ESTCHESTER TIMES TRIBU

Volume 2 • Number 21 January 25, 2007

BRIEFING

www.WestchesterTimesTribune.com

A & E PGS. 5

BUSINESS Pgs. 4, 5

COMMUNITY Pgs. 4

> CUISINE Pg. 1

EPIPHANY PARK Pg. 2

GOVERNMENT

Pg. 1

LAW Pg. 4

LIKE KLOCKWORK Pg. 2

An American Rabbi Serving in Baghdad



By Jewish Chaplain Rabbi Huerta from the 2nd Brigade of the 101st Airmobile Davison

NINEVEH-MOSUL, IRAQ --'Climbing over the rotting garbage, I realized I was the first Jew to enter this holy place in over 50 years. I am writing to you from Nineveh, the city of the prophet Jonah. Its present name is Mosul.

I have had the privilege of seeing its ancient walls, of touching its stones, of going to the grave Islamic tradition says is the prophet Jonah's.

There is a mosque at the site; but hundreds of years ago, the Iraqis we work with tell me, it was a

synagogue. They tell me the reason the site is so sacred is because of the sacredness in which the Jews held it. Presently, there are no signs of this ancient synagogue.

I am the rabbi of the 101st Airborne Division, the division Steven Spielberg immortalized in

see American Rabbi Pg. 5

Councilmember Annabi **Exposes City Hall's** Vindictive Holding of **Information**

YONKERS, NY -- Council Member Annabi has today revealed proof that exposes the administration for their lack of cooperation and communication with City Council Members in their efforts to get information. Annabi said, "Once again the Mayor's office has blocked our efforts in trying to obtain public information from their office."



From: Debbie Kayal To: Phil Amicone CC: Lisa Mrijaj; William Regan Sent: Thu Jan 18 16:53:12 2007 Subject: Yonkers City owned properties

Please advise where I may obtain a list of all Yonkers' City owned properties. If your office has an updated list please forward a copy to my office, if not, please advise where I may obtain a copy. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Council Member Annabi

see Councilmember Annabi Pg. 2

NEW YORK CIVIC

PGS. 1

OP-ED Pgs. 1, 2, 3

WEIR ONLY HUMAN

WESFOODIE'S



Lesnick Declares War on **Northeast Yonkers**



YONKERS, NY -- Yonkers City Councilman John Murtagh (R-5) today blasted City Council President Chuck Lesnick for singling out Northeast Yonkers residents for punishment due to the refusal of Murtagh and Councilwoman Dee Barbato to support Lesnick and the Council majority in its political war with the Mayor.

Lesnick last week unveiled a proposed amendment to the City's Capital Budget which targets for elimination critical safety and infrastructure projects in Yonkers' Northeast neighborhoods. The projects which Lesnick is seeking to eliminate are all located in the Fifth and Sixth Council Districts,



Districts represented by Councilmembers Dee Barbato and John Murtagh.

Murtagh and Barbato were the only two Councilmembers who refused to go along and voted no last month when Lesnick led the Council in slashing the Mayor's original capital plan by 50% thereby eliminating critical safety, development and quality of life projects. Among the projects Lesnick cut last month were a traffic light at an intersection which has been the scene of at least one fatal pedestrian/car accident and repairs to a long neglected foot bridge where a woman fell and

see Lesnick Declares War Pg. 3 | find in the pages of my first annual

Idoni's Hands-On Management Eliminates Backlog and Restores Good Government to Clerk's Office

First Year Highlights: Increased Productivity, a Tightened Pistol Permit Process & Enhanced Privacy

WHITE PLAINS, NY -- When Timothy C. Idoni was sworn in as Westchester's 43rd County Clerk last January, many wondered how the fourteen year Mayor, who built the foundation on which the current revitalization of New Rochelle is taking place, would transition from being the dynamic leader of a growing community to the professional manager of the office responsible for safeguarding county records. The results have been tremendous for those who live and do business in Westchester. After just one year in office, Idoni has eliminated the six-month backlog of deeds, mortgages and other land records, improved staff productivity, protected the privacy of thousands of residents, and made dramatic strides to increase accessibility to records and services.

These results, and an overview of the office, are documented in the 2006 Annual Report of the Office of the Westchester County Clerk which was released earlier this week. "One thing you will not



report, but what I value as my most significant achievement in 2006, is that those we serve have witnessed the emergence of a professional level of service from a government office," stated Idoni. "So while my dedicated staff and I are pleased that Westchester residents trust us to secure their records, we are most proud that our office has broken away from the stereotypical expectation of mediocrity which plagues so many government offices." Idoni, a former municipal manager and Past President of the Westchester County Municipal

Officials Association who holds an M.P.A. from New York University, has frequently shared his belief in good government and in a government managed by professionals. In his first year in office, Idoni transformed the Clerk's Office into an efficient, respected operation. "I have been energized by the opportunity to return to my management roots and to serve residents throughout Westchester as their County Clerk," shared Idoni. And in an office of ninety-five employees, Idoni's energy and active management style has not gone unnoticed. The Westchester County Clerk can be seen walking through the offices to address employee concerns or constituent inquiries at all hours of the day. "I have always believed that public officials must give the taxpayers a hard day's work" said Idoni, a twenty-six year public servant. "And I know my active involvement in the management of the office has provided my dedicated staff with the support and tools they see Idoni Hands-On Pg. 3

New York Civic

Selecting a Comptroller: Politicians Strive to Fill Vacancy they Created by Feeding Hevesi to Wolves



By Henry J. Stern

NEW YORK, NY -- For the last month we have focused on Albany, where regime change took place on January 1, described by the victors as "Day One, Everything Changes." Today is January 19, 2007, Day 19, and there have been many personnel changes, as can be expected, and the adoption of a commendable new ethics code by the governor. There is still, however, much left to change.

The legislature, which normally hibernates during the coldest months, is awaiting the governor's budget, due January 31, and the special election for a state senate seat in Nassau County on February 6. That vacancy was created, as you may know, when Governor Spitzer plucked Senator Michael Balboni from Senate Majority Leader

Bruno's diminishing majority to become deputy secretary to the governor for homeland security. The outcome in Nassau will determine whether the senate will be 34-28 or 33-29 Republican.

The immediate task the 212 legislators will face in February is the choice of a new state comptroller, to replace Alan Hevesi, who was run out of office and prosecuted for a felony by the Albany County District Attorney. This took place a month after he was re-elected by the voters, many of whom were aware of his widely-publicized wrongdoing having his state driver care for his grievously ailing and suicidal wife. Hevesi has since repaid the state about \$280,000.

We cannot judge the Hevesi case definitively because there may be facts of which we are unaware. But on the basis of what has been published, we believe that the punishment is disproportionately severe for the offense. The New York State Constitution provides that elected officials who commit misconduct with regard to their offices should be subject to

see New York Civic pg. 3

Weir Only Human

Boxer Outclassed in Condi Dustup



By Bob Weir

Leave it to the left-wingers to trip over their tongues every time they try to throw more dirt on the Bush administration.

The latest foolish assertion came from California Senator Barbara Boxer when she was questioning Secretary of State, Condoleeza Rice. She said Ms. Rice might not recognize the horror of war because she has "no immediate family," a reference to the fact that Rice is single and has no children.

Radio talk show icon Rush Limbaugh referred to the remarks as "hitting below the ovaries." Now, correct me if I'm wrong, but aren't we supposed to be living in an enlightened age? Since when did we begin to criticize women who have decided not to

propagate? Does Ms. Boxer have more right to speak about the war in Iraq because she has offspring?

Using that logic, women legislators without children should not be voting on issues like abortion because their lack of "immediate family" may suggest that they have already made up their minds on the issue. The same would apply to women who do have children. Hence, women would be left out of equation entirely.

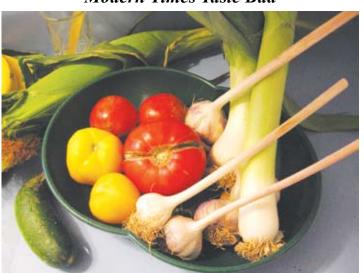
Rice responded later in an interview by saying she thought single women had come further than that. Well, they have, unless one of them gets between a Democrat and President Bush. Then it becomes a free-for-all in which people like Boxer can spew up all that bile they've been accumulating as they wait for every opportunity to show their hatred for the president.

