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Friday September 25, 2020

Suzanne Berger Elected County Democratic Chair

Traditional Democrats, WCLA, Win the day



Suzanne Berger

By Dan Murphy

Westchester Democrats gathered last week remotely to elect Suzanne Berger to be the next County Democratic Chairman. Berger, who serves as the Chair of the Greenburgh Democratic Party, will become the first female leader of Westchester's 650,000 registered democrats after defeating Mt. Kisco Democratic Chair Bill Serratore by a 53%-47% margin.

"As the first elected woman Westchester County Democratic Chair, you have my promise to work collaboratively for a strong, fair, and united party that does justice to all its members and Democrats countywide. I ask for your support and partnership in this endeavor," said Berger.

"Bill Serratore has been an active leader for many years and I look forward to working with him. We have a lot to accomplish to make sure of a true blue November election. We are strongest when we work together."

Berger narrowly defeated Serratore by putting together a coalition of

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The Blaze is Back!

"Don't Cancel Halloween!"



Fall is here and one of the most popular happenings in Westchester will return for a 16th year. The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze at Van Cortland Manor in Croton-on-Hudson, will run for a record 53 select evenings from September 18 through November 21. Fun for all ages, the outdoor walk-through experience takes visitors through the wooded pathways, orchards, and gardens of the historic site. A small team of artists hand-carve more than 7,000 jacks and elaborate pumpkin sculptures, including some of the Blaze favorites, including a giant spider web and mammoth sea serpent, and much more.

The health and safety of our visitors, employees, and community is our highest priority. Historic Hudson Valley and OBVR have modified these experiences for 2020 and are operating in strict compliance with New York State-issued "Low-Risk Outdoor Arts & Entertainment Guidelines," which are available at forward.ny.gov.

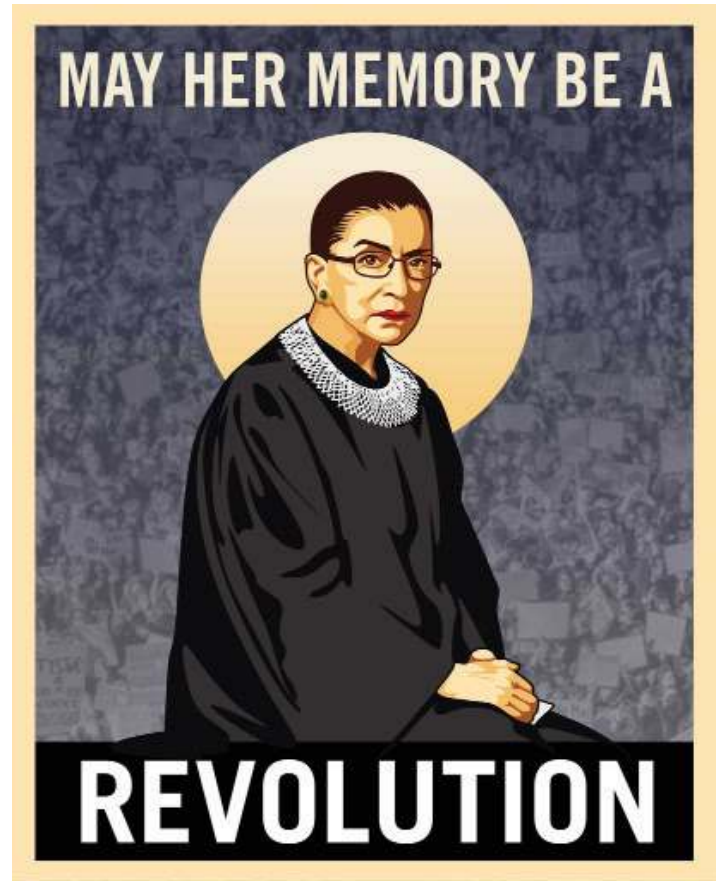
Blaze takes place entirely outdoors, is touch-free, uses timed admission, and features a one-way walkthrough path with no places to congregate. Capacity is reduced by 67%, allowing visitors to enjoy their time as safely and socially distanced as possible. All staff and visitors must wear a mask when on site, and there will be no food and beverage available. All visitors are required to agree to Historic Hudson Valley's COVID Courtesy Code, which includes wearing a mask and maintaining at least 6 feet of social distancing. Also returning for 2020 is Home of the 'Legend' on grounds of Washington Irving's Sunnyside in Irvington. Visitors can embark on a literary-themed scavenger hunt and see a special Legend-themed exhibit. Home of the 'Legend' is a daytime all-ages event.

Buy tickets online at www.hudsonvalley.org or by calling 914-366-6900. More information about The Great Jack O'Lantern Blaze is available at pumpkinblaze.org.

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Westchester Pays Tribute to Ruth Bader Ginsberg

Thank Hillary for Getting RBG on USSC



By Dan Murphy

Hundreds of Westchester residents said goodbye to US Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg last week by holding rallies and ceremonies across the counties to pay tribute to her 26 years on the highest court in the United States, and for her lifetime of service to our country.

At one event, over one hundred people convened outside Senator Chuck Schumer's Hudson Valley Office to make clear to Minority Leader Schumer that they expect him to do everything and anything to stop the Republican-controlled Senate from confirming a Supreme Court Justice prior to the inauguration.

Irene Lindberg, a 10 year old from Peekskill and member of the Westchester County Junior Youth Council told the crowd, "If you are a woman and have a credit card in your name and your own credit history, if you have leased an apartment or brought property in your name, if you have consented to your own medical treatment, if you played a sport in school, then you can thank Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg."

