cover the 1848 Italian War for Independence, Margaret got caught up in the revolution and embarked on an unlikely romance, before her tragic return home.

Spritely written and thoroughly researched, *Finding Margaret Fuller* is a fine example of historical fiction at its best.

Finding Margaret Fuller is part of Heritage Hills Library and Somers Library collections. For a list of new books at Heritage Hills Library, see page 11.)



Text and photo by Elizabeth Royston

RUGELACH

Barbara Tepper prepared this recipe for Rugelach. This delicious pastry is wonderful all year, whether with coffee or maybe even a snifter of brandy!



INGREDIENTS

Pastry

- 1 stick unsalted butter
- 1/2 pound cream cheese at room temp
- 1/2 cup sour cream
- Pinch of salt
- 2 teaspoons sugar
- 1 large egg
- about 2 3/4 cups flour

Filling

- about 1/2 cup sweet orange marmalade
- about 3/4 cup raisins
- 3/4 cup dark chocolate chips
- 1 beaten egg and cinnamon for the inside and outside of the rolls

PREPARATION

1. Cream together butter, cream cheese, and sour cream. Beat in the egg.
2. Add salt and sugar to the flour. Add enough of the flour mixture to the butter, cream cheese, and sour cream mixture to make a dough that will stick together.
3. Roll the dough into a ball, flatten a bit, wrap securely in plastic wrap, and refrigerate at least 2 hours or overnight.
4. Cut the dough into portions easy to handle – usually into thirds.
5. Place a sheet of wax paper on the counter, sprinkle with flour, put a portion of dough on it, sprinkle with more flour on top, place another sheet of wax paper on top, and roll out to a rectangle about 1/4 inch thick.*
6. Remove the top layer of wax paper. Spread a thin layer of marmalade on the dough, up to about 1/2 inch from the edges. Sprinkle with raisins, chocolate chips, cinnamon and sugar.
7. Roll the rectangle up jelly-roll style, crimp the edges shut, and place on a baking sheet lined with wax paper.
8. Repeat the above steps with the other two thirds of dough, placing the rolls on the baking sheet with at least 1 inch between the rolls.
9. Brush the rolls with beaten egg and sprinkle with sugar and cinnamon. Chill for 1 hour.
10. Bake in a 350 degree oven for about 30 minutes, until the outside is lightly browned
11. Cool and slice into 1” slices.

* To make a flakier dough, roll out the dough, remove the top layer of wax paper, fold in half and then in quarters. Replace the paper and roll out again. Repeat the folding and rolling out once more.

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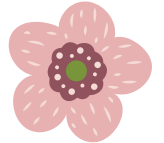
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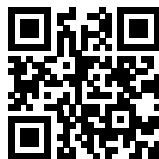
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