You have to wonder if these radical ideologues are actually hoping the US gets defeated in the war. Now that another 21,000 troops have been committed to Iraq, Dems are trying to figure out a way to keep them from being equipped. Since they can't keep Bush from sending them, they are flirting with the idea of cutting off the funds.

see Weir Only Human pg. 2

The WesFoodie's: Eating in the Burbs

Modern Times Taste Bad



By Jack 8. Kirby As winter finally descends on the freshly wind chapped suburbs and hopelessness hangs heavy in the air threatening to settle amongst those who love to work the earth, through the symmetry of nature and the ingenious ways of marketers, a ray of light arrives. It's in the mailbox. It's made of paper. Something seedy this way comes. Yes, the farm catalogs have arrived! Not to get too gardeny on you,

I promise not to talk about arrangements of ferns and such,

but ever since I learned of an effort under way in the former Iron Curtain countries to save the quickly disappearing genetic diversity in plant varieties (particularly the tasty kinds) I have been fascinated and occasionally obsessed with There are amazing, scrumptious, gorgeous plants, fruits and vegetables out there that need to be saved – Amen! And there are many at work in the U.S. and across the world now saving seeds. Forget the lame supermarket stuff (you

see WesFoodie's pg. 5

Epiphany Park • Op-Ed

WESTCHESTER TIMES TRIBUNE LLC

55 Main Street Yonkers, NY 10701-2739 Tel: 1-914 / 378.1433,

ext 235 Fax: 1-914 / 378.0008

Published every Thursday.

News Desk Advertising Sales Subscription Services WTTeditor@gmail.com

> **Co-Publishers** Hezi Aris

Joseph F. Spiezio, III

Editor-in-Chief Hezi Aris

Columnists:

Across the Pond Cicely Greaves-Vega

Adam in Albany Assemblyman Adam Bradley

> **Computer Gaming** Cam Bock

> > **EarthTalk**

Editors of E The Environmental Magazine

> **Education Matters** Dr. Ed U. Cator

> > **Employment** Chris Russell

Epiphany Park Zuri A. Stanback

The Feiner Report Greenburgh Town Supervisor Paul Feiner

> HabitForce Matthew Cossolotto

Harness Racing Paul-John Ramos

The Hezitorial Hezi Aris

In Tune John T. Bock

Like Klockwork Joe Klock, Sr.

New York Civic Henry J. Stern

Ondek Report George Ondek

Progress Continues Mayor Phil Amicone

Real Medicine

Reflections on My City

Dr. Evan Levine

Mayor Ernie Davis

The Senator's Message Jeff Klein

> **Shifting Gears** Roger Witherspoon

The Spoof Gail and Rita Farrelly

> **Top Speed** Louis Albornoz

View From Albany Assemblyman George Latimer

> Vox Populi Vox Populi

Weir Only Human **Bob Weir**

The WesFoodie's: **Eating in the Burbs** Jack 8. Kirby

Worship Pastor Anthony Iovine

Advertising Sales Display Advertising Director

Jeff Lee **Production**

Production / Art Director Frank Shevetone



Like Klockwork

The Sorry State of Sponsorspeak on TV

By Joe Klock, Sr.

Back in my Philadelphia daze in the middle of the last century, television ads were in their infancy; and, like all baby things, they gave no hint of the annoyances into which some of them might morph.

Through the mist of memory, I recall none that were even marginally offensive, mostly because certain terms and conditions were barred from the tube.

Their effectiveness, though, was undeniable. To this day, I seldom pass a Texaco station without mentally seeing four guys in work uniforms and hearing them sing that "We're the merry Texaco men, tonight we may be showmen, tomorrow we'll be servicing your car!" (Even more seldom do I visit a service station where that quaint old custom is still observed, but that's another column for another day.)

Also fresh in reverie are those gorgeous gams dancing under packages of Old Golds, making me forget for a few moments of fantasy that the slogan, "Not a cough in a carload," was about as credible as "Of course I'll still respect you in the morning!"

I'm a big fan of advertising when it can be effective, nonabrasive and in good taste. If it can also be entertaining, so much the better (kudos to most Budweiser commercials in that regard, although make mein eine Heineken in the next round).

Again rolling back the Klock (BADABING!) to Philly, there was an ad agency there that won my admiration for a tiny display ad reading, "We don't have a perfume client, and maybe that's a good thing. If we did have one, we'd probably just say that it smells good."



That was in the same era when, in a film entitled "The Hucksters," Sydney Greenstreet portraved a corporate mogul narrowly mirroring the real-life George Washington Hill, colorfully crude president of the American Tobacco Company.

In a memorable, perhaps preferably forgettable, scene, Greenstreet hawked up a mouthful of phlegm and spat it on the highlypolished table of a posh executive meeting room. After doing so, he growled to the shocked attendees, 'Gentlemen, you've just seen me do a disgusting thing, but you will always remember it." That was, probably, right about the time that soft-sell was being both hardened and stripped of couth.

Aside: How come I can remember stuff like that, but not the name of someone I met a scant fifteen minutes earlier? Anyway, surviving ad execs from

the "olden days" must look aghast at some of the effluvium now so pervasive in television commercials. For poor taste, I'll hand the rusty trophy to Capital One, hoping for

their sake that those 30-second

excursions to the garbage pail of marketing are worth the ugly smear that's left on their corporate image. Also in the Hall Of Shame are the products and services openly huckstered on the tube - too often during "family time" - which used to

magazines and/or medical journals. I wonder, for example, how they justify the necessity for viewers to

be confined to the back pages of pulp

explainerectile dysfunction, prostate disorders, and a stunning array of female plumbing problems to their young 'uns, who have little-to-no urgent need for such information.

Far less offensive, but no less pointless, are the institutional blurbs ultimately paid for by us of the unwashed masses, but initially bought by corporations that exist in the mysterious mist of super-big business. One example is a behemoth outfit that wishes us to know that it doesn't make a huge variety of products, but makes them bigger, better and, implicitly, more expensive. (Like I cared a rat's nose OR had any reason to remember its name.) I enjoy a really funny commercial, maybe for the first fifty times or so, after which it tends to go the way of fresh fish and old flames. Also, I'm hard put to recall when my chuckles made a cash register ring somewhere.

Then there are those magical potions, the potential side effects of which are more frightening than the maladies they claim to cure.

Finally (although a lot more remains unwritten here), question commercials that are long on class and cleverness, but short on product identity and practical consumer benefits. Excellent examples of this genre are automobile ads, apparently aimed at drivers who are aroused by fondling the controls of a 500herdpower missile-on-wheels or fantasizing reality in the antics of a professional driver on a closed course. (Wow-ee-WOW!)

Hey, gimme them old-time sales pitches that smelled good!

Freelance wordworker Joe Klock, Sr. (joeklock@aol.com) is a winter Floridian who summers in

New Hampshire. More of his "Klockwork," is at www.joeklock.com.

By Jason Gooljar Do you feel that your personal

happiness depends on the products and services you purchase and consume? Do you acquire these things in excess of what you really need? If you really listened to the president when after September 11, 2001 the first thing he wanted us to do was go shopping; then you might be a victim of consumerism.

Everywhere vou turn mass consumerism is all around us. Its flames are fanned by the advertisements that now even follow you into the restrooms. Corporations see us not as human beings but as things that exist just to consume. We are things to be marketed to. They want us to buy and buy even more. This leads people to purchase things they don't need but feel that they must have in order to be accepted. We have all heard the stories of people who can barely afford to get by in this horrible economy owning plasma televisions and fancy cars. You also hear the stories of the countless millions who end up with an insane amount of credit card debt. Yes, there are many cases when the debt is for medical bills which says something about our healthcare system, but there's people who run up credit card debt from over purchasing as well.

Growing up I remember people being shot over sneakers; the Nike Air Jordan to be exact. What's even worse was hearing of the fights that broke out over someone smudging someone else's sneaker, these fights could become lethal as well. I was reminded of this all during our last holiday shopping season when there were fights and shootings happening over the latest video game consoles. People waited on line like sheep at all hours of the night to acquire these systems either for themselves or for their loved ones. I read of one woman being followed and snarled at for being "one of the lucky" to get their hands on the Nintendo Wii for her boyfriend to the extent that a security guard had to get a

police escort for her back to her job after purchasing it. To see people reduced to this behavior is truly saddening. They line up because the corporation through its advertising and marketing have told you its the "must have/hot item". Yet two years or less from now there will be another "must have/hot item" to acquire. They market to you and your children so that if its not something you want its something your children will pester you for.

What is Consumerism?

Now don't get me wrong I'm not against capitalism. I'm not one of those people that Libertarians and Conservatives can use the argument that anti-consumerismists really want a totalitarian society because that's not what I want. I just want people to be smarter consumers. Don't let yourself be used by big business. I'm not saying people can't buy that plasma television, fancy clothes and other nice things; but first assess your situation. Ask yourself is it something that you really need or want? I'd also like people to think about the thinking behind a two thousand dollar watch. Why does it exist? Especially when you can have a nice one for way less. I actually think the best thing that basketball player Stephon Marbury could have done was come out with sneakers that cost only \$15.99 not \$200.00! Yes, we do need products and services. We have determined that capitalism and the marketplace is the best way to interact. But the marketplace needs to be more democratic and open to all, not just to certain groups. Free trade is not really free, it is off balance and benefits only certain groups of people which is why you often hear talk of fair trade being needed instead. The marketplace should be fair which is why laws and regulation are needed to protect employees and consumers. And while we need products and services there is such a thing as over consumption and over consumption the expense of others.