"Justice Ginsburg fought for women's rights when no else was. As a single working mother back in the 70s I know what it was like to not have equal pay for equal work, the right to choose, and so much more. Those rights are now threatened. We must protect these rights for our daughters and granddaughters. No Supreme Court appointment until after the inauguration," said Kathie Talbot, Peekskill Common Council Member

"We want Senator Schumer to know we have his back. We have his back, but he must use any, and all, means within the powers and rules of the Senate to prevent the confirmation of any nominee to the Supreme Court," said Mark A. Lieberman, Indivisible Yorktown.

Another remembrance was held outside the Federal Courthouse in White Plains last weekend.

Many Westchester democrats recalled that it was Hillary Clinton, who played the crucial role of getting Justice Ginsberg nominated by her husband, President Bill Clinton in 1994. "I knew that of all the people who were part of the women's movement she was one of the key players because of her creative understanding of the law and her sense of commitment," said Hillary, in 2019 at an event with RBG and Bill Clinton. "I may have expressed an opinion or two about the people he should bring to the top of the list."

Bill Clinton said of that Sunday meeting that he had known within 10

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GOP DA Candidate Quits Race

For Countywide Election Westchester Has One Party



By Dan Murphy

First came the news from the Westchester League of Women Voters, LWV, that they had to cancel an upcoming forum between the two candidates for Westchester District Attorney, Democrat Mimi Rocah and Republican Bruce Bendish. Today we are announcing that the League of Women Voters of Westchester is canceling the Westchester County Dis-

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“Women to the Fore” Exhibit at Hudson River Museum



Left, Julia Santos Solomon, Caribbean Thoughts Mashup, 2019. Right, Katori Walker, The Garden of the Divine Feminine 2020.

By Camryn Sanchez

Teeth lining a torso tattooed with red flowers, a protective army of faceless Ukrainian dolls, and a charcoal drawing of a banana blossom by Georgia O’Keeffe. The new collection at the Hudson River Museum showcases artists from all walks of life with one invisible unifying thread: women.

At first glance, “Women to the Fore” might appear haphazard. In one room, there are works by over forty artists in all different colors, mediums, sizes, time periods, and styles. However, this sampling of different themes makes its own statement. “We’re putting the past and the present sort of in a virtual connection with each other as if they could communicate over time,” says Laura Veookles, Chair of the Hudson River Museum curatorial department.

At “Women to the Fore,” each great art movement from the past 150 years is utilized. Women were historically restricted in art education, often forbidden from drawing nude models and instead were encouraged to paint fruits or flowers, however female artists have had a presence in every art movement from surrealism to modernism.

The Hudson River museum displays as many art movements as possible in the exhibit, and allows artists to represent themselves further by writing art labels in their own words. “The vast majority of labels are quotes directly from the artists, and the very few times that they aren’t are mostly the 19th century artists where we couldn’t get direct quotes,” says Victoria McKenna-Ratjen, curatorial assistant.

I really want the generation coming out to experience this and to see it and to know that it’s possible. It’s possible to do a mural in a museum... I want the next generation to see it, especially the girls.” Says Patricia Santos. Santos along with artists Nancy Mendez and Katori Walker created a large mural curated for the exhibit. All three women are Yonkers-based artists.

Walker says she was inspired to be part of an exhibit that celebrates women through time. “I think it’s something that should be shown more often. I think that it’s an opportunity to show that we do have a voice.”

“Everybody is connected, everybody has different stories, but we’ll all be able to relate to each other, and it’s a strong thing.” says Mendez, “We’re resilient. We’re strong. We’re warriors. Warriors of life. It doesn’t matter what age, what race, what color, none of that. We’re all fighters.”

For Veookles, curating an intersectional exhibit was very important. “Women to the Fore” has artists with different sexual orientations, ethnicities, nationalities, and ages, but there is unmistakably a sense of unity in the room. “This show is about the celebration that we’re all in it together and that we’re all celebrating each other and giving everyone a chance to be recognized.” Veookles adds.

The chance to recognize female artists is not one that museums regularly take. How often do we walk into a gallery showcasing predominantly male artists, and never notice? “Now you will think about it if you walk into a gallery at another museum and you don’t see a single woman,” says Veookles. “Why should it be unusual that we walk into a room and everyone be a woman?”

Mendez states, “Ultimately although we all have our own journey we are all women, and we are all connected.”



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NYS Comptroller DiNapoli: Mt. Vernon Officials Failed to Establish Basic Financial Policies

The City Council of Mount Vernon did not have adequate financial information for the effective management and fiscal oversight of city operations because officials failed to file annual financial reports, provide interim financial reports and issue audited statements. In addition, they did not have financial information available to develop multiyear financial or capital plans, according to an audit released today by New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

"Our audit found city officials did not establish basic and routine financial policies and procedures to effectively manage city operations. The consequences were significant, reducing accountability to taxpayers and diminishing the city's fiscal credibility," DiNapoli said. "Mayor Patterson-Howard has accepted our recommendations, and we will continue to provide guidance for a more transparent financial account of the city's finances during this difficult time. It is my hope that other city officials will work with the Mayor on implementing these recommendations. Taxpayers deserve to know how their money is being spent and that it is being spent in a fiscally responsible way."

The audit found the city did not have adequate policies and procedures, lacking formal guidance for interim financial reporting, budget transfers and fund balance. For example, a policy regarding the maintenance and use of fund balance can help ensure funds are available to cover unanticipated expenditures or revenue shortfalls.

In addition, the audit found the Mount Vernon City Comptroller failed to file the required annual financial report (AUD) with DiNapoli's office for fiscal years 2016 through 2019. The city council did not take sufficient action to acquire financial information, and no audited financial statements have been issued since the 2015 fiscal year because city officials have not provided their independent auditors with the necessary financial information. The scope of the audit covered January 1, 2018 to March 31, 2020.

