



THE OFFICIAL

Heritage Hills Newsletter

DECEMBER 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	Society Fee	
	914-277-8800	Financial Office	914-276-2509
Society Office	914-276-2908	Bus	914-276-2877
Activities Office	914-276-2636	Library	914-276-7655
		Fitness Center	914-669-5028

EMERGENCIES 9-1-1

Hours of Operation

Activities Center

Building Daily, 9 am to 11 pm
Activities Office Weekdays, 9 am to 5 pm (closed holidays)
Society Office Weekdays, 9 am to 1 pm (closed holidays)
Fine Arts Center Group instruction and free time are scheduled by the Activities Office at 914-276-2636
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 Daily, 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**

Middy 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 Tassell 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

MORNING DISCUSSION GROUP

By Ken Benjamin

**MEET BETH DAVIDSON
Candidate, Congressional District 17**

**Monday, December 1, from 9:30 to 11 am
in Club Rooms 2 - 3 in the Activities Center**

Ms. Davidson is a Rockland County Legislator, Officer of Nyack School Board, Community Leader, wife, mother, and two-time cancer survivor.



* * *

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.

JULIE GOLD: AN AFTERNOON OF SONGS AND STORIES

An engaging performance by a grammy award-winning singer and songwriter!

Tuesday, December 2, at 1:30 pm

Julie Gold is best known for Bette Midler's version of *From A Distance*, which won her a Grammy in 1991. *From a Distance* has enjoyed over 6 million radio plays world-wide and millions of digital downloads. It's been translated into many languages, recited into the Congressional Record and illustrated as a children's book! Julie's many other songs have been covered by a wide range of artists. Join us to enjoy Julie's singing and her lively storytelling!

**AN AFTERNOON WITH THE GREAT AMERICAN SONGBOOK
A musical performance by jazz pianist, composer and arranger Ron Drotos accompanied by acclaimed jazz and cabaret artist Leslee Warren**

Tuesday, December 9, at 1:30 pm

This performance blends the elegance of jazz, the warmth of cabaret, and the storytelling magic of Broadway. We invite you to join the lively conversation between Ron and Leslee as they bring each song to life, from swinging standards to tender ballads.

ON THE COVER

Rosetta Benjamin took the photo of a blue jay picking up a quick peanut for lunch from her deck railing.

HERITAGE HILLS NEWSLETTER COMMITTEE

Chair/Editor in Chief: Susan Statkowski-Rivalsi
Writers/Editors/Photographers: Patricia Adams, Rosetta Benjamin, Phyllis Bradbury, Dassi Citron, Terry Clifford, Karl Milde, Elizabeth Royston, and Stephanie Szuch

**JOURNALISM, FRANK LLOYD WRIGHT,
AND THE POWER OF THE LOCAL STORY
A lecture by Toby Rosewater, writer, editor and journalist
who spent the summer of 2025 reporting for *The Examiner News*, an independent Westchester newspaper**

Tuesday, December 16, at 1:30 pm

With local and regional newspapers shuttering their doors across the country, we risk losing the voices and perspectives that ground us in our local communities. This lecture explores this timely peril through the eyes of Toby Rosewater, a 19-year-old writer and journalist who spent last summer looking for answers to these questions right here in Westchester County. As a prime example, Toby will detail the fascinating story of Roland Reisley - a centenarian and the last living client of renowned architect Frank Lloyd Wright - not only as an example of remarkable local history, but also as a case study in why local storytelling matters.

* * *

10-A-MEN CLUB

By Mike McBride

WEEKLY MEETING SCHEDULE

- Wednesdays at 10 am in the Heritage Room**
- December 3 Rocco Macri - Unite New York**
- December 10 Gene Archer -Society Board President**
Updates, Q & A
- December 17 Michele-BistroonTheGreen/JadeJillCatering**
- December 24 No Meeting**
Merry Christmas - Happy Channukkah
- December 31 No Meeting**

All adult residents are welcome. Women are encouraged to attend. Doors open at 8:30 am. \$3 admission. Bagels and coffee are available until 9:45 am. Folks mingle and chat between 8:30 and 10 am, when the Pledge of Allegiance is said, 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.

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SINGLES CLUB

By Diane Purr

WINTER WONDERLAND HOLIDAY CELEBRATION

Thursday, December 4, at 5:30 pm at Bistro on the Green

In case you missed the November 26 deadline, contact Pat Caruso at 914-649-3232 if you would like to attend. Hopefully, it's not too late!

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HOLIDAY LUNCHEON

By Diane Purr

Friday, December 12, at 1 pm at Bistro on the Green in Heritage Hills

Players and friends are welcome! Join us for appetizers, salad, three entree choices, dessert, coffee, tea, soda and one glass of wine.

\$50 per person – checks made out to "CASH." **RSVP by December 5** and leave checks in the Bocce mail slot at the Activities Center.

If you have any questions, call Reno DiCristofaro at 914-500-5160 or Diane Purr at 914-617-9338.

* * *



HOLIDAY EXTRAVAGANZA

By Terry Clifford

Saturday, December 6, from 2 to 4 pm in the Heritage Room

Everyone is invited to attend the Holiday Party in the Heritage Room. Bring your friends, relatives, and children. Admission cost is an unwrapped new toy (or toys), which will be distributed to underprivileged children by the United States Marine Corp. We will have:

- **Santa, Mrs. Claus** visiting at approximately 3 pm.
- **Art Project** at 2 pm.
- **Children's Stories** at 3 pm
- **Holiday Music**
- **Refreshments and snacks** for young and old.

Unable to attend? Leave unwrapped toys in the Toys For Tots collection boxes at the Activities Center and Lake Lodge, or **leave a check payable to "Marine Toys For Tots Foundation"** in an envelope in the **TOYS FOR TOTS** mail slot outside the Activities Office **by December 6.**

* * *

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB

By Carrie Sears

December 12 at 3 pm in Rooms 2 - 3 at the Activities Center

Join us for a small celebration and a sneak peek at upcoming events.

There will be no meeting on December 26, due to the holidays.



CIAO ITALIA

By Michael Lanotte

CHRISTMAS CELEBRATION

Sunday, December 7 in the Heritage Room

Doors open at 4 pm

This is the final Ciao Italia event of the season and is for **Members Only**. Catered by Ledley with music by Johnny Angel. The cost is \$50 per person. Flyers are available outside the Activities Office, or you can print a copy from the email blast.

2026 Membership forms will be available in January

* * *

Independent and Foreign Film Club



By Steve Klepner

THE MAD ADVENTURES OF "RABBI" JACOB

(France, 100 minutes, 1973)

Note date and time change

Sunday, December 14, at 1 pm in the Heritage Room

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.

Even though the film is not long, it will still start promptly at 1 pm. A discussion, led by Bill Costanzo, retired film studies instructor, follows the screening.

* * *



SOCIETY BOARD

MONTHLY MEETING

Wednesday, December 17, at 1:30 pm in the Heritage Room

All unit owners are welcome to attend this meeting. It will be broadcast live on Comcast's channels 21 and 1070 and re-broadcast daily on those channels at 2 and 7 pm until the next meeting occurs on February 17 (there's no January meeting). 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.**





By Aimee Feerst

ANNUAL CHANUKAH CELEBRATION

**Sunday, December 21, at 1 pm
in the Heritage Room**

Klezmer music by *Elijah and the Not for Prophets* will be the featured entertainment at this year's event. Eight passionate Westchester musicians will play and sing a repertoire of "Jewish Jazz," including music from "the shtetl," and from Yiddish and Broadway theater.