Furthermore, don't let the acquisition of a product define who you are and what you are about. People should also support independent businesses more. You can find a list of socially and fiscally responsible companies at the Coop America website (<u>www.coopamerica.com</u>).

Visit Jason Gooljar, at progressive liberal on a crusade!

online.

Weir Only Human

Boxer Outclassed in Condi Dustup

From Page 1

The only reason they haven't already done so is because they fear the political implications, not that they truly care about the troops having the resources they need. For these radical extremists it has never been about concern for the lives lost in battle; it has been about damaging Bush and the GOP so that the Dems can take

back the White House in 2008. Meanwhile, Time Magazine has called it "the womb wars" and White House spokesman, Tony Snow referred to it as, "A great leap backwards for feminism." Yet, The New York Times, that staunch supporter of a woman's right to be independent, childless and upwardly mobile has evidently decided that the story is not fit to print.

Of course, it would make the front page if Ms. Rice had been the one telling another woman that her childless status had no credibility regarding decisions about war. Bold headlines would proclaim: Secretary of State demeans prochoice women. The editorial would certainly demand an apology from the Secretary, if not her resignation.

This is what masquerades as non-partisanship in this country. The senator has no qualms about insulting Dr. Rice because, Boxer, like so many other left-wingers, deludes herself into believing that she is standing tall on the moral high ground.

The senator's comments were another uncomfortable reminder of the double standards between liberal and conservative women. It's similar when any black conservative has views that don't fall in line with his/her liberal counterparts.

When blacks decided that they weren't going to be stereotyped into a universal political philosophy they were called Uncle Toms. Those who had the courage to speak out against the Jesse Jacksons and the Al Sharptons were labeled, Oreos; black on the outside and white on the inside. One can hardly utter a more racist statement than that. But when it's said by an African-American liberal the person gets a pigmentation pass.

However, if the person is black and conservative, they will have every statement meticulously parsed in order to find a reason to demonize them; even if that person holds the most powerful foreign policy position in the world. Dr. Rice frustrates the leftists in America because she is a black woman with an extraordinary education, impeccable credentials, eloquent oratory and a patriotic fervor that practically hairlips the hate-America crowd.

You see, in their distorted view of the world, Dr. Rice should be on their side. Why? Because she's black, and blacks are not supposed to think for themselves, they are supposed to follow the prevailing liberal wisdom. Controlling how blacks think used to be called slavery. Today, it's called being a good democrat.

Bob Weir is a contributing columnist to Westchester Times Tribune,LLC.

Annabi Exposes City Hall's Vindictive Holding of Information From Page 1

"Mayor Amicone's Chief of Staff, Lisa Mrijaj has made her ill intentions known by advising the Mayor and Deputy Mayor to withhold public information from the Council.", Annabi said. "A request was made by my office to obtain a copy of a list of Yonkers' City owned properties but clearly, unless you are a political ally of this administration, you're not privy to any information and information is deliberately withheld" Annabi continued, "This is a perfect example of how government should not be operating."

In a request made by Council Member Annabi's office to obtain public information a response from the Chief of Staff to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in an email advised, "I would not give it to her especially unless we know why she wants it. She has not done anything to help us." Annabi said.

Original Message: From: "Lisa Mrijaj" lisa.mrijaj@cityofyonkers.com>

To: "Sandy Annabi" <sandy.annabi@cityofyonkers.com>, "Phil Amicone" <phil.amicone@cityofyonkers.com> Date: Thu, 18 Jan 2007 22:15:20 -0500

Subject: Re: Yonkers City owned properties

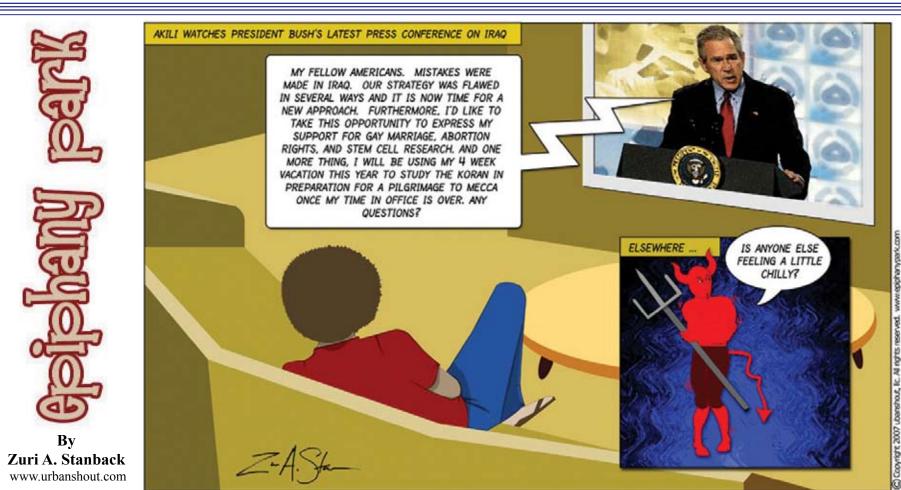
I would not give it to her especially unless we know why she wants it. She has not done anything to help us

"This is proof that unless you are in a position to help the Mayor, you are not going to get the cooperation or services needed of his office and staff." Furthermore, department heads are instructed not to communicate or provide vital information to the Council unless the requests are made through the Mayor's office.

"As a result of the chief of staff's decision, my office must now resort to obtaining public information through the Freedom of Information In addition, Annabi is requesting the Chief of Staff, Lisa Mrijaj, to explain her statement to the people of Yonkers.

Inquiry of City Hall has been made but has yet to be returned.

For further information, contact Councilwoman Sandy Annabi's aide Debbie Kayal at 1-914 / 377.6312.



Op-Ed

New York Civic

Selecting a Comptroller: Politicians Strive to Fill Vacancy they Created by Feeding Hevesi to Wolves

From Page 1

punishment or impeachment by the Senate, on charges preferred by the Governor. They should not be at the mercy of ambitious local district attorneys, who have the power to criminalize any errors or misjudgments public officials may have made before, during or after their term of office. That is not to say Hevesi should not be punished, but the penalty should be for the state senate to determine, not a person who is but one of the 62 county prosecutors in New York State.

The Independent Screening Panel that was created by the Three Men in a Room to screen candidates for comptroller consists of another Three Men, former City Comptroller Jay Goldin and two former State Comptrollers Carl McCall and Ned Regan. The name of one former state comptroller appears to have been omitted. A former city comptroller, Elizabeth Holtzman, was also passed over for the screening panel, but since there are no known women applicants except Martha Stark, city finance commissioner, who was listed last, gender may have been deemed irrelevant. Now the Assembly, in the person of Speaker Sheldon Silver and those he chooses to consult, will select the new

Comptroller; despite the fig leaf committee of worthies agreed to by current triumvirs Spitzer, Bruno and Sliver. The speaker may come under pressure from the people who elected him speaker (the Democratic caucus in the Assembly) to select one of their colleagues.

The last time the Assembly selected a state comptroller was 1993, when Republican Ned Regan resigned. Former state senator and city council president Carol Bellamy was an early favorite, but Silver yielded to pressure from then-governor Mario Cuomo to select Carl McCall, who had served several terms in the state senate, and was currently working for Citibank.

McCall and been Cuomo's running mate in 1982 as the candidate for lieutenant governor, but although Cuomo defeated Ed Koch for governor, Al DelBello, Westchester County Executive who was Koch's running mate, beat McCall for the No. 2 spot.. The Cuomo-Del Bello slate was not balanced, but they defeated Lewis Lehrman of Rite Aid.

DelBello subsequently resigned as lieutenant governor because he found that he had nothing to do. The position remained unfilled until the 1986 election, when upstate Congressman Stanley Lundine was given the nomination

to run with Cuomo. Lundine hoped that Cuomo would be elected President, or be appointed to the Supreme Court, or retire and that he would become governor. None of these eventualities occurred, Cuomo was defeated for re-election by George Pataki in 1994, and Lundine went down with the ship.

With the latest turn of the wheel, Sheldon Silver is poised to designate a new Comptroller. To his credit, Silver did not join the lynch mob that raged against Hevesi, nor did he dis-invite him from semi-official functions. He acted properly, reserving judgment until the Albany District Attorney made it clear the end was near.