To read the Comptroller's Audit, visit: https://www.osc.state.ny.us/sites/default/files/local-government/documents/pdf/2020-09/mount-vernon-2020-96.pdf?utm_medium=email&utm_source=govdelivery

New Rochelle Thanksgiving Parade Cancelled

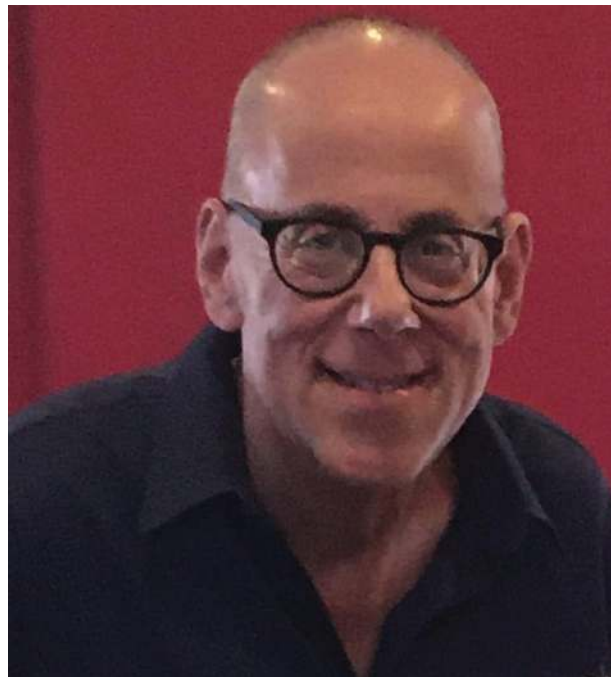


Together the New Rochelle Chamber of Commerce and the City of New Rochelle have come to the sad conclusion that the Annual Thanksgiving Parade scheduled for November 21, 2020 must be called off as the ongoing coronavirus pandemic continues to pose a risk at large public events.

The health and safety of New Rochelle is of primary concern. Therefore, in accordance with the guidance of the Department of Health, CDC and Governor Cuomo, the 2020 New Rochelle Thanksgiving Parade has been canceled.

"The New Rochelle Thanksgiving Parade is a time-honored Chamber and City tradition that many look forward to each year, and we thank our sponsors, participants, volunteers and residents for their patience and understanding. This would have been the 57th Annual New Rochelle Thanksgiving Parade. We are talking with our sponsors and partners to think of creative experiences that can drive people and business to New Rochelle this holiday season and we look forward to presenting the New Rochelle Thanksgiving Parade next year on November 20, 2021," said Rob Hayes, President of the NR Chamber of Commerce.

Stop Being So Hard on Yourself!



By Eric W. Schoen

Yom Kippur is upon us. According to tradition, it is on Yom Kippur that God decides each person's fate. Jews are encouraged to make amends and ask forgiveness for sins committed during the past year.

Friends, this has been a tough year. The mystery that is COVID-19 is far from solved. Each day we get new information from our health officials as to what we should and should not be doing, and what is causing the spread of this terrible disease. Quite often the news one day contradicts the news from the previous day. It's unsettling but there is little we can do about it.

During Rosh Hashanah services, Rabbi Jeff Brown of Scarsdale Synagogue Temples Tremont and Emanu-El made an important point I want to share with you. Maybe we have to stop being so hard on ourselves.

Yes, the situation at hand is far from our control. We know what the experts say to do. I am not sharing with you some magical advice that will solve all of today's problems. Wash your hands frequently with soap and water for 20 seconds. Wear a mask or other face covering when you are within 6 feet of others. Or are the authorities about to change the distance, increasing it? Use alcohol based hand sanitizers when soap and water are not readily available. Don't touch your face with your hands.

The number of infected and number of those dying have gone down but overall are still too high. Did the President keep information from us we should have known. Was it smart for our state to send patients testing positive for Coronavirus from hospitals to nursing homes and extended care facilities infecting others. Yes there will be plenty of investigations, but if you think anyone involved in these decisions is going to jail, I have that bridge in Brooklyn to sell you.

Our minds are in a state of flux. Should we say hello? Push the button on the elevator with our fingers or our sleeves? Find a sanitizer to cleanse the shopping cart at the grocery store? Visit with our elderly loved ones or if we are elderly invite our younger loved ones to visit with us.

All of these decisions weigh on our mind. It's upsetting. Are we making the right decision or not. Yes friends, it's time to stop being so hard on ourselves.

We are in the midst of a pandemic but we have to live our lives. And we have to interact with our loved ones whether it be by phone of FaceTime or in person. Make that call to someone we haven't seen in ages. Send a note to cheer someone up who we know needs cheering.

Prayer never hurts. Say a prayer for those who need one. Get back into the habit of prayer many of us had as children taking a few minutes to reflect on the day and pray for all we love and our country before we go to sleep.

Social distance when among strangers and if need be family and friends. If other are not following the rule bring it to their attention. If you see someone in a store without a mask bring it to the attention of the store manager or if need be to corporate headquarters. It's for your health as well as theirs.

If you see someone in distress, a car accident or a vehicle simply blocking a lane on our roadways, call 911 and if in a remote area stay with the person until help has arrived. Most of us can tell the level of help someone needs and if there is any danger in providing it.

Never disobey the instructions of the authorities. No need to speed as so many are currently doing because the roads are less crowded. A red light means stop, a yellow means slow down, and blinking lights mean slow down and proceed with caution.

Get outside and get a breath of fresh air. Didn't we just hear that those who have not left the house are more susceptible to catching COVID-19? Exercise at home or at the gym, wiping down every piece of equipment you use as you would expect others to do for you.

Most of us are blessed with good health insurance policies. If you are ill take advantage of them. That's what they are there for?

So many homeless on the street. Don't give them money. Go into a grocery store and pick up something for them to eat. Or call 911 or social services to get them some relief.