A Latkes Luncheon will be served. Cabaret seating. Admission \$25 per person with lunch; \$10 without lunch. Watch your email for a flyer to be returned **no later than December 17.**

IT'S TRIVIA TIME

Sunday January 18, at 1 pm in the Heritage Room

Join us for an enjoyable afternoon of Jewish and generally stimulating trivia questions as teams vie for cash prizes. Light refreshments will be served.

Admission \$15. Watch your email for a flyer to be returned no later than January 14. Place all checks along with your name and phone number in our mail slot **by January 14.** If you wish to sit with friends place all reservations (up to 6 per table) in the same envelope. We will do our best to accommodate your requests.



TED TALKS

By Ami Stokhamer

**Friday, December 19, 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:

How Changing Your Story Can Change Your Life, by Lori Gottlieb

The Art Of Choosing, by Sheena Iyengar

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.

**RUMPELSTILTSKIN IN SPACE!
A brand new science fiction
adventure musical!**



**Saturday, December 20, at 2 pm
in the Heritage Room**

Featuring live music by The Altogether and art by Thomcat23!, Anywhere Theatre invites you and your family to blast off into a hilarious, high-energy, intergalactic adventure like no other! *Rumpelstiltskin in Space!* is at its heart a delightful story about kindness, courage, and making unlikely friends across the stars

It's a perfect mix of interactive theatre, original music, dazzling visuals, and slapstick laughs that will leave audience members beaming with joy! It allows them to be part of the action: decoding alien messages, chanting catchphrases, and even helping steer the plot in real time. It's full of call-and-response energy! "Should we push the button?" You decide! Audience members can take part in alien dance lessons like "Galactic Glide" or join the sound effect squad by making rocket noises, laser blasts, or thunderclaps using their bodies! *Rumpelstiltskin in Space!* takes science fiction and adventure story tropes and converts them into gentle, silly energy. In our universe, it's not a laser battle, it's a dance off; light sabers become pool noodles and noisemakers become rocket engines!

\$20 for adults, kids under 15 FREE! For tickets, go to givebutter.com/RumpelstiltskininSpace



Linda & Robert Kalman

PHOTO CLUB

By Sue Meola

PORTRAIT PHOTOGRAPHY

**Friday, January 9, at 2 pm
in Activities Center Club Room 2**

Robert Kalman, a documentary portrait photographer, will present a selection of pictures and stories published in his

new book of everyday Americans answering the question: What's it like for you to be an American?

For over 40 years, Mr. Kalman has been making formal, large format portraits of people he meets on streets across the globe.

Open to all. Non-members: \$5. Non-members must register **by January 7**. Registration forms available outside the Activities Office. For more information, contact Linda Carpentieri at lindacarp16@gmail.com / 914-227-3854, or Bill Ablondi at ablondi@marketmaps.net / 203-984-2955.

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



SOCIETY BOARD NEWS

WELCOME NEW OWNERS

By Anna Milani

Society Office Administrator

During the month of November, ownership changed for 10 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 OCTOBER 22
BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING**

Compiled by Susan Statkowski-Rivalsi

This is a summary of some portions of the meeting. Videos of these Meetings in their entirety are posted on the Society Board website the day after the meeting occurs, hhsociety.org. The minutes of this meeting will be published after they are approved at the December 17 Meeting.

Board members in attendance: Gloria Anderson, Gene Archer, Denise Elliot, Ralph Fatigate, Ann Harper, Dorinda Haskel, Joe Kelly, Jack Mattes, Patricia Ploss, Bruce Prince, Deica Ruiz, Davis Stowell, Alan Tepper, and Brenda Zimmerman.

Absent: Jay Wright.

Also attending: John Milligan, Heritage Management Services; and Rob Casasanta, Prosegur Security

2026 BUDGET

REMARKS - GENE ARCHER, PRESIDENT

Congratulations to the Finance Committee for submitting a great 2026 Budget, keeping the increase at 2.5%, the lowest we've had in a number of years.

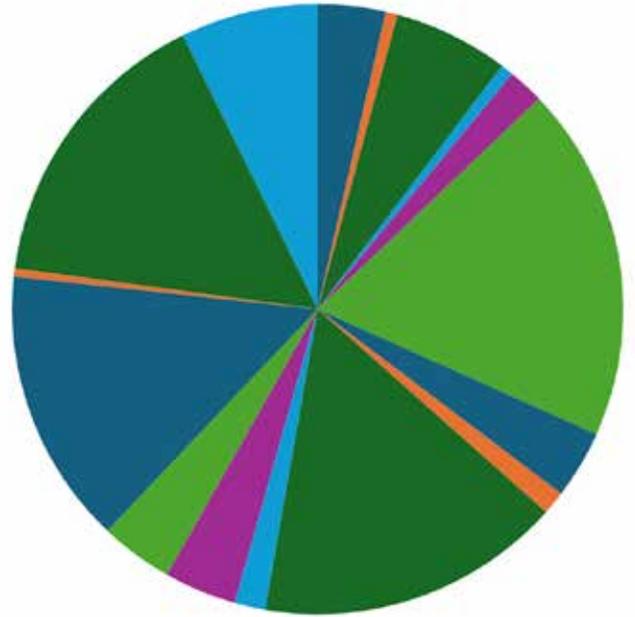
One of the things included in the Budget is to enclose a good part of the deck facing the pond at the back of the Activities Center just off the Heritage Room. It will be glass enclosed with a conventional ceiling with skylights.

The Budget also includes funds for Meadowlark Park for continued trail development and a gazebo.

There's \$150,000 allocated for storm water management, and for paving we've allotted about \$300,000.

The Budget is \$6,645,368, representing a 2.5% increase over 2025.

2026 Society Budget
\$6.645 Million



Activities, Fitness Center, Lake Lodge	\$ 237,800
Community Activities	42,250
Pools	405,005
Maintenance Yard	45,000
Transportation	12,6875
Security	1,250,968
Insurance	240,062
Central Supply	82,500
Roads & Grounds	1,074,842
Meadowlark Park	108,000
Debt Service & Taxes	254,848
Employee Benefits	256,585
Salaries (excludes bus drivers)	972,800
Racquet Sports	28,500
Major Projects	1,035,677
General Administration	483,656
TOTAL	\$ 6,645,368

REMARKS - JOHN MILLIGAN, PROPERTY MANAGER

Income: We have some miscellaneous income (about \$300,000), but 95% is derived solely from Society Fees.

Expenses (see pie chart and list, above): Operating Expenses are about 85% of that. Major Projects (like paving, etc.) take up part of the other 15%, and we decide how to spend what's left of that (enclosing the Activities Center deck that Gene mentioned above – hopefully starting in March, adding a gazebo and doing trail work at Meadowlark Park, a new canopy over the Bocci courts, a new maintenance truck, and two treadmills).

FINANCE & BUDGET, COMMITTEE - JACK MATTES, CHAIR

Treasurer's Report

• **September Financials:**

Income..... \$ 533,940.27
 Expenses.....(516,742.72)
 Net Positive\$ 17,197.55

- **Operating Income:** Year-to-date, it exceeds our budget by \$55,000+.

DISCUSSION TOPICS - GLORIA ANDERSON, FIRST VICE PRESIDENT

New Resident Contact Directory: We contacted our publisher about creating an updated Directory, as the current one is quite outdated. **In order to be included, residents have to opt in** - if you are in the current Directory, you will **not** automatically be included in the new one). Forms and a drop box are available in the Activities Center lobby [the form is in this issue on page 25].