Originally Governor Spitzer was said to have viewed the Hevesi vacancy as an opportunity to attract a top-flight chief financial officer from the private sector who could bring a higher level of professionalism, impartiality and judgment to the office of comptroller. As the sole trustee of pension funds whose assets exceed 140 billion dollars, the New York State comptroller

is a very powerful official. Several leaders in the financial community, including Sallie Krawcheck, CFO of Citigroup, who is considered a symbol of corporate integrity, were said to have been sounded out, and they declined to be considered. The salary of the state comptroller is \$151,692, which is chump change on Wall Street. For those of you who wanted to be Comptroller, the <u>Assembly website</u> carries instructions on how to apply. The deadline for applications was noon today. Sorry if you relied

on us to let you know about it.

A list of applicants floated around this afternoon, first in the Daily Politics blog, sponsored by the Daily News and posted by their Albany correspondent, Bill Hammond. A reader of the Politicker, which is the New York Observer blog, posted the Daily Politics list on the Politicker blog. Both blogs were founded by Ben Smith, who in the last few years has moved from the New York Sun to the Observer to the Daily News and now, to a Washington, DC media outlet named The Politico, which is supposed to premier on

Interviews for State Comptroller will be held January 23, and candidates will be allowed 15 minutes for an oral presentation. The process will be televised, and the applicants will be questioned by members of Screening Panel and the Fiscal Committees of the Senate and the Assembly. BTW, just like in Washington, DC, in

January 23. Wait til Tuesday.

the State Senate it is the Finance Committee and in the Assembly it is the Committee on Ways and Means.

How legitimate the process is depends in part on whether the outcome has already been determined. It would appear that, in this configuration, a sitting assemblymember has an inside track. But since five of the 19 named candidates are assembly members, at best four will have to be disappointed. We cannot handicap the nominees, nor would we want to. But we offer Rule 10-I "Ins like ins".

The list of candidates for state comptroller, as provided by the state Senate, in no particular order, published today on various blogs.

Tom DiNapoli, Nassau assemblyman Richard Brodsky, Westchester assemblyman

Andrew Eristoff, former state taxation & finance commissioner Andrew SanFilippo, Buffalo city controller

Joe Morelle, Rochester assemblyman George Nadel, former CEO, Trans

Felix Ortiz, Brooklyn assemblyman Robert Hoffman, former tax

auditor, state Department of Taxation & Finance Howard Weitzman, Nassau County controller

Arthur S. Bechhoefer, financial adviser and administrator* Marty Conner, Brooklyn state senator

William Mulrow, director, CitiGroup Global Capital Markets James Larocca, chairman, Long Island Regional Planning Board David Hancox, director of state audits auditors, state Controller's

Alphonse Fletcher, CEO, Fletcher Asset Management Philip LaTessa, Syracuse city auditor

Alexander (Pete) Grannis, Manhattan assemblyman Peter Joseph, managing director, Palladium Equity Partners Martha Stark, New York City finance commissioner

*application may not have been filed properly

Mr. Stern is president of New York Civic (www.NYCivic.org) and a blogger on public issues. He was New York City's Parks Commissioner for fifteen years under Mayors Koch and Giuliani.

Lesnick Declares War on Northeast Yonkers

From Page 1

suffered brain damage. The latter incident resulted in a \$2 million dollar payment by the City to settle the victim's law suit last year. which has.

The Council's action last month, which followed eight months of inaction by the Council Budget Committee on which Lesnick sits, resulted in the Mayor sending the Council an amendment to restore

funding for the critical projects. In Fort Hill Road a major east/ west response, Lesnick has now proposed his own amendment which saves the taxpayer's no additional money but cuts three major projects in the Fifth and Sixth Council District. Specifically cut are funding for new watermains in the Crestwood neighborhood, funding for drainage remediation on Underhill Road, the scene of constant flooding and remediation of flooding from the Troublesome Brook adjacent to

corridor. Lesnick ignored requests by Murtagh and Barbato to discuss his proposal in Committee prior to a vote next week. In this way, Lesnick denies the impacted residents any opportunity to address the Council prior to the night of the vote.

At the same time as he propsed cutting projects in the Fifth and Sixth Districts, Lesnick proposed increasing spending in the Districts of Councilmembers who approved his plan. Also last night Lesnick proposed a budget transfer in the current budget to increase salaries in his own office. The proposed transfer for salary's in the C ouncil President's office and the Legislative Department is almost exactly the amount Lesnick has proposed cutting from the Troublesome Brook flooding project.

"Chuck Lesnick has declared war on Northeast Yonkers" said Councilman John Murtagh. "His message is clear. Because their elected representatives speak out and refuse to play politics with public safety issues, the residents of the Fifth and Sixth Districts must be taught a lesson".

Murtagh noted that last night Lesnick claimed not to know where the effected projects were located. "If Lesnick needs a map to find Crestwood, Colonial Heights and the rest of Northeast Yonkers I'll be giving him one" Murtagh said

noting that he had hand marked up a map of the City to show the Council President where the effected neighborhoods were and would be delivering it to Lesnick's office personally today.

Murtagh said that he and Councilwoman Barbato had begun an e-mail campaign last night in order to bring as many Northeast residents as possible out to City Hall for the budget vote next Tuesday.

Abinanti Opposes Ridge Hill - Sprain Brook Parkway "Flyover"

GREENBURGH, NY -- Greenburgh Legislator Tom Abinanti (D-I-WF), in a letter today to Yonkers City Council President Chuck Lesnick, reiterated his opposition to the proposal for a roadway between the Ridge Hill Development and the Sprain Brook Parkway, which would cut through County parkland.

Copy of his letter:

Hon. Charles Lesnick President Yonkers City Council City of

Yonkers 40 South Broadway Yonkers, NY 10701

January 12, 2007 Re: Ridge Hill "flyover"

Dear Mr. Lesnick,

I read in today's newspaper that the Court settlement reached between Yonkers, Greenburgh,

Ardslev and Hastings includes a joint commitment to seek a new road from the proposed Ridge Hill development to the Sprain Brook Parkway through County parkland.

As I have indicated to you on numerous occasions, I strenuously oppose this "flyover" proposal which requires alienation of County parkland.

I have reviewed the January 11, 2007 letter from Deputy County Executive Lawrence S. Schwartz in which Mr. Schwartz re-emphasizes the County Administration's opposition to the proposed Sprain Road "flyover." Mr. Schwartz succinctly summarizes the detriments of this proposal.

In addition, I am disappointed that the agreement fails to reduce

the scale of what promises to be a massive development that will have a major detrimental effect on the quality of life on the surrounding communities. The reported \$5,000,000 for local road improvements will barely be enough to accomplish road improvements that are muchneeded today. The proposed Ridge Hill development will soon overwhelm any benefit from these

improvements Of course, I will be willing to work with you and our communities to explore other options to minimize the impact of any development on

Very Truly Yours, Thomas J. Abinanti

Ridge Hill.

No One Ever Said It Was Easy

Serving as the Voice of Compromise

By Chuck Lesnick, Yonkers City Council President

No one ever said that working in government would be easy! While many of my e-mails stress the cooperation that we achieve on the City Council, or between governments, this does not always happen all of the time - or else it

In the past week, I have been at the center of a few hard fought battles, but sometimes, the worst of battles leads to the best of

would not be remarkable.

compromises.

As a pragmatist, and as an optimist. I often look for solutions to accommodate as many parties as possible. But, it's not always easy finding common ground, and sometimes the causes are just too important to let slip away.

The funding for our Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) continues to be a negotiation some council members have drawn a line at \$66.7 million to rebuild our schools, re-equip our police and fire departments and fix sewage

systems, crumbling infrastructure and parks. Presently, it falls short of the CIP that the Mayor has requested but it is does remain the biggest CIP in many years. I have joined with council members to propose an amendment to the plan within the cap to maximize funding for improvements that can actually happen between now and the time the next annual CIP is approved.

Sadly too, I have been the brunt of some "name calling" in the press from council members who would better serve their

constituents by pushing for the projects that they deeply care about, with an amended CIP that they support, rather than blame others for making the attempt to compromise on a practical CIP.

And at Ridge Hill, just as the last of the four municipalities unanimously ratified a stipulation to work towards solving a problem, a county official and a county legislator took some shots prior to the court appearance--obviously orchestrated to attempt to give Judge Barbara Zambelli

pause before she approved our agreement. Fortunately, it did not deter the Judge, or the five parties, but our work is cut out for us.

I attach the letters, a NY Times article, and my response (see endnote) for those truly interested people to read, but hope that this is the last of the fighting with the county on this matter until after the five party task force meets and plans a common strategy.

I am not passing up the opportunity to press the Ridge Hill issue with Con Ed at the same time

we press the energy company to find an alternative to tearing up five miles of roadways in order to bury new M29 power cables. Attached below is a flyer that you may print and post to encourage

I urge you to get involved and to share your ideas and thoughts. Our City needs to hear from YOU to effect change and YOUR VOICE will make a difference!

people to come to the meeting.