We all need to find a way to relax. Find an app that will relax you. Turn on classical music, or practice deep breathing exercises. Go to an Animal Shelter and ask if you can help walking the dogs. Better yet, adopt a dog or cat. We have wonderful Animal shelters in Yonkers and New Rochelle.

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Westchester County Accepting Applications for \$10 M Small Business -Non Profit Grant Program

The Westchester County Office of Economic Development is now accepting applications for the Westchester County Business FIRST grant program, a \$10 million initiative designed to support small businesses and nonprofits facing challenges as a result of the COVID-19 crisis. Applications will be accepted through September 30, 2020.

“Managing a business is difficult enough in ‘normal’ times, but the added challenges caused by the pandemic are devastating for many organizations,” said Westchester County Executive George Latimer. “The Westchester County Business FIRST grant program will help organizations get back on their feet and back to recovering their businesses.”

Westchester County Business FIRST: Financial Investments for Recovery and a Sustainable Tomorrow is a new grant program designed to offer immediate financial relief to organizations in Westchester County that have been negatively impacted by the pandemic. Businesses and nonprofits with 99 or fewer employees may qualify for up to \$49,000 to cover expenses such as rent or mortgage payments, employee salaries or benefits, working capital, equipment and other COVID-19-related expenses.

The Westchester County Business FIRST grant program is being administered by the County Office of Economic Development through the federal Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act.

“Westchester County is investing in our small businesses and nonprofits today for a better tomorrow,” said Bridget Gibbons, Westchester County’s Director of Economic Development. “The Westchester County Business FIRST grant program will help restore financial resiliency in Westchester County and get our economy back on track.”

To be eligible, organizations must be in good standing with Westchester County and are required to demonstrate revenue losses of at least 25 percent from March 7, 2020 to present due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The applicant must establish that the organization was a financially viable operation prior to March 7, 2020, the date Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed Executive Order 202 declaring a disaster emergency. The organization must have been open as of Feb. 1, 2020, currently be in operation, or closed temporarily and plan to reopen for business in 2020.

Certain entities are not eligible to apply for the Westchester County Business FIRST grant, including units of government; real estate holding companies, businesses or nonprofits that generate revenue through passive real estate; adult entertainment establishments; gas stations; and businesses or nonprofits that have defaulted on federal debt, including loans from the Small Business Administration.

For more information on the application process, visit <https://westchestercatalyst.com/business-first-programs/grants/>

Visit Thompson’s Cider Mill This Fall



L-R, Fable Farm Owner Tom Deacon, Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater and wife Kellie Slater and Thompson Cider Mill Owner Geoff Thompson

Thompson’s Cider Mill recently had its most successful opening day ever with customers flocking to two locations this year. Due to the need for additional space to meet social distancing requirements, the Cider Mill located at 335 Blinn Road has shifted part of its operations to Fable Farm on Kitchawan Road (Route 134).

“The shift of our fresh cider, apples and baked goods sales to our second location a mile away at Fable Farm on Route 134 proved very successful and enabled us to maintain social distancing protocols at the Cider Mill where we are offering our hard ciders only,” said owner Geoff Thompson. “This was our biggest opening weekend in 44 seasons, helped by ideal, clear, crisp early fall weather.”

The Cider Mill began its 44th season Saturday. It will continue operations 10am – 5pm Saturdays and Sundays at Fable Farm adjacent to the southbound entrance to Taconic State Parkway’s Exit 11–Ossining for sales of apples, fresh-pressed apple cider, cider doughnuts and baked goods, while its award-winning hard ciders at 335 Blinn Road Croton will be sold from 12 noon – 5:30pm Saturdays and Sundays through Christmas. The hard ciders are available year-round.

The opening at Fable Farm was attended by Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater, who praised the mill as an example of the continuing role agricultural operations and farms play in the town. “Yorktown has a rich agricultural heritage. We are proud of the role that our farms play in our economy, and I was happy to be on hand to help celebrate the Cider Mill’s 2020 opening day.”

Thompson’s makes fresh cider each week from a blend of not fewer than 10 varieties of locally grown apples including many lesser known and heirloom varieties from the Cider Mill’s orchard. Over the course of the 15-weekend season which continues until Christmas, more than 35 varieties of eating apples are also available during the season.

“We opened with 12 varieties of locally grown apples, a number that will continue to expand each week into early November,” said Thompson. “Our new introduction of Apple-Blueberry hard cider was an instant hit, and all of our hard ciders and apple wine sold very well.”

Tom Deacon, owner of Fable Farm said: “We’re excited to partner with Thompson’s for the fall season to provide a safe, open space for people to shop and enjoy their cider and doughnuts.” The farm raises several hundred free-range chickens who lay beautiful blue, green and purple colored eggs, and offers a variety of organic produce including heirloom tomatoes, squash, radishes, garlic, microgreens and more that are available at the farm’s market.

Four years ago, Thompson’s introduced its own line of dry and semi-dry Hard Ciders produced on-site from their fresh cider. The Hard Ciders recently won four medals in the 2020 Great American Cider Competition.

For more information, visit thompsonscidermill.com

GOP DA Candidate, continued from pg 1-

trict Attorney Candidates Forum. We are forced to take this action because the Republican candidate has not accepted the League’s invitations to participate. Bruce Bendish did not reply to any of the several email, voicemail or social media message invitations from the League.

Kathy Meany, President of the League of Women Voters of Westchester, said “As the League strives to facilitate Forums in a respectful, non-partisan environment, we are disappointed with this non-responsiveness, and it is disturbing that any candidate would not want to take advantage of this non-partisan opportunity to communicate directly with those they seek to represent.”

Shortly after the LWV statement, Bendish told the Journal News and reporter Mark Lungariello that he was withdrawing from the race. “Would I like to be the District Attorney?” Bendish said in the JN story “The answer is, ‘Yes,’ but there are certain realities that I have now learned about since I’ve been involved that are just not conducive to being elected.”