Golf Club Restaurant (Bistro on the Green) and Catering Facility (Jade Hill Catering): The restaurant will open initially only for dinner. They're also considering Early Bird Specials. They're booking private parties, as well. Contact Michele at 203-233-4602.

Golf Course: Will be upgraded, They met with the Council of Condos to discuss matters of interest [see page 9]. The three ponds on the course that are overgrown and unsightly will be dredged and fountains will be installed to keep the water moving.

ACTIVITIES COMMITTEE - ANN HARPER, CHAIR

We have a new class, "Improving Communication to Improve Relationships." It will meet monthly for a fee of \$5, and is described as follows: "People will learn key principles of communication and will practice and apply communication skills for different situations." The instructor is resident Randy Freeman.

FITNESS CENTER COMMITTEE - JOE KELLY, CHAIR

- **September Usage:**
 - Exercise room: 3,778 swipes by 582 residents
 - Gymnasium: 435 swipes by 128 residents
- **Year-to-date Usage:** Thus far it's about 40,000, compared to 35,800 last year.
- **Upgrades:** We're looking into replacing two treadmills and the men's and women's showers.
- **Free Fitness Consultations:** Certified Personal Trainers Mary and Jonathan did 24 of these.
- **Shoe-Change Policy:** [See page 8.]

COMMUNITY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE

JACK MATTES

- **Toys-For-Tots** [See page 4.]

DORINDA HASKEL

- **Event Planning**
 - **Rumpelstiltskin in Space!** Live performance [see page 5].
 - **Beatles Cover Band performance:** Watch for information on this taking place in March.

LIBRARY COMMITTEE - DEICA RUIZ, CHAIR

[See pages 9 and 10.]

SECURITY - RALPH FATIGATE, CHAIR

I had the opportunity to meet with a group of technologists to show me how AI works.

- **Unknown callers:** One of the things discussed was cloning of voices based on telephone calls. If you get a call from a number you don't recognize, **DON'T ANSWER IT**. The unknown caller can clone (copy) your voice and place calls to people you know, who will think it's you.
- **Photos:** Someone can take a photo of you and put you any place, anytime, anywhere in the world.

PROPERTY MANAGER REPORT - JOHN MILLIGAN

- **Lake Lodge HVAC Upgrade:** Is complete. Staff (via their phones) can remotely adjust individual room thermostats.
- **Light Replacement:** We are completing switching all lights with new high-efficiency, adjustable LED bulbs.
- **Holiday Lights:** By installing them on the trees in September, we're getting a 10% discount when we begin using them.
- **Pools:** 1 and 2 have a new coating. Pool 1 will have a card-swipe system next season.
- **Pickleball Court Repair:** Is complete.
- **Platform Tennis Courts:** Are getting a fresh coat of paint.
- **Warren Street Entrance Light Fixture Replacement:** In July, a delivery truck destroyed one of the Warren Street multi-arm fixtures. Security was able to detain the driver until the State Police arrived to collect insurance information. We've been fully reimbursed for the cost of the fixture and its installation (about \$20,000).

POST-MEETING DISCUSSIONS

A RESIDENT HAD TWO INQUIRIES:

- The first was about political candidates ringing doorbells here. Gloria Anderson advised him we do not allow door-to-door solicitation except for political candidates who register with our Security Office. Rob Casasanta of Security advised that that requirement is just a courtesy, as there's a federal law that you cannot stop political candidates from canvassing.
- The second inquiry had to do with the fact that this was the first time in his twelve seasons here that the pools were closed after Labor Day. He asked how much was saved by doing that, or how much was spent last year by having the pool open after Labor Day. Gene Archer said that most residents do not use the pools, and the Board has to make a decision as to how many people will be impacted, and it decided that it would not impact the entire community. So, it wasn't solely based on expenses, although it is expensive to keep pools open after Labor Day. John Milligan stated keeping a pool open for two weeks is about \$7,000, depending on the weather. Two pools would be double that. He then

continued on page 8

said he didn't think we'd be able to staff two pools, and there are other thoughts - just weekends - but during the week would be impossible. The resident indicated that in the past they were only open on weekends and lifeguards were always available.

The resident then stated, re the \$7,000, that Treasurer Jack Mattes mentioned an overflow of revenue versus expenses at the last two meetings.

He then noted that September had 20 days of 75 degrees and above temperatures and 5 days of 80 degrees and above temperatures, and October had 5 days of 80+ degrees thus far.

Finally, he said it's not just the number of people who use the pool - nobody uses everything here anyway - but you have to consider maintaining the image of a luxury condominium, as well.

RESIDENT EMAILS - JOHN MILLIGAN

- A resident inquired about two items

- About the old green utility boxes, John indicated this started a few years ago as a Council of Condos project, then came to him, at which time he reached out to Comcast and Verizon and got nowhere. At a recent 10-A-Men meeting, resident and former Society Board member Karl Milde approached the Town supervisor about this, and the Town agreed to take this on. It was sent all the information originally collected - maps, photos and lists of dilapidated boxes. The Supervisor's Assistant and Tommy Tooma feel that some of the boxes are in such bad shape that they represent code violations, so there may be hope.

- About card readers at various sites (tennis courts and the like), John indicated the card readers being installed at Pool 1 for next year is a test for doing just that.

- Two residents inquired about the closings (buyer's \$1,500 contribution). John indicated that so far this year (as of October 22), there were 110 closings resulting in \$165,000 in revenue, and last year there were 132 closing, which resulted in \$198,000 in revenue.

FITNESS CENTER WINTER SHOE CHANGE POLICY

As of December 1, or the first snow fall if sooner, all residents entering the Fitness Center exercise room or gymnasium are required to change into clean, dry footwear before entering.

This policy helps protect our facility and equipment from dirt, moisture, and salt residue that can cause damage to equipment or create safety hazards.

We kindly ask you to bring an extra pair of shoes to change into before entering the facility.

Thank you for your cooperation and commitment to maintaining a clean, safe, and enjoyable environment for all residents at the Fitness Center and Gymnasium this winter.

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2026 MEETING SCHEDULE

Meetings take place in the Heritage Room. Some will be at 1:30 pm and some will be at 7 pm. There are no meetings in January, August, or December. The June 23 meeting is actually two back-to-back

meetings - a regular meeting as well as the Annual Meeting.

- February 17 at 1:30 pm
March 17 at 7 pm
April 21 at 1:30 pm
May 19 at 7 pm
June 23 at 7 pm

- July 21 at 1:30 pm
September 15 at 1:30 pm
October 20 at 7 pm
November 17 at 1:30 pm

Unit owners are welcome to attend and can raise matters of concern at the end of the meetings. The meetings can be viewed live on Comcast's Channels 21 and 1070 and daily thereafter at 2 and 7 pm until the next meeting occurs. They can also be viewed at any time on the Society website, hhsociety.org.

* * *

SECURITY

By Rob Casasanta, Prosecur Security

OCTOBER SECURITY CALL REPORT

During the month of October, our Security staff received and responded to a total of 274 calls including the following matters:

Table with 2 columns: Service type and count/description. Includes rows for Service (115), Medical (77), Security (51), Police (9), Open Garage Doors (8), Fire Calls (5), Maintenance (3), Motor Vehicle Accidents (3), and Parking Violations (2).

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@prosecur.com.

* * *

COUNCIL OF CONDOS

By Terry Clifford

The October 15 meeting was attended by the following Condos: 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 25, 27, 28, 29, and 30.