As always, I thank you for your patience and understanding as we fight for what is right!

Idoni's Hands-On Management Eliminates Backlog and Restores Good Government to Clerk's Office

needed to implement organizational improvements.'

Idoni's arrival in the County Clerk's Office has been met with the approval of many attorneys, bankers and real estate industry professionals who had grown frustrated by the office's inability to keep records current. "The industry as a whole is very pleased with the progress we have seen since County Clerk Idoni took office" stated Jean M. Partridge, Co-Chair of the New York State Land Title Association

Liaison Committee for all County Clerks of the Hudson Valley Region. "And our association has been particularly impressed with County Clerk Idoni's active participation in our organization. He attends our meetings, listens to our suggestions, implements change, and his staff has followed his lead," continued Partridge. "We realize that a reduced volume has been a factor in the elimination of the backlog, but the initiative County Clerk Idoni has taken to address problems head-on gives

us confidence that the elimination of the backlog is only one of many improvements we will see during his tenure." County Clerk Idoni looks forward to continuing to work with professionals who use his office to increase efficiency and streamline services.

The Office of the County Clerk is also responsible for the processing of pistol permit applications, a responsibility which has gained attention in recent months as county officials have debated whether the issuance of pistol permits should

be an administrative or judicial function. "The days of getting back door pistol permits in the County of Westchester have come to an end and as a result Westchester residents are safer," stated Idoni who instituted new policies to ensure the equal treatment of all pistol permit applications. "My new procedures have eliminated discrepancies in processing including the bypassing of the Department of Public Safety review and ensured that each application moves through the entire system," concluded Idoni.

The Annual Report highlights that \$283,963,468.34 in funds passed through the Office of the Westchester County Clerk and over 500,000 property, business and court documents were filed or recorded by its staff in 2006. The Office of the County Clerk touches the lives of so many of Westchester's residents and business people. From safeguarding court records, to recording deeds and mortgages, to licensing plumbers and electricians, its responsibilities to Westchester County residents are varied and

significant. The Office of the Westchester County Clerk is located at 110 Martin Luther King Jr. Blvd. in White Plains and is open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:45 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding legal holidays. For more information, or for a copy of the 2006 Annual Report, please visit the Clerk's website at www.westchesterclerk.com or contact Executive Deputy County Clerk Eileen Songer McCarthy at 1-914 / 995.4287, or esm2@ westchestergov.com.

Attention Writers & Student Writers!

We are seeking Freelance writers to cover local news and sporting events.

Call 1-914 / 378.1433, ext 235 or fax your resume to 1-914 / 378.0008 for consideration.



HeightsRE.com



Business • Community • Law

Mount Vernon Seeks Nominees for Annual Distinguished Citizens' Award

MOUNT VERNON, NY -- Mayor Ernest D. Davis, The City of Mount Vernon, New York, the Mount Vernon Department of Recreation: Commissioner Watts. Mount Vernon City Council: Steven Horton, President, and Maureen Walker, Comptroller proudly present The Annual Mount Vernon Distinguished Citizens' Award, which honors citizens for their special deeds, efforts and/or contributions to the City of Mount Vernon. This prestigious award is the brainchild of Mayor Davis that began in the year 2002 with recognition categories that vary from year to year. Nominees for this year's category, "The Wind

Beneath My Wings" are needed. We are honoring Mount Vernonites who serve unselfishly, in the "background" (those who work hard and painstakingly behind the scenes, making things happen), who receive very little or no recognition for volunteering and executing those wonderful church, business, and organization events. The "unsung" heroes who stay behind the curtains while others are honored - which is quite alright with these "behindthe-scene people" because that is exactly where they want to be.

If there is someone you would like to nominate for this year's Mount Vernon Distinguished Citizens' Award, please e-mail or fax the following requested information Sheryll Brownlee-Fox at SBrownlee@cmvny.com - 1-914 / 665.2421 - no telephone calls please. The prerequisites are:

Nominees MUST have been raised* and/or currently reside in Mount Vernon, New York

* Nominee submissions must contain name, a day and evening phone number, and an e-mail address

* The nominator must include their name, a day and evening phone number, and an e-mail (if you have

* 2 or 3 paragraphs submitted by nominator, describing why you feel this person should be honored

The deadline for nominee submissions is Monday, April 30,

* No nominees will be accepted after this date, no expectations.

* PLEASE NOTE: 10 people will be recognized

The Mount Vernon Distinguished Citizens' Award honoring "The Wind Beneath My Wings" is hosted by The Mount Vernon Department of Recreation during the Summer Breeze Concert Series. This year it will be held on Saturday, August 4, 2007, 7:00 p.m. - 8:30 p.m. on Mount Vernon City Plaza.

(* Residency judgment based on circumstance.)

White Plains Announces Fire Fighter Exam



WHITE PLAINS, NY -- The City of White Plains is actively seeking a diverse pool of candidates for the

June 2nd Fire fighter written exam. The salary range is \$48,982 - \$76,836 and the exam is open to Westchester County residents. Interested applicants must submit an application no later than Thursday, March 15, 2007 to be eligible.

Application materials and announcements can be obtained by logging onto www. cityofwhiteplains.com or by calling the City of White Plains Personnel Department between 9:00 AM and 5:00 PM at 1-914 / 422.1258.

Free training is offered to help candidates prepare for the written

For more information please contact the Personnel Department at 1-914 / 422.1258.

Real Estate and Retail Sales Boomed in 2006

Needy and Not-for-Profit Groups Suffered Local Summit Told at "Temperature Taking" Meeting

By Harold Wolfson

LARCHMONT, and MAMARONECK, NY -- How are things going in Mamaroneck/ Larchmont?

According to experts, real estate and commerce are booming, but the needy and social agencies are not. This is the contrasting picture speakers presented at the Local Summit's third annual "Taking The Temperature Of The Community Program" held at the Nautilus Diner on January 16th.

Cary Sleeper, a veteran real estate broker with Sotheby's, said that last year real estate sales in the Mamaroneck School District amounted to \$349,044,940, compared to \$292,400,620 a year earlier. This buoyancy was in sharp contrast to lower prospects presented at the Local Summit this time a year ago.

"Larchmont is a small, solid community and this is what buyers are looking for," Mr. Sleeper said. By contrast, he added, "back country Greenwich, Ct. which has had large double digit price increases year after year now is languishing in over-inventory. Our average price growth locally of between 8% -10% a year is still continuing."

Average Home Price \$1,360,000

He brought gasps of surprise when he said the average price of homes in the Mamaroneck school district last year was \$1,360,000 vs. \$1,100,000 in 2005.

Further good economic news was reported by Al Tocman, president of the Mamaroneck Chamber of Commerce. "Business is vibrant," he said, "and there is a lot of change which is good." He said new businesses are coming in and some of the older ones are changing hands. He said that despite the growth of malls in Westchester, people continue to "want to shop locally where they can see neighbors and where they have a relationship."



Mariana Boneo



Janet Bookbinder



Dave Currie



Cary Sleeper



Al Tocman

He praised the Mamaroneck Village government for helping local businesses. "You can't find a safer, more comfortable place to shop." The one fly in the ointment, he said, was parking, which continues to be

Agencies Forced to do with Less

Dave Currie, Senior Director Resource Development of the Larchmont-Mamaroneck United Way, said not-for-profit groups currently have to "do more with less." He noted there has been a continued "shift from government support for social services to notfor-profits."

He said that few agencies have been able to meet this challenge. By way of illustrating a general dearth of funding, he told of one local agency with restricted funds underserved elderly and others." which had been looking for an early development teacher for many months. "Recently they hired someone for \$24,000 a year. Think about trying to live in this community on that."

He said, "Relatively speaking, this community has better access to funds than other communities: if our agencies are struggling, imagine what is happening in less affluent communities."

Judy Dobrof, executive director of the Cancer Support Team, confirmed a comment by another audience member that some elderly and low-income individuals were suffering from the closing of United Hospital in Port Chester, even though the new Open Door medical center in Port Chester has picked up some of the slack.

Emergency Rooms Overwhelmed Audience member Barbara Henkind, a professional public health nurse and president of the Larchmont Schools Foundation, said, " The elderly medicated

population is suffering from the hospital closing." She said that the emergency rooms at hospitals in New Rochelle and White Plains were "overwhelmed with Additional speakers at the Summit

follow: Shirley Romney, Mamaroneck Community Services, said that "affordable housing is still a challenge" and even though winter has been warm, her agency was helping a number of people "living on the edge in Mamaroneck" pay for heating. She added that

overall there has been an increase

in families who need help this year. She complimented the Westchester Jewish Center for its help with immigrants. She also mentioned the activity and fair run by the Westchester Accueil, proceeds of which went to Ms. Romney's department to fund good works.