Bendish explained the realities of running against the democratic candidate for DA, Mimi Rocah, in a county where democrats outnumber republicans 2 to 1, and the fact that he cannot campaign in person because of COVID, as to much to overcome.

Bendish, who ran for DA as a republican in 2016, losing to the current DA, Anthony Scarpino, will still be on the ballot on November 3. The reasons for Bendish’s departure from the race did not sit well with many Westchester republicans.

“Bruce knew what the deal was with the democratic enrollment edge when he decided to run, so that excuse is nonsense,” said one Westchester republican. And yeah its hard to campaign during COVID but suck it up and don’t quit. He should have just not actively campaigned and do nothing, except pick up the phone from the LWV and do a debate or two. This looks horrible for my once proud Westchester GOP. He (Bendish) betrayed us.”

Bendish’s announcement underscore the County GOP problem running and electing candidates. There are currently 16 democrats on the county board and one conservative (no republicans). And next year, republicans face another uphill battle for County Executive, with the current CE, democrat George Latimer expected to run again, and win big again. Republicans do have one announced candidate for CE in 2012, Somers resident Dan Branda.

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Member of the New York Press Association
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25 Warburton Ave, Yonkers, NY 10701
www.risingmediagroup.com

Westchester Rising Permit #7164 is published weekly by Rising Media Group, LLC PO Box 705 Yonkers NY 10702

Women's Club of Larchmont Presents: How Russia Works to Influence American Voters



Thomas Kent

Russia devotes millions of dollars in trying to influence Americans in social networks. What are Russia's goals? What messages has Moscow sent us about our presidential election, U.S. racial unrest and the COVID pandemic? Join The Woman's Club of Larchmont, Inc. Zoom program with Thomas Kent on Friday, October 16, at 1:30 pm.

Thomas Kent is a specialist on international reporting and Russian media. Until September 2018 he was President and CEO of Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty, a congressionally funded corporation providing news to the former Soviet Union, the Balkans, Iran, Afghanistan and Pakistan, in 25 languages. He is a senior fellow of the Jamestown Foundation and he teaches about propaganda, the geopolitics of information, and Russian media at Columbia University's Harriman Institute. He also consults for media, NGO and government organizations.

To join this live online program through Zoom, request an invite by sending your email address to: WCL10538@gmail.com For more information regarding The Club and membership please contact Sheelah Mohan sheelahevmohan@aol.com

Letter to the Editor:

New York Governor and 1928 Democratic Party Presidential nominee Al Smith used to say "Let's look at the record," when he ran for office. In the same vein, I respectively disagree with Frank Spotorno when he states that President Donald Trump was the "first President to stand up to China" (September 18, 2020 issue of Westchester Rising) – this simply has not been the case.

President Truman deployed U.S. troops to South Korea's defense during the Korean War when Russia and China supported the invading North Korean armies. Later, in 1959, President Eisenhower condemned the PRC for its human rights abuses in Tibet, and continued military assistance to Taiwan.

Even after the US normalized relations with the PRC, American Presidents have been critical of China. During the 1980s, the Reagan and George H.W. Bush administrations continued sales of missiles, tanks and other defensive weapons to Taiwan and worked to strengthen relations with that country. During the administration of George W. Bush, the PRC was persuaded to bring North Korea back to the Six Party Talks on nuclear proliferation. In 2007, Vice President Dick Cheney, speaking for the Bush administration, criticized the PRC for its military build-up. American military assistance (approximately \$ 14.1 billion) to the Taiwan government continued during the Obama years.

The Obama administration successfully negotiated the Trans-Pacific Partnership (TPP) trade agreement in 2016 with Canada, Australia, Japan, New Zealand, and 8 other nations in the greater Pacific Rim region. TPP was seen as a strategic way to reduce these countries' dependence on Chinese trade and bring these nations closer to the US. The Trump administration foolishly decided to withdraw from the TPP, and in so doing, opened the door for China to extend its influence in the region.

Our relations with China have become more complex over the last several years, and President Trump's actions to date indicate that he neither understands America's vital interests in Asia, nor has any long-term strategies to advance those interests.

We can do better than this. President Ronald Reagan used to say "facts are stubborn things," which voters need to consider as they vote this fall. I see this election not only as a referendum on the incumbent President's performance since 2017, but also as a choice between two futures and enduring American values.

I believe that millions of Republicans, former Republicans and Independents will place country over party, and vote to elect Joe Biden and Kamala Harris on November 3rd.

Stephen R. Rolandi, Larchmont.

The writer is an adjunct professor of public administration in the New York metropolitan area and formerly served in the administrations of New York City Mayors Rudy Giuliani and Michael Bloomberg. A lifelong Republican activist, he previously served as National Vice President/Treasurer of the Ripon Society in Washington, DC. He is currently a member of The Lincoln

Yorktown Gets NY's 1st Completed Solar Energy Storage Project



Lt. Gov. Kathy Hochul in Yorktown this week, with Solar Energy Storage units behind her

Governor Andrew M. Cuomo recently announced the completion of the first community solar paired with energy storage project in New York. The milestone project will reduce the energy costs for approximately 150 households in Westchester County and New York City as well as provide power to 12 Tesla electric vehicle supercharging stations. Today's announcement supports Governor Andrew M. Cuomo's goals to install 6,000 megawatts of solar by 2025 and 3,000 megawatts of energy storage by 2030, as called for in the Climate Leadership and Community Protection Act.

"New York remains unwavering in our commitment to developing renewable energy resources that will grow our clean energy economy and advance our nation-leading plan to fight climate change," Governor Cuomo said. "This first-of-its-kind project in New York combines renewable energy and energy storage that together will deliver reliable, affordable and sustainable energy creating a model for communities around the state."