Somers National Golf Club Guest speakers Heidi Gilboff and Wendy Hui represented Kevin Guo, the new owner of the Golf Course, Pro Shop, Restaurant, and Banquet Hall.

The new leadership intends to be on-site to upgrade grounds, clean out excessive pond vegetation, and add aerating fountain in ponds.

The restaurant will be re-opened as "Bistro on the Green." Chef Winnie and Michele who ran the Restaurant eight years ago at Heritage Hills have returned to handle "Bistro on the Green," which will open

when they receive their Liquor License. The kitchen has been given a deep cleaning and all new updated appliances. In addition to having dinner for all guests, they are looking forward to having future unique events, comedy shows, wine tastings, conferences, and meetings. The Banquet Hall is getting new light fixtures, flooring, and they are planning to enclose the patio on the side of the Banquet Hall.

They are considering golf course modifications to prevent golf ball damage to units and other encroachment areas such as tree maintenance.

The Council of Condos invites Condo Presidents from all thirty Condo boards and/or a representative of each board to attend Council meetings at the Activities Center on the third Wednesday of each month at 7 pm.

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SINGLES CLUB

By the Club Board

\$12 membership dues for 2026 are payable in January and can be left in our mail slot at the Activities Center or contact Sandy Pope at 914-248-5290.

The Club will be taking a winter break from January through March. We wish everyone a Happy and Healthy Holiday Season.

* * *



COMMUNITY THEATRE

By Muriel Millstein Weiss

The Hot Hippies of Heritage Hills, also known as The Heritage Hills Community Theatre Board of Directors, thank you for your continued support and enthusiasm. It was fun to walk down Memory Lane with you, and, yes, the sixties was an extraordinary era.

Stay tuned for future productions

Wishing everyone a safe and Happy Holiday!

* * *



FRIENDS IN THE HILLS

By Deb Ferrara and Maryann Walrath

As we wrap up another wonderful year, we want to extend a heartfelt "Thank You" to all of the amazing members of Friends in the Hills. Your support and friendship has made this year so special. A special thanks also goes out to our incredible Committee members, whose hard work and dedication made all our gatherings and events possible.

We can't wait to see you all again next year for an even bigger and better agenda filled with fun, laughter and entertainment. Save the dates: May 22, June 20, and July 24.

2026 Member Applications will be at the Activities Center.

OUR WECOMING HERITAGE HILLS LIBRARY

Text and photos by Cindy Kennedy

"Big things come in small packages," so the saying goes. Our Heritage Hills Library, a compact "gem" tucked in the front corner of the Activities Center, is an accessible amenity every resident can enjoy.

Currently, the Library's collection contains over 2,200 books for circulation. Its shelves are stocked with a wide variety of fiction, mystery, biography, and non-fiction books. There is an expanding Large Print section and also a dedicated space for books written by Heritage Hills authors.



Virginia Nolte at the Fiction section

Each month, the Library Committee adds an average of 15 new books to the collection. The selections reflect genres and authors popular with our residents, keeping in mind upcoming books by prominent writers. Recommendations from the community are welcomed. Books can be reserved at the Library or by calling 914-276-7655. Patrons often mention that the wait time to get a best-selling book at the Heritage Hills Library is far shorter than it would be through the public library system.

Society allots the Library an annual \$5,000 budget. (Based on 2,606 units, the cost per unit is \$1.92.) All Heritage Hills residents can borrow books; no library card is required. Over 500 "members" have opted to be listed in our membership list. Those wishing to join the list can sign up on a sheet at Library desk. Open weekdays from 10 am to 3 pm and Saturdays, 10 am to 1 pm, the Library is staffed by a team of 23 volunteers in rotating shifts.



Library Committee Member Pat Conetta

The Heritage Hills Library Book Group, facilitated by Committee Member Sheelagh Kaplan, has been going strong for nearly three years. Their meetings are held on the first Monday and first Thursday of the month, with exceptions for holidays. For more information, contact Sheelagh (sheelaghk1@aol.com; 914-406-0679). On Monday afternoons in the Library, she is available to offer book suggestions.

Magazines, including *The New Yorker*, *Consumer Reports*, and *The Atlantic*, are available to read in the Library. Comfortable club chairs by the fireplace are perfect for quiet reading. Just outside the Library's door, there is a children's book exchange. Jigsaw-puzzle lovers may enjoy the "grab and go" puzzle swap; a puzzle often is started on the long table in the center of the room.

Convenient and cozy, the Heritage Hills Library is the ideal place to visit on a chilly morning or afternoon. This winter, stop by and check out what our welcoming Library has to offer.

MUSICAL NOTES FROM THE CONCERT SOCIETY



The best classical music value in Westchester and beyond!

By Teddi Meltzer

As the new year approaches, there are serious considerations we should entertain, among them "Should I become a part of the Heritage Hills Concert Society, not only by attending concerts and enjoying beautiful music, but by filling out a Subscription Form and becoming a committed member of our wonderful group? I could receive a free concert guest ticket if I subscribe by December 31, and would lock in four afternoons of top artists' performances in 2026, Hmmm- I think I will."

Forms are available at the Activities Center.

If you have any questions, call Teddi at 914-277-1418 - but not before 9 am!



WOMEN'S CLUB

Submitted by Phyllis Bradbury

The Women's Club Board has the pleasure of once again decorating the Holiday Tree in the lobby of the Activities Center. The Board wishes everyone a happy, healthy New Year.

Our monthly meetings will resume in February. Flyers will be available in the Activities Center as soon as future programs are finalized.

To renew your membership or become a new member, application forms are available in the Activities Center, or you may submit your full name, unit number, phone numbers (home/cell), and email address on paper, including that with a \$12 check in an envelope placed in the Women's Club mail slot there. For membership information, call Membership Chair, Alfreda Savarese at 914 617-2007.

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.

HLibrary



BOOKS BY POPULAR AUTHORS

The Library's December book choices should please many of our readers since many well-known authors have new books coming out. Added titles include new works from ever-popular David Baldacci, Lee Child, Stephen King, and the prolific but exceedingly well liked new author of domestic suspense, Freida McFadden.

For more gentle reads, the Library is adding new offerings from Richard Paul Evans and Danielle Steel, as well as newly released The Seven Rings, the final book in Nora Roberts' Lost Bride trilogy. More surprisingly, John Irving, after 40 years, has revisited the setting of his bestseller The Cider House Rules to write Queen Esther, which is set in the same orphanage in Maine. Hopefully there will be something for everyone this month.

ABOUT OUR LIBRARY

To read more about what our Library has to offer, see "Our Welcoming Heritage Hills Library" on page 9.

BOOK REVIEW

For a review of The Ghosts of Rome, by Joseph O'Connor, see page 35. The historical novel centers on the Italian Resistance at the end of World War II.