• Beverly Brewer-Villa, executive director of the C.A.P. Center, said her agency had many ongoing programs but was "spread thin" and funding and lack of qualified staff was a problem.

Need for Connectedness

• Janet Bookbinder, president of R.A.D.A.R., youth alcohol and drug group, said the community was suffering from an "eroding of connectedness" and a shift from individuals serving the community to "development of self." She said a study of local students indicated they were not connected to the community and that they suffered from negative messages from media ---sex, alcoholism and violence. She said teens frequently look at community activity in which they are involved as mostly "resume padding" for their college applications. She said there was a great need to provide after-school and especially weekend activities

for older children. She urged the development of a formalized Teen Advisory Council for the tri-municipality and also said that parents need an opportunity to network and strengthen their parenting skills.

• Anna Danoy, executive director of Mamaroneck Town community services, said the waiting list for Section 8 Rental Assistance is open. Seniors on fixed income who need rental assistance are eligible. Local residents are given preference. She also said her office has funds for one-time emergency assistance.

• Mariana Boneo, executive director of the Hispanic Resource Center, also stressed the need for connectedness which is very important for the Latino community. She said that in the current slow season for day laborers her agency was focusing post-secondary education. on training: law workshops, OSHA led safety measures, and English as a second language. She said her agency is beginning to get the word out that it would welcome help to identify a property where day laborer activity and the agency's social and educational work could be housed together to foster greater interconnectedness among staff and clients. She also talked about the

need for agencies in the community to coordinate and work together, sharing resources.

New Program at Hommocks

She said a unique program is unfolding with the Hommocks Middle School called PALMS (Post Secondary Access for Latino Middle-Grades Students.) The Resource Center and Hommocks School will be among the first in the country to participate in a twoyear research study which seeks to improve the life chances of Latino youth by opening doors to postsecondary education. The PALMS program provides middle school faculty with tools to promote a working relationship between Latino parents and the school and to help Latino parents support and motivate their children to pursue

The Local Summit, which hosted the program, is an informal community council. Through its monthly meetings and forums it promotes continuing dialogue about local needs. It has advocated on specific issues and worked to establish new programs and services that help make the trimunicipal area a better place to live for everyone.

Landsman Top Producer of Century 21 Wolff Becomes Associate Broker

YONKERS, NY -- Jeffrey Landsman, a Realtor with Century 21 Wolff in Yonkers, has completed the 45 hours of studies and passed the test for his associate broker license. Principal broker-owner of the Century 21 Wolff offices Nick Wolff said, "We are very pleased that Jeffrey Landsman has not only been a top producer year after year (known in Century 21 as a Centurion), but is also interested in acquiring higher real estate education."

Landsman has been a consistent

top producer in the Yonkers Century 21 Wolff office since his first year as a Realtor in 2001, when he was Rookie of the Year. His second year he was second top producer in his office. In 2003 he earned a Double Centurion Award, the first Agent to receive the Double Centurion Award and number one in all of Wolff's offices. In 2005 and 2006 Landsman achieved the Centurion award again.

Prior to becoming an associate broker, the Realtor achieved the GRI designation - Graduate REALTOR Institute. For his next designation the Realtor plans to obtain the ABR (Accredited Buyer's Representative.) Landsman grew up in the Bronx. He is quite active in the Colonial Heights section of Yonkers, because of its beauty and desirability. "In a short time I've been able to accomplish a lot and it has been very gratifying," said the Realtor. He resides in Yonkers with his wife Gina.

Century 21 Wolff is the number one Century 21 Company in Westchester/Putnam Counties

with five offices strategically located in Yonkers, White Plains, New Rochelle, Mt. Pleasant and Mamaroneck. Century 21, the largest real estate company in the world, has 8,000 offices in 45 countries; it has 147,000 agents of change.

Contact information: Jeffrey Landsman, Associate Broker, Century 21 Wolff of Yonkers, Tanglewood Shopping Center, 2254 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, New York 10710. Telephone: 1-914 /771.6300.

Advertise in the Westchester **Times Tribune** Call 914-378-1433, ext. 235

or WTTads@gmail.com

New Rochelle Gas Station Found Guilty of Price Gouging After **Hurricane Katrina**

NEW YORK, NY -- Attorney General Andrew M. Cuomo announced that his office received a favorable decision in a lawsuit alleging that a Westchester County gas station had gouged consumers in the days following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

New York's price gouging statute prohibits sellers of vital consumer goods from taking unfair advantage of consumers by charging grossly excessive prices during any abnormal disruption of the market for the goods.

On Tuesday, January 16, 2007, a New York State Supreme Court Judge concluded that My Service Station, Inc., located in New Rochelle, violated New York's price gouging statute because there was a "gross disparity" between the prices charged before and immediately after the storm, and the disparity was not attributable to higher costs imposed upon the seller. My Service Station must pay \$2,000 in costs and penalties. This decision also confirms the important legal principle that the Attorney General can bring an anti-gouging case even if there is no declaration of a state of emergency by the Governor, and even if the disaster took place outside of New York.

Mr. Cuomo heralded the decision. "It is unconscionable for anybody to try to profit from the disruptions that natural disasters such as Hurricane Katrina can cause to New York State's gasoline market," Cuomo said. "These gas stations capitalized on fear and uncertainty by jacking up prices and increasing profits. My

office will continue to ensure that during market disruptions any increase in prices must be proportionate to increased costs."

The case against My Service Station, Inc. was based on information the Attorney General's office received from the Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection. Cuomo thanked the Westchester County Department of Consumer Protection for providing gas price information that was instrumental to the successful prosecution of this case.

Westchester County Executive Andy Spano said, "When it comes to protecting the public against price gouging, the County's Consumer Protection Office will continue its efforts and its close collaboration with the Attorney General's office to find and prosecute those who take advantage of a situation. We are very pleased with the outcome of this case which sends a strong signal to those who would gouge the public."

Similar findings were made last year against Penn-Can Truck Stop Mobil, located in Central Square in Oswego County, and Schaghticoke Mobil, located in Rensselaer County. All three cases held that the gas stations engaged in price gouging because of an unjustified disparity between the prices charged before and immediately Hurricane Katrina.

All three cases were handled by Acting Deputy Attorney General Christopher Walsh, Assistant Attorney General in Charge Winthrop H. Thurlow, and Assistant Attorney General Judith C. Malkin.



You're Invited

The Second Inauguration of Assemblyman George Latimer

Thursday, January 25, 2007 10 a.m.

Jefferson Elementary School 131 Weyman Avenue, New Rochelle

Including 4th and 5th grade Students Questions-and-Answers

Refreshments following ceremonies

For details, call 777-3832

Business • Cuisine • Worship

Fast and Fresh Gourmet Coffee for "Topspeed" **Racing Fans**



NEW YORK, NY -- Foothills Coffee Company, one of the nation's leading online gourmet coffee retailers, announced their official partnership with race car driver, Louis "Topspeed" Albornoz.

As part of the partnership, racing fans will get an exclusive "Top speed" discount on the delicious coffees and teas that Foothills offers. The discount is available through a link found on the home page of www. topspeedracer.com.

'We wanted to introduce our products to the racing world and needed a sincere and personable spokesperson. Topspeed has a great reputation and he will help us to deliver our 'Fast and Fresh' message," stated Mike Loy, President of Foothills Coffee. Foothills Coffee joins the growing

list of businesses associated with the likeable New York City racer and his "Topspeed" brand. "I'm glad to have Foothills Coffee on board as an official "Topspeed" partner, and I'm happy to provide my loyal fans with yet another exclusive benefit," stated Louis Albornoz.

Foothills Coffee Company is a leading online retailer of gourmet coffee and teas. Offering consumers the alternative of home brewing their own gourmet coffee for pennies instead of paying several dollars at large-chain coffee houses, Foothills is steadily becoming the online destination for frugal coffee and tea lovers everywhere. Foothills guarantees fast delivery of the freshest coffee blends from around the world. Learn more by visiting www.foothillscoffee.com.

Louis "Topspeed" Albornoz is a professional race car driver affiliated with several open-wheel racing series. His official website has money-saving offers for racing fans and supports charity. Learn more by visiting www. topspeedracer.com.

Ultra Black Hair Care Event with Cathy Howse at **Body and Soul Essentials**

YONKERS, NY -- Before you spend another dime on hair care products, come and enjoy a FREE seminar at Body and Soul Essentials on Saturday, January 27th, 2007. We will be hosting a Black hair care event with Cathy Howse, the creator of Ultra Black Hair Care products, which is changing the world for Black women everywhere. Since 1989 Cathy Howse has worked to dispel the many myths on caring for and maintaining Black hair. On a whole, hundreds of thousands of dollars are spent every year on trial and error methods to treat Black hair. Now there is no more guessing.