Lieutenant Governor Kathy Hochul, who made the announcement at a ribbon cutting event in Yorktown Heights, Westchester County, said, "This announcement of the first completed community solar paired with energy storage project marks another major renewable energy milestone in New York. IPPsolar and Urstadt Biddle Properties had the vision and commitment to make this project a reality, and will serve as an example to other commercial properties that these projects can provide clean, affordable energy for years to come. We are proud in New York to lead the way with our commitment and efforts to combat climate change and build back better, cleaner and greener for future generations."

The New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA), through its NY-Sun and Retail Energy Storage programs, provided nearly \$800,000 in support of the community solar-plus-energy storage project, which is expected to provide participants with approximately 10 percent savings on their monthly electricity bills for 25 years, as well as provide power to Tesla's electric vehicle charging stations.

Installed by IPPsolar LLC, and owned and operated by Urstadt Biddle Properties Inc., the 557-kilowatt rooftop solar project is comprised of nearly 1,500 panels and paired with 490-kilowatt four-hour Tesla Powerpack lithium-ion batteries.

Doreen M. Harris, Acting President and CEO, NYSERDA said, "Under Governor Cuomo's leadership, community solar is becoming an increasingly popular option for New Yorkers across the state as it allows those who have challenges hosting their own solar installations to still participate and receive the benefits of clean energy through a community-based option. This first community solar project paired with energy storage also provides a system that allows for the clean energy produced to be used where and when the electric grid needs it the most."

Community solar offers households the opportunity to benefit from a solar project in their area often without any upfront costs or participation fees. These projects increase access to solar for homeowners and renters who may not have ideal conditions to install solar panels at their household. Energy is still delivered to participants through their regular electricity provider while the power produced from the community solar project is fed directly into the electric grid. As a result, the grid is supplied with clean, renewable energy and the participants receive credit for this power through their electric bills.

NYSERDA's Retail Energy Storage Incentive program provides commercial customers funding for standalone, grid-connected energy storage or systems paired with new or existing clean, on-site generation, such as solar. There are currently 50 community solar projects paired with energy storage across the state in NYSERDA's project pipeline which are expected to be installed in the next two to three years. The energy storage systems store solar energy in the morning and discharge the energy to the grid in the late afternoon and evening hours, when power needs and grid stress are greatest.

County Executive George Latimer said, "Westchester County's - and the world's - energy future depends on the utilization of innovative and clean renewable sources. This program led by Governor Cuomo helps advance these new sources from mere ideas toward the new climate reality we must leave for future generations. The Community solar program will provide cheaper and more efficient alternatives for Westchester residents for a more sustainable tomorrow."

Yorktown Supervisor Matt Slater said, "Reducing Yorktown's carbon footprint is critical as we face increasingly violent storms that scientists tell us are caused by global warming. We all have a role to play in reducing our greenhouse gas emissions." The project is located behind Staples on Route 2020 in Yorktown.



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The Blaze, Halloween, continued from pg 1-

The good news about the return of The Blaze comes at a time when many local communities are considering cancelling Halloween and the trick or treating that comes with it due to COVID.

The Center for Disease Control, CDC, issued the following advisory. "Many traditional Halloween activities can be high-risk for spreading viruses. There are several safer, alternative ways to participate in Halloween. If you may have COVID-19 or you may have been exposed to someone with COVID-19, you should not participate in in-person Halloween festivities and should not give out candy to trick-or-treaters.

These lower risk activities can be safe alternatives: Doing a Halloween scavenger hunt where children are given lists of Halloween-themed things to look for while they walk outdoors from house to house admiring Halloween decorations at a distance. Having a scavenger hunt-style trick-or-treat search with your household members in or around your home rather than going house to house."

The Cross County Shopping Center will host a 'Trunk or Treat' event on Saturday October 24. Trunk or Treat has cars lined up in a parking lot or on the road with their trunks filled with treats for the kids.

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

Respect people's political views as they should respect yours. No matter who wins the elections you still have to pay taxes and not matter what anyone tells you they are still going to go up. Speaking of political views, are you registered to vote? Don't complain if you don't exercise your right to vote. They have made it so easy for you with mail in registration, absentee ballots (due to COVID-19), and early voting. Try to vote by mail so that the poor poll workers who work long hours in quite often not the best conditions don't have to worry about being in an environment where they can pick up germs and god forbid COVID-19.

Never put work over family or friends. Never be judgmental. You never know what someone else is going through. Never disobey your parents. So many of us wish our parents were still with us.

On a lighter note, don't take more sweetener than you will need for your coffee or tea at Starbucks or Dunkin Donuts. Condiments are there for you to use for what you are purchasing, not to feed the army at home. No more handfuls of Sweet'N Low sneaked out of the store in your pocket, purse or jacket.

With the difficult financial situation newspapers are facing in this country, in the New Year don't complain if you see a little mistake or typo in my article or in the newspaper. Big stuff let us know. The little stuff, well it means you are at the top of your game!

May you be inscribed for a blessing in the Book of Life. For all our readers, Jew and non-Jew, I wish you a happy, healthy New Year!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericsonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

LEGAL NOTICE

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING BEFORE THE ZONING BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF TUCKAHOE, NEW YORK

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS, of the Village of Tuckahoe, will hold a public hearing on: WEDNESDAY EVENING, AT 7:30 PM on October 14, 2020

At the Village Hall, 65 Main Street, Tuckahoe, New York to consider the application of Compass One LLC residing at 15 Hawthorne Road who appeals the decision of the Building Inspector, who denied the issuance to demolish part of existing unused building, renovate for expansion of existing Paws & Play in remainder of building and sub-divide property at the premises located at 70-72 Marbledale Road, application number BA19-048.