NEW ADDITIONS TO OUR COLLECTION IN DECEMBER

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

Fiction

- Wood, Benjamin Seascraper
Evans, Richard Paul The Christmas Stranger
Irving, John Queen Esther
Roberts, Nora The Seven Rings
Steel, Danielle The Color of Hope
Toibin, Colm A Long Winter

Mystery

- Baldacci, David Nash Falls
Child, Lee, and
Grant, Andrew Exit Strategy
DeMille, Nelson
and DeMille, Alex The Tin Men
Evanovich, Janet The King's Ransom
Fredericks, Mariah The Girl in the Green Dress
Kellerman, Jonathan and
Kellerman, Jesse Coyote Hills
King, Stephen The Running Man
McFadden, Freida The Intruder

Non-Fiction

- Isaacson, Walter The Greatest Sentence Ever Written
Roach, Mary Replaceable You

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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 grades 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 the Activities Center's Studio 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: Wednesdays, from 10 am to noon and on the 4th week of the month and from 6 to 8 pm in the Activities Center's Studio B. Each week we explore new crafts or work on current projects. Monthly crafts are open to members and when space is available, we open the session to the HH community. Most crafting sessions are free (you supply materials) and other sessions have a fee based on materials. Email for more information: 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. 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 are 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 Club Room 2 of the Activities Center. All are welcome regardless of photography experience. Meetings will include speakers, field trips to various photo shows, photo shoots, and contests. For more information, contact Linda Carpentieri at 914-227-3854 or lindacarp16@gmail.com, or Bill Ablondi at 203-984-2955 or ablondi@marketmaps.net.

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

SKETCH WORKSHOP: Wednesdays from 9:30 to 11:30 am in the Activities Center's Studio A. 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 Activities Center's Lower Level 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 Center's Game Room. For more information contact Myra Hopper at myrahopper@gmail.com or 520 390-5523.

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: 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, 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.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB: Second and fourth Friday of the month from 3 to 4:30 pm in Rooms 2 and 3 of the Activities Center. This Club's primary objective is to foster a culture of environmental responsibility within Heritage Hills. All are welcome, including teens. Watch for announcements and postings about special events and field trips. No fee. For more information contact Carrie Sears at carolynnsears@me.com or 914 522 3111.

EXERCISE CLASSES

TAI CHI AND CHI GONG WITH MASTER ELLEN: Mondays from 1 to 2:15 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 take place in Lake Lodge's Upper Level and 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. Class is periodically full, joining is up to the discretion of the instructor due to class size. Fee: \$10 per class. Try the first class for free! Email Lori at eefyjig@gmail.com.

SITNESS: Tuesdays from 12:30 to 1:15 pm in Lake Lodge's Upper Level. SITNESS is designed to improve your balance, strength, posture, and cardiovascular condition. \$15 per session. Your instructor is Killeen Rhodes, a certified Master Personal trainer, Senior Fitness Expert, and Fifth Degree Martial Arts Instructor. Contact Killeen at killeenrhodes2014@gmail.com.

BALANCE AND AGILITY FOR ACTIVE SENIORS: Wednesdays at 10:30 am on Lake Lodge's Upper Level. 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.

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

LINE DANCING WITH THERESA: Wednesdays at 11 am in the Gym. Easy to learn and easy to follow line dances to all music genres taught in workshop format. Fee: \$10 per class. Email Theresa at *zumbawithme@aol.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, call, text, or email Melanie at 914-588-2450 or *melaniegambino1@gmail.com*.

ZUMBA GOLD WITH THERESA: Fridays at 10:30 am in the Gym. Low impact dance fitness class suitable for all fitness levels. Fee: \$10 per class. Email Theresa at *zumbawithme@aol.com*.

YOGA

YOGA WITH STACEY: Mondays at 11:30 am at Lake Lodge with Stacy Goodman, RYT-200. A gentle, slow-flow yoga class to strengthen, lengthen, calm, and expand body, mind, spirit within. \$15 drop-in. Email *Resorationyoga@hotmail.com*.

CHAIR YOGA WITH SATISH: Tuesdays from 10 to 11:15 am in Lake Lodge's Room 3 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*.

GENTLE YOGA WITH LISA: Fridays at 10 am on Lake Lodge's Upper Level. \$60 for 4 consecutive classes or \$180 to drop-in for a 75-minute class. *Lisaathomas@optonline.net* or 914-497-0243.

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* 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 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*.

GAMES

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

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

CANASTA CLUB: Saturdays from 1 to 4 pm in Activities Room 2. 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 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.

MAH JONGG: Mondays at noon in Lake Lodge's Room 3 (contact Sue Furino 914-617-9110); Fridays at 1 pm in Lake Lodge's Room 3, and Tuesdays and Thursdays from 11 am to 1 pm in Lake Lodge's Room 2 (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 players, including newbies, are welcome. For more information, just walk in or contact Susan at 914-617-9228 or *ciwhitestar@comcast.net*.

GARDEN CLUB: For information, including questions on membership and use of the Club 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: Grieving the loss of a loved one can cause loneliness and profound sadness. The Spousal Bereavement group provides a safe and caring environment for everyone who shares similar experiences. Meetings take place on the second Thursday of the month at 12:30 pm in Lake Lodge's room 1. The fee is \$20 per session. To register, email Linda at *ludwiglr@aol.com*, or call 914-617-9328.

HEAR OUR STORIES: The last Wednesday of the month at 2 pm in the Heritage Room. Live interviews of Heritage Hills residents, hosted by Ami Stokhamer. **FREE.** Contact Ami with any questions at 914-486-9677. On hiatus until January.

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 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 in the Heritage Room. Stephanie Roberti, MHA, will introduce different senior care topics to help educate us on this important subject. For more information, contact Stephanie at 914-357-3049 or Sroberti@Newbeginningsforseniors.com.

LIBRARY: 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. Mondays, holidays included, from 9:30 to 11 am in the Activities Center Room 3. Also, meets Thursday mornings from 9:30 to 11 am during the summer behind Lake Lodge under the trees – with fresh air and an enchanting view of two ponds, a gazebo, and a vast lawn – with lively conversation. For information, email Ken Benjamin at kenbenja@aol.com or call him at 914-262-6006.

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.

SOCIAL CLUBS

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. Contact Alan Tepper at HHCLUBSHALOM@gmail.com.

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.

RAINBOW CONNECTION CLUB: A group for LGBTQ members and their families, friends, and neighbors. All are welcome. Meets the first Thursday of each month in Lake Lodge's Room 3 from 5 to 7 pm. For more information contact Teresa Duffy at 914-617-9785.

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.

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.

YACHT CLUB ("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 Lake Lodge's Lobby, we share our experiences and plan future ones (theme parties, day trips/activities, or even cruises). For more information, contact Commadorable Susan at ciwhitestar@comcast.net or 914-617-9228.

SPORTS

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

TENNIS: 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: All resident men and women are invited to meet and chat with their neighbors at 8:30 am Wednesday mornings in the Heritage Room. Coffee and bagels are available until 9:45 am, followed by speakers / presentations until 11 am. Admission is \$3.

THRIVING IN YOUR PRIME: This is a workshop, led by Beth Iacofano, that is held the first Tuesday of each month at 1 pm in Lake Lodge's Room 3. At each meeting, the group discusses common concerns related to getting older and receives tips and tools to help them overcome and thrive. Some topics discussed are mindfulness, navigating the stress and fear of getting older, effectively communicating, navigating the death of a loved one, overcoming guilt, and effectively shifting thoughts that aren't supportive. The investment is \$5.

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.