Cathy Howse's biography appears in Who's Who in America, Who's

Who's Who in the World. Ms. Howse says: "There are so many products and companies that claim to help us grow our hair. But when you read things they say like "trim the ends to make your hair grow" be forewarned, they did not research hair growth! They only want to capitalize on the fact that you want long hair!"

After years of research, Cathy decided to put her findings in a book. Her research had not only delivered educational information for her book but some scientific data as well; so in 1992, Cathy developed her own conditionerand in 1997, she developed a dew spray moisturizer. Before long, her products were in demand around the world and thousands of Black women were achieving long,

Cathy states; "Recognizing the need for more accurate knowledge about caring for our dry hair, I researched our hair and developed an actual hair care maintenance system to help alleviate our dry hair problems. While others only claim they know our hair needs, and deluge you with products, I arm you with accurate black hair information. Information that you need to successfully achieve your longest length."

Cathy Howse will be here, in Yonkers New York for one day only, sharing her knowledge on

Black hair care. Her products as well as her books; Ultra Black Hair Growth II and Thinning Edges: A Chemical Reaction, will be available for purchase. The hair care industry recognizes her as the author of the only proven black hair growth process in the world.

The seminars will be conducted at Body and Soul Essentials, located at 20 North Broadway, from 12 Noon to 2:00 pm; 2:00 pm to 4:00 pm, and 4:00 pm to 6:00 pm.

 $Please \, accomplish your \, reservations$ by calling 1-914 / 375.7133 in advance. Space is limited. You may also wish to make further inquiry by directing email to: Info@ BodyandSoulInc.com.

Friends of the Larchmont Library Present Violin Virtuosi Kensho and Kisho Watanabe



LARCHMONT, NY -- On Sunday, January 28th at 4:00 pm, the Friends of the Larchmont Library present violin virtuosi, brothers Kensho and Kisho Watanabe.

Now 19 and 17, the brothers have

been guests of the Friends of the Larchmont Library for the past three years-always to great acclaim. Both have been busy winning musical competitions while still maintaining their studies; Kensho,

at Yale, and Kisho, at Juilliard and Horace Mann

This program will be held at St. John's Parish Hall in Fountain Square.

The WesFoodie's: Eating in the Burbs

Modern Times Taste Bad

From Page 1



knew that), but also get beyond the heirlooms at most high end restaurants; it's bigger than that.

1,518 unique varieties of tomatoes! 186 different kinds of watermelons. 127 types of carrots. That is just the start for what's available through the Seed Savers Exchange. At Heritage Farm, the group grows 24,000 varieties of heirloom vegetables. As I start to select which plants I will grow in my garden come spring, I am once again taken by the open pollinated varieties available. Open pollinated? Oh yes, OP.

Open pollinated plants are varieties that will reproduce true to their parents. Unlike hybrids, which are the result of crossing two different parents and the offspring of which will be something very different containing "break-out" features of each of its parent's genomes, OP plants can be reproduced generation after generation in the same form as their parents so long as both parents are of the same OP variety. Heirloom vegetables and flowers are open pollinated varieties that date back to previous generations (of gardeners - and plants). With heirlooms, adventurous gardeners can try out the same tomatoes as were eaten during the Civil War, taste the apples Thomas Jefferson cultivated at Monticello and eat squash favored by Native American tribes. Or you can make a new heirloom by crossing two OP varieties and "stabilizing" the cross (and keeping them for a long time). Stabilizing involves creating enough generations of the crossed variety that all variables are expressed and remain constant.

I highly recommend experimenting with heirloom OP varieties. They tend to be more delicious than hybrids because the varieties date back to a time before breeding was done for reasons other than taste

(like how long they would last in a supermarket display or how many could be packed into an airplane cargo hold). Modern Times taste bad. Sepia tastes bad too; but ole time flavor hits the spot. Many heirlooms were bred and maintained for taste. And taste you will find. The most popular heirloom vegetable is the Brandywine tomato. Like all things popular, the Brandywine name is used to mean a lot of different things. What's the true Brandywine? Well, what's a true "prophet" or a real "Democrat?" No one really knows but I find the Sudduth's Strain of Brandywine to be the very finest Brandwine. According to the Seed Savers, Brandywine "first appeared in the 1889 catalog of Johnson & Stokes of Philadelphia and by 1902 was also offered by four additional seed companies." The Sudduth's strain "was obtained by tomato collector Ben Quisenberry of Big Tomato Gardens in 1980 from Dorris Sudduth Hill whose family grew them for 80 years." According to my calculations that puts the strain's use by the Sudduth family beginning at around 1900. It's a darn good To - Mater. It is large, unevenly shaped, pink-ish red and meaty but moist. When you first bite into a Brandywine you taste the slightly citric, hushed sweetness and true old time tomato flavor. But then there is a second flush – deep flavor that is sensed at the back of the mouth and tongue; something more complex and almost earthy; it completes the taste sensation, lending a fullness; it is lush-ess. Seed Savers can be found at www. seedsavers.org. Another terrific source for heirlooms from around the world is www.rareseeds.com, a/k/a Baker's Creek Seeds. Make history, taste history. Grow 'em! Jack 8. Kirby, named "Westchester's No. 1 Foodie" by Westchester Magazine, blogs about food

in Eating in the Burbs (www.

wesfoodie.com). When not eating

his way round the Burbs, Kirby

can be found bemoaning the

exponential growth of waistlines in

direct proportion to sleepless nights

of childrearing and other immutable

laws of mid-life in the suburbs.

Your Wedding & Prom Specialist

HUMMER H2

An American Rabbi Serving in Baghdad

From Page 1

his epic Band of Brothers. We, the soldiers of the 101st Airborne, fought our way up from the south, from Kuwait. The battle took us past Ur, the city where Abraham was born. We maintained contact with the enemy, passed the site of the great Talmudic academies of Sura and Pumpaditya, to the city of Babylon, where the prophet Daniel was taken.

There we engaged the Nebuchadnezzar Iraqi Armored Division and beat them. We continued the battle to Baghdad, where so many Jews lived and were massacred in the summer of 1948. It was the city of so many of our sages, including the Ben Ish Chai. Now we are in Mosul . I ask about the Jews who lived here, and very few remember them. Many say Jews never lived here; but my heart tells me different. The old ones tell me there was a Jewish quarter, a synagogue, study halls, and a cemetery. One day, while searching the streets of the ancient city, I came across a building missing half of its roof. The site was a garbage dump and the building's interior was threequarters full of rotting garbage, feces and sewage. I had to crouch down low to get inside as the doorway was almost completely buried.

As I entered light came through the half-open roof and I could just make out writing engraved on the walls. It was Hebrew. It was then that I knew I had stumbled into the ancient synagogue of the city of Mosul-Nineveh . My heart broke as I climbed over the garbage piles that filled the room where, for hundreds of years, the prayers of Jews had reached the heavens. I realized I was probably the first Jew to enter this holy place in over 50

Over three-and-a half meters of garbage filled the main sanctuary and what appeared to be the women's section. I could barely make it out because of the filth, but there was Hebrew writing on the walls. Many Iraqis congregated around me, wanting to know what I was doing.

My translator said that the American army was interested in old archeological sites of all kinds. I asked them if they knew what this place was, and they all said in an instant: It was the house where the Jews prayed.

WITH

They told me that the houses in the streets surrounding the synagogue had been filled with Jews. They took me to the children's yeshiva, a marbled edifice that no longer had a roof, only walls and halfrooms. There was a vagrant family living there and when I asked them what this place was, they said it was a Jewish school for children.

As I walked through the quarter I was shown the grave of the prophet Daniel, once a synagogue. I saw that many of the door posts had an engraving of the lion of Judah on the top. I felt the presence of our people, of their daily lives as merchants, teachers, rabbis, doctors, and tailors. I felt their rush to get ready for Shabbat, felt their presence as they walked to the synagogue on Yom Kippur.

I could almost hear singing in the courtyards, in the Succot, as they invited in the ushpizin (criminals). I could hear the Pessah (Passover) songs echoing through the narrow streets late into the night.

And the children: I could see their shadows as they raced down the alleys and around the corners, playing. I heard their voices learning the Aleph Beth (ABC's) in the Yeshivot (Jewish schools) as they prepared for their bar mitvah (Passage from boy to adulthood) and bat mitzvah (passage of girl to adulthood). But I also heard the babies crying, and I could see the young daughters of Zion clinging to their mother's skirts, asking why the bad people were killing them and making them leave their homes of thousands of years.

Tears came to my eyes, but I had to hold them back lest I put myself and the soldier with me in a dangerous situation. I had to pretend that I was only mildly interested in what they were showing me.

How does one absorb this kind of experience? How do I convey the feeling of hearing all those voices reaching out in prayer at the synagogue as I stood on top of all that garbage? How do I recover our history, how do I bring honor to a holy place that has been so desecrated?