This property is located at 70-72 Marbledale Avenue and is also known as Section: 35 Block: 2 Lot: 1 The nature of the application is for the following relief: -demolish part of existing unused building, renovate for expansion of existing Paws & Play in remainder of building and sub-divide property.

All Interested parties are urged to attend this public hearing at which time they will be afforded the opportunity to express their views and or submit written communications to the Village Clerk or The Zoning Board, 65 Main Street, Tuckahoe, NY 10707

Compass One LLC Applicant

Legal Notices

Kome Find Me LLC, date of filing Articles of Organization with Sec. of State on 7/27/20. LLC located in Westchester Cty. Sec. of State designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against may be served. The Sec. of State shall mail copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to: 100 Fisher Avenue, White Plains, NY 10602. Purpose: any lawful activity.10/02.

NOTICE OF FORMATION OF PROFESSIONAL LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY NAME: THE RENEWAL ROOM NP FAMILY HEALTH PLLC Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 8/4/2020. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to 145 PALISADE STREET, SUITE 200, DOBBS FERRY, NY 10522. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.09/25

Notice of formation of Floss, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 4/29/2020. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 520 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose

Notice of formation of Pete's Brush & Hammer, LLC filed with the SSNY on 06/15/2020. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to Pete's Brush & Hammer, 3 Hillside Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Joyce Tutors Math, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 6/29/20. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to the LLC, 20 7th Street, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose:Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of The Koch Lab LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/17/2020. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC at 74 Croton Dam Rd. Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of SHLP 165 LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 7/22/20. Office location: Westchester County. NY Sec. of State designated agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served, and shall mail process to the LLC, c/o Westrock Development LLC, 440 Mamaroneck Ave, Ste N-503, Harrison, NY 10528, the principal business location. Purpose: any lawful activity. 10/09

Notice of Formation of R&Co. Advisors LLC. Art. of Org. filed with Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 9/14/2020. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to: 14 Kirby Ln N, Rye, NY 10508. Purpose: any lawful act or activity. 10/23

Notice of Formation of Sendi HC Management Solutions, LLC Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 8/10/2020 Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: Sendi HC Management Solutions, LLC, 65 Fleetwood Avenue, P.O Box 356, Mount Vernon, NY, 10552. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.10/23

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APPLICATION BEFORE THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF TUCKAHOE, NEW YORK

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the ZONING BOARD, of the Village of Tuckahoe, will hold a public hearing on WENDESDAY evening at 7:30 on: October 14, 2020 At village Hall, 65 Main Street, Tuckahoe, New York to consider the application of: Martine's Bakery

Project: 174 Marbledale Road, Tuckahoe, New York who appeals the decision of the Building Inspector, who denied the issuance of a building permit to: Build a New 3-Story Building –

This property is located at: 174 Marbledale Road And is know as SECTION 39 BLOCK 3 LOT 7.A

The nature of the application is for the following relief: Floor Area Ratio & Building Front and Side yard Variances

All interested parties are urged to attend this public hearing at which time they will be afforded the opportunity to express their views and or submit written communications to the Village Clerk of The Zoning Board of Appeals, 65 Main Street, Tuckahoe, N.Y. 10707

Legal Notice

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING ON APPLICATION BEFORE THE PLANNING BOARD OF THE VILLAGE OF TUCKAHOE, NEW YORK

NOTICE IS HERBY GIVEN that the ZONING BOARD, of the Village of Tuckahoe, will hold a public hearing on WENDESDAY evening at 7:30 on: October 14, 2020 At village Hall, 65 Main Street, Tuckahoe, New York to consider the application of: Martine's Bakery

Project: 181 Marbledale Road, Tuckahoe, New York who appeals the decision of the Building Inspector, who denied the issuance of a building permit to: Build a New 2-Story Building – requires Special Use Permits

This property is located at: 181 Marbledale Road And is know as SECTION 39 BLOCK 4 LOT 7 . The nature of the application is for the following:

Build a New 2 story Building behind the existing structures. Special Use Permits Required

All interested parties are urged to attend this public hearing at which time they will be afforded the opportunity to express their views and or submit written communications to the Village Clerk of The Zoning Board of Appeals, 65 Main Street, Tuckahoe, N.Y. 10707

Westchester remembers RBG, continued from pg 1--

minutes that he was going to ask Ginsburg to be his nominee for USSC. "I wanted to nominate someone who understood that "we all live under the same set of rules."

RBG told President Clinton, "if you worried about my age, it was unnecessary." She was 60 and served for 26 years to age 87 until her passing.

Hillary added that Bill and RBG "hitt it off" at their first interview and meeting at The White House. "They had an extraordinary conversation about the Constitution and the role of the courts. It was a masterclass. Ruth Bader Ginsburg was someone I had looked up to for a long time—as a young lawyer, and throughout my time practicing and teaching law. She believed that the Constitution had to be interpreted as providing for the equal rights of men and women. She understood there were certain assumptions in the law that favored or disfavored men as well as women, and had the brilliant insight that she could demonstrate that lack of equality by litigating on behalf of men."

"Her great gift was not only being a brilliant lawyer, litigator, and judge, but also a warm and empathetic human being. She felt the loss of respect and rights that her clients felt. And she felt compelled to try to right those wrongs,"wrote Hillary after RBG's passing. "This is a devastating personal loss for so many. But more than that, it is a devastating loss for our country. Her memory is already a blessing. May it also be a call to continue her work for justice and equality under the law. A successful life is distinct from a profound and vital one, however."

Justice Ginsburg was given a little piece of advice on her wedding day by her mother in law many years ago that is still good advice today. "In every good marriage, it helps sometimes to be a little deaf. I have employed it as well in every workplace, including the Supreme Court. When a thoughtless or unkind word is spoken, best tune out. Reacting in anger or annoyance will not advance one's ability to persuade."