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	\$315,000-\$900,000	\$320,000-\$885,000	\$276,000-\$876,000	\$275,000-\$750,000

VARIOUS UNITS SOLD BY MLS AGENTS FROM 1/1/25 – 11/7/2025

ONEKEY/ HGMLS DATA AS OF 1/1/2025-10/10/2025

ONE BEDROOM

MODEL NAME	PRICE	MODEL NAME	PRICE
Franklin Radcliffe	\$352,000; \$435,000; \$399,000 \$599,000; \$604,000	Guilford	\$460,000; \$512,000; \$516,000

TWO BEDROOMS

MODEL NAME	PRICE	MODEL NAME	PRICE
Armonk	\$605,000; \$645,000; \$660,000	Monroe	\$519,000
Berkshire	\$610,000; \$720,000	Princeton	\$750,000
Cambridge	\$625,000	Ridgefield	\$610,000
Canaan	\$550,000; \$625,000	Salem	\$675,000; \$680,000; \$730,000
Concord	\$534,500; \$540,000; \$552,000	Stanford	\$760,000
Dartmouth	\$675,000	Stratford	\$650,000; \$666,000; \$715,000
Fairview	\$560,000; \$610,000; \$625,000	Syracuse	\$710,000
Katonah	\$570,000	Wellesley	\$599,000
Madison	\$415,000		

THREE BEDROOMS

MODEL NAME	PRICE	MODEL NAME	PRICE
Croton II	\$680,000	Sherman I	\$910,000
Jefferson (with carport)	\$625,000	Sherman II	\$755,000; \$887,000; \$947,000
		York	\$575,000



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HEALTH & SAFETY COMMITTEE FLU CLINIC AND MEDICATION DROP

Text and photo by Flo Brodley

The Annual Flu Clinic was a wonderful experience for those who came for their yearly shot as well as for those of us who actually conducted the program!

Early bird residents waited patiently while Committee members Rosemary Glassman, Alicia Brescia, and Flo Brodley and Northern Westchester Hospital (NWH) staffers put all their efforts into opening the clinic on time. Then a steady stream of people entered Lake Lodge all morning and into the early afternoon, pleasantly greeted by Committee volunteers Bobbi Wagman, Myra Linker, and Marianne Blum.

Signing in and receiving official paperwork, residents entered Room 3, set up with nurses and volunteers who turned paperwork into receipts, and directed each participant to the next welcoming medical professional. Afterwards, smiles appeared as they left, impressed by the shot they received which was so lightly done that one person remarked that he waited for the shot that had already been given.

Overwhelming thanks go to NWH's Community Outreach Coordinator Margaret Ribaudo and her band of Angels for their yearly visit to our community! They served flu meds to 170 patients and left tired and happy for a good job well done.

Thanks also to Somers Police Sargent David Burpee, who collected 48 pounds of medical waste, a goodly amount according to his records.

The Health & Safety Committee, supported by the Society Board, is proud to be able to offer significant programs throughout the year to our community.

ENVIRONMENTAL CLUB HOST A WASTE-FREE HOLIDAY GATHERING!

By Carrie Sears

The holiday season is officially upon us, and it's time for gatherings, feasts, and festive cheer! As you plan to entertain, the Environmental Club encourages you to make a simple, meaningful New Year's resolution early: be a little kinder to the Planet by hosting a zero-waste event. Simply reducing food waste, a major contributor to landfills and methane gases, and single-use plastic items and packaging, a source of "forever chemicals" in our environment, is an incredibly responsible and impactful way to promote sustainable practices right here in Heritage Hills.

Here are a few easy ways to make any holiday party more sustainable:

Before the Party: Plan Smart

- **Go Digital for Invites:** Ditch the paper waste! Send your invitations or flyers via email, text, or social media.
- **Shop Sustainably:** Buy only what you need to prevent food waste. When shopping for party goods, use what you already have first – especially cloth napkins, glassware, plates, and metal cutlery!
- **Use Eco-Friendly Supplies:** If you must purchase disposables, avoid excessive packaging, and skip the Styrofoam and plastic. Look for paper or compostable plates, cups, and cutlery (available at ACME, Stop & Shop, or Target). Opt for simple paper table covers instead of plastic or plastic-lined ones. Most importantly: gather sustainable containers, preferably glass or aluminum, before the party for easy leftover distribution!

- **Drink Smart:** Serve water from pitchers into reusable, paper, or compostable cups. Offer drinks in glass bottles or cans over plastic bottles.
- **Menu Prep:** Focus on plant-based, seasonal, and local ingredients. During the party, make it easy.

Set Up an area with three distinct bins

- **Blue Bin:** For recyclables (paper, cans, clean containers).
- **White or Black Bin:** For trash.
- **Compost Bucket:** For food scraps.
- **Give Gentle Reminders:** A friendly sign or a quick, casual reminder to guests about what goes where makes a huge difference!

After the Party: Close the Loop

- **Use up the leftovers** in a tasty soup or casserole. (See the recipe for "After Party" soup, below).
- **Compost everything organic:** Food scraps (including spent flowers from arrangements) can be brought to the local Somers Food Scrap Drop-Off Site (Town Highway Department, 250 Route 100, from 8 am to 4 pm seven days a week).

People taking small steps persistently make a difference. Encourage your favorite club to host waste-free events, too. Happy hosting!

Recipe for "After Party" Soup

Simmer together or cook in a crockpot on low:

1 large can of V-8 or tomato juice

1 bag of cole slaw mix

(grated cabbage & carrots)

Left-over crudities, vegetable odds and ends, and broths

NEEDLECRAFT GROUP'S BOUNTIFUL AUTUMN SEASON

Text by Cindy Kennedy, photos by Linda Neira

On a crisp late autumn afternoon, Needlecraft Group members held a festive luncheon at Southeast Grille House in Brewster. It was a fine opportunity for the women to enjoy one another's company and to celebrate their many charitable endeavors.



Throughout the summer and autumn months, the women knitted and crocheted a variety of hand-crafted items. In early September, Luda Samuels at Northern Westchester Hospital Volunteer Office emailed Needlecraft Group leader Linda Neira with a first-time request: winter hats for unhoused/underserved adults. In less than a month, the Group crafted 54 warm hats which then were given to the hospital's Outreach Services.

During the Group's October 15 meeting, the women assembled and bagged 436 individual pieces of knitwear, in preparation for delivery to several charities. There were dozens of colorful hats, scarves, lap robes, shawls, headbands, and shrugs in all shapes and sizes.

When Linda returned to Northern Westchester Hospital to drop off 126 "preemie" hats for tiny newborns in its Neonatal Intensive Care Unit, she gave Luda Samuels an additional 11 adults hats. Two weeks later, Linda and Carol Larson delivered dozens of lap robes, shawls, and shrugs to Paramount at Somers Rehabilitation & Nursing Center.



Each autumn, Needlecraft Group members make hats and scarves for the Community Center of Northern Westchester's annual "Share the Warmth" program. At the end of October, Linda and several Group members delivered bag loads of cozy winter knitwear for kids and teens.

The Needlecraft Group meets Wednesdays at 12:30 pm in the Activities Center. New members are always welcome, and donations of unused yarn are most appreciated. For more information, call Linda at 914-277-2776.



Rosemary DePaolo, Nancy Hodor, Cheryl Hochenberg, Clare Murray, Linda Neira, and Elizabeth Royston

PICKLEBALL CLUB FOOD DRIVE

By Fran Boemio

On October 19, at the pickleball courts we held our fourth Annual Food Drive for St. Luke's Food Pantry. Thanks to the generosity of our community it was a huge success. It is important to us to help those in need. We collected about 100 bags of groceries and Lynda McGrath, Food Pantry Director, along with her volunteers, were so grateful for all we brought [See page 35.]

Thank you to Eric Scorzelli and Mike Boemio, who set up to welcome all; Davis Stowell, who greeted and assisted every person that came to donate and transported the bags to Saint Luke's along with Randy Bennett; and to everyone else who gave a hand,



Lynda McGrath, Fran, Randy, Davis and St. Luke's volunteers



Randy Bennett, Fran Boemio, and Davis Stowell

DO YOU HAVE TO GIVE UP DRIVING? MAYBE NOT.