I have no answers. I only have great sadness, pain, and loneliness. Since then, I have gone back to the Jewish Quarter of old Mosul with members of my congregation, Jewish soldiers of the 101st: Infantrymen, artillerymen, medics,

pilots, lawyers, doctors, all proud to be Jewish and serving their country. Together we have found five more synagogues, more yeshivot (Jeswish schools) and many Jewish homes. They have all come away profoundly affected by what they saw.

They are saddened, but yet proud to be connected to such an ancient and rich tradition in this historic city of Nineveh . I searched the ancient city near cemeteries in hope of finding the Jewish cemetery. I found a Christian cemetery and a British War cemetery situated next to each other. The British War cemetery is now used as a soccer field. The cemetery was marked as a war memorial cemetery and the dates were for World War I and World War II.

There was a marker in the cemetery written in English and Sanskrit, dedicated to the Hindu and Sikh soldiers of Her Majesty's army who died while serving. Another one, written in English and Arabic, was dedicated to the Muhammadan soldiers in Her Majesty's army who died while serving and a third marker had nothing on it. These markers were over seven meters high.

The third marker could have had a dedication, but if so it had been destroyed or removed. Scattered all through the cemetery were fragments of tombstones, some with a few words of English, some with a cross on them.

Outside these three markers there were no standing tombstones anywhere. only broken fragments scattered in corners.

The cemetery was surrounded by a 1.5-meter wall and an entrance gate. About half a meter inside the cemetery, barely showing through the surface, was a fragment my assistant, Specialist William Rodriguez, discovered. By working with me over these last few months he has learned to recognize Hebrew letters. As we dug it out we noticed it had both Hebrew and English on it. I was so excited to see it, yet so sad. There are many possible explanations, but the one I think most plausible is that it was the grave marker of a British soldier, a young man by the name of Zev. The British Army had contacted the local Jewish community to have a stone engraver put Hebrew on the stone along with the English. It was their way of honoring and respecting their fallen comrade. If this explanation is true then this cemetery contains those of the Hindu, Sikh, Islamic, Christian, and Jewish faiths, all soldiers who died in the service of their country. The obvious question: Is death the only way these great faiths can coexist in peace? We would hope not. I have not yet discovered the ancient Jewish cemetery of the Jews of Mosul-Nineveh. My instincts tell me it is nearby, but in the

last 60 years it has probably been desecrated and obliterated. One

native I talked to told me that a major

highway had been built through it.

I will continue to search as my military mission allows me. I have taken Zev's marker and reburied it in the cemetery. I have said Kaddish (prayer over the dead) for him and for all the other Jewish souls that may be buried here.

There is a great history to be written here, a great opportunity to recover the lost narrative of our people, the Sephardim of Iraq. My prayer and hope is that when the gates finally open for scholars the remnants of our people will still be here for historians to recover. If this chapter of history is erased, it will never be recovered again. I pray that those with more resources, more connections, and more wisdom than I will be able to add to these pages of our great history. I am only thankful that God has given me a small part in it.

May the memories of our brothers and sisters - "hakahal hakadosh d'Nineveh" - the holy community of Nineveh - never be forgotten.

Rabbi to **Discuss** Women of the Bible at Sisterhood Luncheon

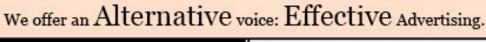


Rabbi Morris W. Barzilai will be the featured speaker at the February 7, 2007, luncheon meeting of the Sinai Free Synagogue Sisterhood. He will explore the question: "How do today's women look at the women of the Bible?"

The meeting will start at 12:15 pm in the Sinai Free Synagogue auditorium at 550 North Columbus Avenue in Mount Vernon, NY.

Rabbi Barzilai recently celebrated his tenth anniversary as spiritual leader of Sinai Free Synagogue and one of its predecessor congregations, Free Synagogue of Westchester. He is active in community and interreligious activities.

For further information and reservations, contact the Synagogue office at 1-914 / 664.1727.





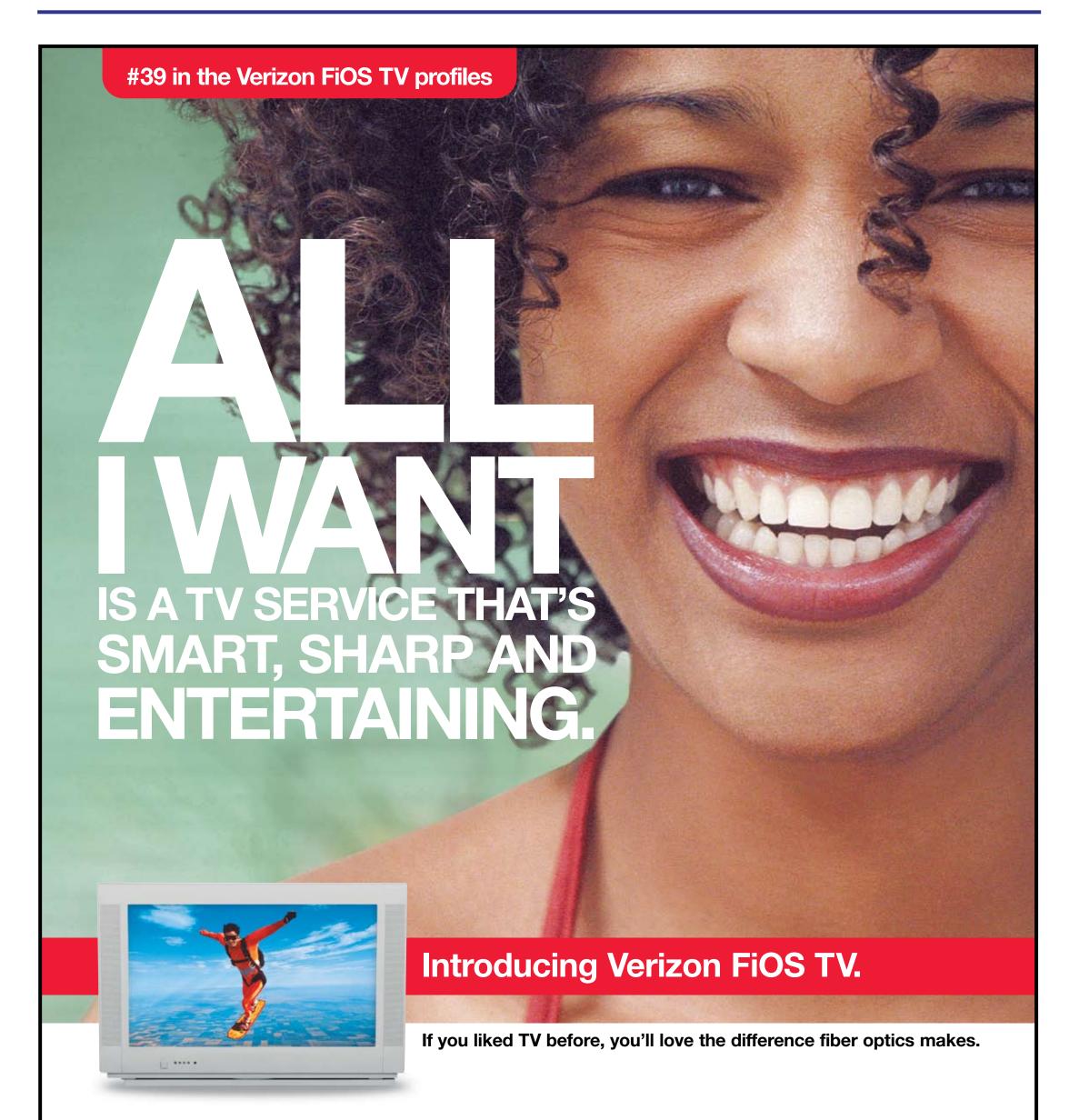
The Westchester Times Tribune offers businesses, organizations and individuals in Westchester an advertising alternative.

Your advertisement will reach businesses, homes and communities in Riverdale, Westchester County and

Call us now: 914-378-1433 extension 235

> Westchester Times Tribune

www.verizonfios.com/internet



All around town, Verizon's new fiber-optic network is transforming the Internet. Now it's going to redefine TV too. With the FiOS TV Premier package, you'll enjoy:

- 100%-digital, 100%-fiber picture and sound
- 200 channels including NFL Network
- Access to over 2,700 On Demand titles
- Tons of Hi-Def channels
- All for \$42.99 a month

Now you really can get it all from Verizon. Why stop at TV? With Verizon you can get your TV, Internet and phone service all together on one bill. All with the supersharp performance that fiber optics delivers.



You finally have a choice beyond cable. So don't wait. Make the switch to Verizon FiOS today.

For true fiber-optic service, look for this seal.



Sign up today.

Call 1-866-262-0112 or go to verizonfios.com/tv.