Another lesson from RBG's life, is her friendship with Justice Antonin Scalia. "Despite our strong disagreements on cardinal issues — think, for example, of controls on political campaign spending, affirmative action, access to abortion — we genuinely respect one another, even enjoy one another's company. Collegiality is crucial to the success of our mission. We could not do the job the Constitution assigns to us if we didn't — to use one of Justice Antonin Scalia's favorite expressions — "get over it!"

RBG's lasting legacy will always be her efforts to argue, again and again before she was successful, that the Equal Protection Clause of the Constitution included women. "I was a proponent of the ERA. The women of my generation and my daughter's generation, they were very active in moving along the social change that would result in equal citizenship stature for men and women...I ask no favor for my sex. All I ask of our brethren is that they take their feet off our necks."

Her continued service to our country while battling cancer showed how strong she was and, as she told Stanford University students years ago the importance of "doing something outside yourself. But if you want to be a true professional, you will do something outside yourself, something to repair tears in your community, something to make life a little better for people less fortunate than you. That's what I think a meaningful life is. One lives not just for one's self but for one's community."

This reporter's mother lived during the same time in the 1970's that RBG was fighting for equal women's rights. We moved to Yorktown in 1972 and as my mother also supported the ERA, and knocked on many a door that was slammed in her face. As a female professional attempting the climb the corporate ladder, my mother met many of the same challenges that RBG met, and had a "food on her neck." She appreciated RBG's work, which was successful in changing America.

Berger, Democratic Chair, continued from pg 1--

democratic committees from Greenburgh, New Rochelle, Mt. Vernon, and White Plains. Berger also had the support from "traditional democrats" in Westchester including many democratic elected officials.

Serratore, had the support of most of the progressive-indivisible democrats who were also district leaders in the Westchester Democratic Party. He also had the support of the Yonkers Democratic Committee and several northern westchester democratic parties.

Two factors that may have helped Berger's small margin of victory as one democratic leader told us, "Serratore promised a lot of things to a lot of people. That narrative got around, that he promised perhaps too much. Suzanne is a tireless worker, who was a liberal before it was fashionable. She also tough and knows how to fight for what she believes in."

Another factor was that Berger received the support from the Westchester Coalition for Legal Abortion, WCLA, in the final days before the covention. "On a typical day, in a typical week, WCLA - Choice Matters and its 2 political action committees would not get involved in party politics. Choice Matters, ProChoice Voter and WCLA PAC are proudly non-partisan. But these are not typical times. AND, our mission is simple - to advance abortion rights. Choice Matters and WCLA PAC are proud to support and endorse Suzanne Berger for Chair of the Westchester County Democratic Party Committee.

"Suzanne Berger is literally the ONLY candidate in this race who has demonstrated a true and unwavering commitment to abortion rights and reproductive freedom. Abortion rights is not just a bullet point on a list or a photo op. It is not simply attending an event or having a photo snapped with elected officials. Quite the contrary.

"Being an abortion rights advocate and an activist is a fundamental commitment - one that Suzanne Berger has demonstrated over and over again. Under Suzanne Berger's leadership, ALL of Greenburgh candidates running for office have been interviewed by Choice Matters to determine whether they are truly committed to a woman's right to make her own decisions. The interviews and Choice Matters' respective pro-choice rating have been reported to Greenburgh's Executive Committee.

"Suzanne's opponent has done none of this. What does being "pro-choice" mean? It is a phrase thrown around by many because it helps candidates get elected - just like Jeannine Pirro and Robert Castelli did. For Choice Matters, a candidate cannot be "kind of" pro-choice. Just as you cannot be a little pregnant, you cannot be a little pro-choice.

"Now, across this nation, we face a reckoning. Our constitutional rights are being challenged and threatened. And sadly, today, the fight for women's reproductive freedom is sinking to the bottom of that bushel basket of rights.

"Suzanne has proven herself a forceful voice for the rights of all - regardless of race, religion, ethnicity, disability, financial fortitude or gender identity. Please join me in supporting Suzanne Berger for Westchester County Democratic Chair," wrote WCLA President Katherine Lederer.

The letter of support for Berger from the WCLA, and its criticism of Serratore, received a response from Serratore's supporters, including County Legislator Catherine Parker. "You may have seen the endorsement from Choice Matters WCLA stating that Suzanne Berger is the only Pro-Choice candidate. False, false, false. Bill Serratore has been Pro-Choice his whole life. It's rather disheartening to see a false and misleading tactic turned against a strong ally within our own party. We must be able to come together after Thursday and this kind of thing speaks to some old playbook usually reserved for conservative opponents. Suzanne, you know better than that, and you should reject the endorsement and distance yourself from the surrogate that has blemished what was, until now, a positive campaign," wrote Parker.

The other, larger takeaway was that "Berger won through a traditional coalition of Westchester Democrats, hispanic democrats and black democrats. Bill Serratore lost with a coalition of indivisible and progressive democrats and Yonkers democrats, led by Mayor Mike Spano. But the Yonkers Democrats were split, Ken Jenkins supported Berger, while many district leaders from Yonkers didn't show up and there proxies were not to be found."



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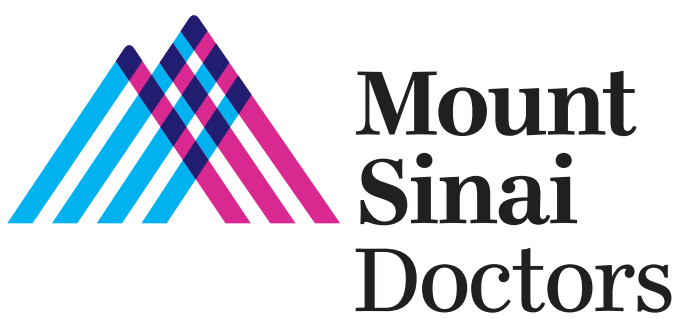
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