By Susan Statkowski-Rivalsi and Karl Milde

It is a scientific fact that, for many, as we age our reflexes will not be as sharp as they once were. This change can result in it being unsafe to get behind the wheel – unsafe for oneself and for others. Will having a self-driving car be the way to go if that time comes?

Last year, an electric vehicle manufacturer offered its vehicle owners the opportunity to “try before you buy” such full self-driving (“FSD”) capability. Being skeptical about self-driving cars is normal. Handing over control just doesn’t feel right and, in fact, you might think “Isn’t that kinda dangerous?” But, remember, you probably felt the same way about GPS when it first became available (remember *OnStar*?). Isn’t this another case of ‘Old Dog, New Tricks Syndrome?’ Nowadays, just about everyone uses GPS all the time. And this new opportunity was being offered “free,” so why not try it? The FSD software is quickly and easily transmitted to the car’s computer.

There are partial self-driving programs similar to FSD which don’t use the car’s built-in GPS. They just drive the car without “knowing” the destination. So, for instance, if you were on West Hill Drive, you could take your hands off the wheel and the car would continue safely along the winding road, always staying in its lane between the yellow and white lines. It would continue to do so until directed otherwise, though it would automatically stop if it perceived a danger. If you wanted to turn off that road, you’d have to retake control by putting your hands on the wheel and making the car turn; and you had to take control when you wanted to stop.

After using FSD for a while, you could try driving on busier roads – even 684. It might take quite some time before you’d be okay with that. But you’ve ultimately gotten used to GPS, right?

Unfortunately, the “free” trial ends before some people had a chance to feel really comfortable with letting the car drive itself. And it is really pricey – \$8,000 a year or \$99 monthly. So, when the time to choose came, most people opted out – especially since they didn’t really need full self-driving...yet.

Full self-driving is probably in your future, just as the Internet, smartphones, and GPS have made their way into our daily lives. For those who have already tried it, when the time comes, they’ll be better prepared to embrace it. You read about it here first.

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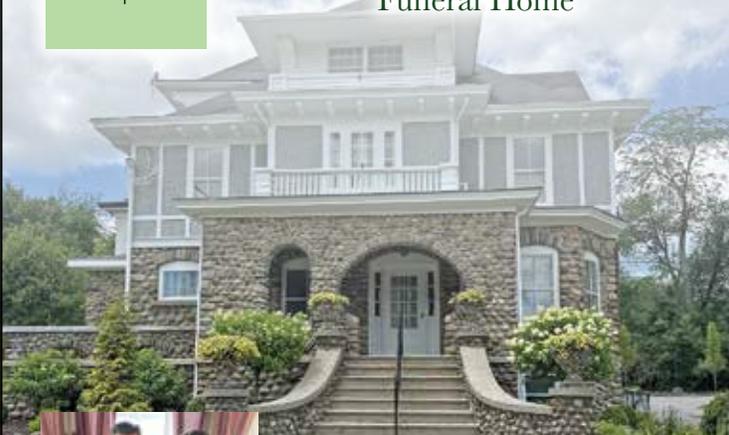
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Text and photos by Ken Freeman

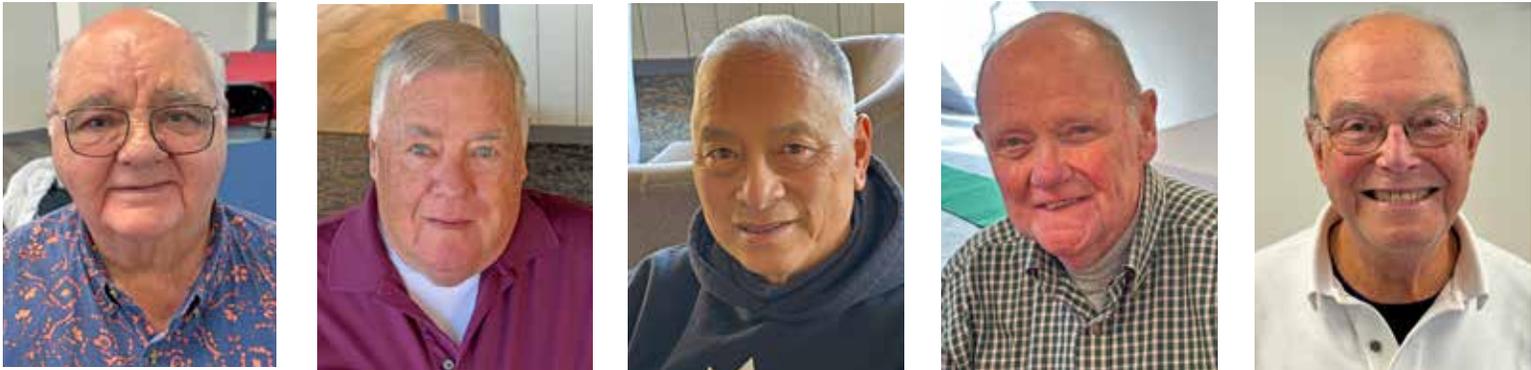
Sadly, all good things must come to an end, even the golf season, as the cold air blows and, despite the best efforts of the Somers National grounds crew, the fallen leaves can make it tough to find your ball, even in the middle of the fairway. Warm thoughts of the 2025 season include two special tournaments in October.

The year's second Par 3 tournament took place on October 9, testing short game skills. In the A flight, Frank Servidio won low gross honors. Pete Larson scored the low net, with Ed Yee second, and Bob Briganti third. In the B flight, Ray Ormerod won low gross honors (just 2 strokes behind Frank Servidio). Low net honors went to Sandy Lieberman, with Rich O'Brien second and Bob Kenney third.

In the October 16 two-man team alternate shot tournament, Joel Greenspan and Ken Freeman were the winning team, with a second-place tie between the Charlie Kravetz/Al Zaffiro team and the Ed Yee/Sandy Lieberman team.

That tournament was followed by the annual Past Presidents luncheon, where club members thanked outgoing president Al Longhitano as well as the other outgoing officers - Vice president Bob Slotoroff, treasurer Jack O'Hanlon, and secretary Ed Yee.

Club officers for 2026 we'll have President Jack O'Hanlon, Vice President Ed Yee, Treasurer Nick Stanton, and Secretary Bill Ablondi.



Outgoing President Al Longhitano and incoming 2026 President Jack O'Hanlon, Vice President Ed Yee, Treasurer Nick Stanton, and Secretary Bill Ablondi.

TENNIS NEWS

Text and photo by Dena Goldstein

On Monday, November 3, the Tennis Committee had their Annual Meeting. We discussed what was accomplished during the year, including Tennis Socials and all the Tennis Tournaments.



The Winter Tennis Social was also discussed, which will be held at Chestnut Ridge Racquet Club. We have requested the date of January 17 and are awaiting a confirmation from Chestnut Ridge. Once we have the confirmation, a blast email will be sent out to the Tennis Community.

During the Annual Meeting an election was held to fill the two vacant positions on the Committee. Christine O'Donnell and Celia Stowell, seen here, were elected. They will both be a great addition to the Committee.

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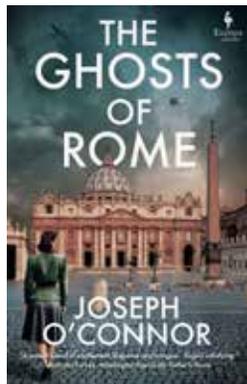
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THE BOOK SHELF

By Cindy Kennedy

The Ghosts of Rome, Joseph O'Connor's well researched historical novel, is set in Nazi-occupied Rome during the spring of 1944. Its story is based on the Italian Resistance initiative to hide refugees and help escaped Allied soldiers.

A band of escape-line activists, who call themselves "The Choir," smuggle fugitives out of Rome through an underground network. Their leader is Monsignor Hugh O'Flaherty, an Irish clergyman assigned to the Vatican. His disparate team of supporters include British diplomat Sir Francis D'Arcy Osborne and Delia Murphy-Kiernan, whose husband is *de facto* Irish ambassador to the Holy See.

The heart and soul of "The Choir" is Contessa Giovanna Landini, an elegant, aristocratic 34-year-old noblewoman. Beautiful and resourceful, the Contessa had inherited the magnificent Roman Palazzo Landini from her late husband.

Fugitives from prisoner-of-war and concentration camps knew they were "one moment from betrayal. Living every second in fear." They had heard that if "they could make it to Vatican City, there's a chance of being saved. Find Contessa Landini. She'll know what to do."

SS Commander Paul Hauptmann, in charge of the Nazi occupation of Rome, is tasked with eliminating "The Choir" completely by any means. Hauptmann had requisitioned Palazzo Landini as his personal residence. He understands that failure is not an option; Hauptmann's wife and children in Berlin are being watched by the Gestapo. Warnings are posted around Roman neighborhoods: "Abetting a fugitive is punishable by death."

Despite the enormous risks they encounter, the Contessa and Monsignor O'Flaherty continue to harbor escapees and wounded Allied pilots who had been shot down by German aircraft. Among the hiding places in bombed out Rome was the abandoned opera house whose rooftop afforded an escape route should a Gestapo raid occur. After Commander Hauptmann hears reports that American forces are marching toward Rome, his efforts to quash "The Choir" become ever more desperate.

Throughout *The Ghosts of Rome*, the majestic "Eternal City" itself is an indelible character. "To a Roman, spring is lovely," the Contessa muses, "the soprano of the seasons. Our gracious parks, our glorious gardens shake awake and don their flirtish finery. Old churches glimpsed through blossoms. Sunlight through stained glass. Warmer, richer light gilding frescos and fountains. Chianti-tinted apartment blocks and cream-hued cathedrals. Dawn rising earlier on a blushing Colosseum."

(*The Ghosts of Rome* is part of the Heritage Hills Library and Westchester County Library collections. For a list of new books at Heritage Hills Library, see page 10.)



Text and photo by Elizabeth Royston



At the October Culinary Dinner - aptly named *OKTOBERFEST* - these baked apple desserts were a smash hit! The only thing that Pat Held did differently from the recipe is that she split the apples into halves

and put the filling on top, instead of stuffing the filling into whole, cored apples. They are good hot or cold!!! Enjoy!!

STUFFED BAKED APPLES

Ingredients

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1/2 cup raisins | 1/4 cup white sugar |
| 4 cooking apples | 2 Tablespoons honey |
| 3 Tablespoons rum | 3/4 cup heavy cream |
| 3/4 cup toasted hazelnuts | Sprigs of mint to decorate |

Preparation

1. Soak the raisins in half the rum for at least 2 to 3 hours.
2. Preheat the oven to 400 degrees. Wash the apples, remove the cores, and score around the middle of each apple with a knife.
3. Put the hazelnuts in a food processor and grind coarsely and then add the sugar.
4. Spoon the stuffing of hazelnuts and sugar into the apples. Place apples in an ovenproof dish.
5. Blend together the honey and the remaining rum and pour over the apples.
6. Bake for about 35 to 40 minutes, basting the apples occasionally.
7. Make slightly sweetened whipped cream with heavy cream and 1 to 2 teaspoons of sugar.
8. Serve the apples either hot or well chilled, decorated with a sprig of mint and whipped cream.



FIT-BITS

By Mary Tedesco,
Fitness Center Manager

HEALTHY GREEN JUICE FOR WINTER WELLNESS

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------------|
| 1 head of lettuce (your choice) | 1 medium size cucumber |
| 4 stalks of organic celery | 1 green apple |
| 1 bunch of organic kale | 1 piece of fresh ginger |
| 1 medium sized carrot | 2 lemons |

Wash all ingredients. Using a great juicer (such as the Vitamix) or a good blender, blend and enjoy!

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ST. LUKES FOOD PANTRY THANKS AND WELCOME

*By Lynda Magrath
Resident and Pantry Chair*

St. Luke's Somers Food Pantry has enjoyed the support of Heritage Hills since the beginning of the COVID pandemic, when Jack Mattes initiated community-wide "drive by" food collections that continued for several years.

More recently we have enjoyed ongoing contributions from multiple Heritage Hills clubs and groups. The Pickleball Club members schedule regular food drives on our behalf. The Garden Club members donate a bounty of fresh produce every summer. This year, the Friday Night Social Dance Club began donating their proceeds to the Pantry. In addition, many residents here have donated food and funds over the years, some on a regular basis, and we are grateful for their often anonymous gifts.

The Pantry is thankful for so much giving – and we realize that in this time of increasing food prices, some residents here may also benefit from receiving food from the Pantry. We would like to encourage anyone who could use supplementary groceries to participate in our Friday distribution. We do not deliver, but we welcome neighbors, family members, etc. to participate on behalf of others. Our "drive-thru" distribution is every Friday (except the day after Thanksgiving, and this year the day after Christmas) from 1.30 to 3 pm. Friendly and welcoming volunteers will place a bag of non-perishable groceries and a bag of fresh food into your car – no questions asked, no paperwork required. So if you need a little extra for the upcoming Holidays, or at any time during the year, please remember St. Luke's Somers Food Pantry is just across the street at St. Luke's Episcopal Church, 331 Route 100, Somers.

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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- December 1Walmart
- December 8Hobby Lobby
- December 15.Danbury Mall
- December 22Dollar Tree
- December 29.Five Below / TJ Maxx

FRIDAY

- December 5Arthur Avenue
- December 12.Trader Joe's
- December 19.ShopRite
- December 26.No trip (holiday)

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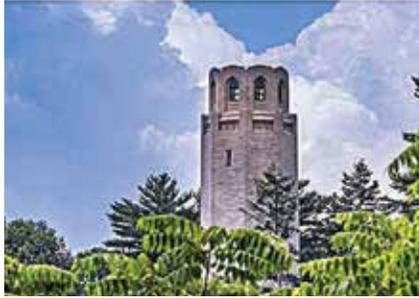
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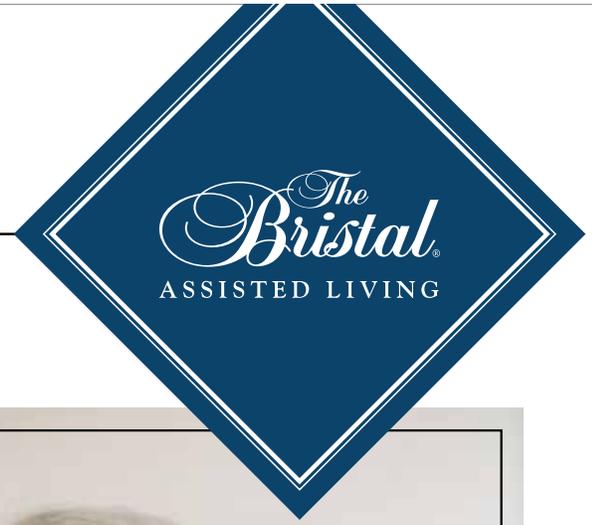
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