PARK HILL RESIDENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Park Hill Reporter

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LESLIE SUTHERLAND PARK

BOARD MEMBERS AND MISSIONS STATEMENTS





























COMMUNITY OUTREACH (PRINT, DIGITAL, AND SOCIAL MEDIA

COMMUNICATIONS)

Members: Robert Buckner, Chairperson; Craig Lynam, Denny Santos, Lucy Vigilant-Smith, Marilee Scheuneman

The mission of the PHRA Community Outreach Committee is to assist the PHRA Board in providing clear, timely and accurate information from the Board to our residents relative to actions taken or under consideration by the Board and community in general. We seek to foster a sense of community that will enhance the quality of life of our residents. We will spread awareness of events and activities throughout the greater community that encourage resident engagement through bi-directional platforms that foster feedback and volunteerism.

CITY PARTNERSHIPS

(EFFECTIVE LIAISING THAT SUPPORTS ALL BOARD INITIATIVES)

Members: Olivia Powell, Chairperson; Lynn Epstein, Shantell James

The City Partnerships Committee forges relationships with city officials and local organizations to foster a safe and flourishing community in Park Hill and southwest Yonkers. To that end, the Committee meets frequently with the police, elected officials, heads of local organizations and concerned residents to exchange ideas and recommend policies and initiatives that will promote our goals. In addition, the Committee aids all of the Board's key initiatives with regards to city involvement and acts as an effective liaison between the two entities when needed.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT (MEANINGFUL EVENTS, BOTH BIG AND SMALL)

Members: Kathryn Buckley & Hettie Jordan-Vilanova, Co-Chairs; Gabriella Cinquemani, Martha Mercedes

The Community Engagement Committee is responsible for the organization and execution of several community events throughout the year. Our Mission is to improve the quality of life of all Park Hill residents by reaching out, engaging with, listening to, providing support, and assisting the residents through inclusive community engagement projects. Furthermore, our Mission is that all Park Hill residents may experience the spirit of welcoming, belonging, and pride in being an integral and valuable member of the Park Hill community.

PHRA MEMBERSHIP

(BUILDING A STRONGER PARK HILL THROUGH PHRA MEMBER RETENTION AND RECRUITMENT)

Members: Sally Williams, Mary Lou Vetrano

The Membership Committee is focused on maintaining a healthy PHRA membership. Our Mission is to be inclusive and welcoming to all Park Hill residents from the moment a new resident moves into the neighborhood. From there, we wish to help acclimate new residents to their new surroundings, introduce them to neighbors and local organizations, and encourage them to join the PHRA in support of the community.

PARK HILL'S 2018 ANNUAL TREE LIGHTING

By Gabriella Cinquemani

On December 5th Park Hill residents gathered on Rumsey Road for the annual Park Hill Tree Lighting. Everyone bundled up, braved the cold and gathered around the tree. The evening kicked off with Chuck Lesnick introducing Judge Mary Anne Scattaretico-Nader and Councilwoman Corazon Piñeda-Isaac, and culminated with the presentation of the Community Service Award from the City of Yonkers to Joan Cunningham. Ms. Cunningham is a long-standing member and past president of the Luther Burbank Garden Club, who is responsible for many innovative programs that bring seasonal joy to Park Hill and greater Yonkers, including the lighting of the tree on Rumsey Road, which she revived. Christmas Carols and the tree lighting itself topped off this very chilly holiday evening in Park Hill.

After the tree lighting many community members

met at the Park Hill Racquet Club to continue the festivities and enjoy cookies, hot cocoa and mulled wine. Everyone was entertained by children singing carols from the AAA All-Stars, under the direction of teacher and Park Hill resident, Laura Reyes, and by Orlando Pagan's wonderful Ukrainian dancers, who gave an impressive performance in traditional costumes.

The Luther Burbank Garden Club decorated holiday wreaths that adorned the tables and were available for purchase with proceeds going towards future flower beds in the Park Hill area. In addition, The Board of the Park Hill Residents' Association sold handmade glass ornaments commemorating the event. We look forward to creating a new tree ornament each year.

It was indeed a festive holiday evening, keeping with old traditions and introducing new ones.















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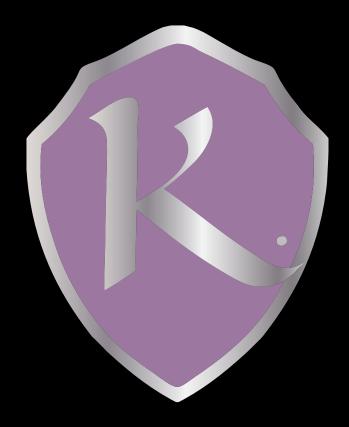
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CHAMINADE CONCERT

The Chaminade Club was founded in 1895 by two music lovers who persuaded neighbors in Park Hill to form a group to participate in piano and voice recitals in private homes, eventually moving them to the Racquet Club. After a fire in 1962 that destroyed the original Racquet Club, along with Chaminade's Steinway piano, the concerts found other venues in Yonkers. Their next concert will be held at the Hudson River Museum Sunday, April 7 at 3:00 p.m., featuring Joyce Rasmussen Balint, considered one of America's foremost classical mandolinists, and three colleagues from the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra. The club also awards music scholarships to Westchester County high school juniors and seniors. See website or details, chaminademusic.org.



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MEET THE NEIGHBORS:

BOBBY AND TINA D'AMATO

By Marilee Scheuneman



Bobby and Tina have brought their acting and directing talents to the Racquet Club on Park Hill, to our delight. Their recent production, Play On! - "a farcical comedy romp," was hilarious. What a treat to have excellent theater within walking distance and at affordable prices. Auditions for their next

production in Park Hill begins this Fall and will be open to a wider geographic area.

"Bobby has had a long and storied career in film as an actor and stunt driver," Tina told me. He played Joe Dominick, a bodyguard, in HBO's The Sopranos, and earlier in his career he acted in old westerns working with Clint Eastwood and other well-known actors. Tina says that Bobby excels at interactive theater and is a good director (as we saw in "Play On!"). Casting well is extremely important. "Cast well, and watch it grow," he advises.

This fun-loving couple has lived together in their big house on Rumsey Road since 2000, though Bobby bought it much earlier than that from the Elkinds, a prominent Park Hill family, as an investment. Bobby and Tina love to entertain. They don't call it the "Party Harty" [sic] house for nothing! At their annual black-tie Christmas party guests bring something for "Tina's Toy Drive" to be donated to needy Yonkers children.

"All the world's a stage," said Tina during our conversation, who also has a background in theater. Her one woman show, The Last Flapper, a play about Zelda Fitzgerald by William Luce, has won her many ardent fans. She earned a Master's degree in organizational management a few years ago and is using her theatrical wisdom producing training videos for MasterCard along with leading their employees in role playing to work through various issues.

There are theatrical roots (and lore) in Park Hill, Tina reminded me. In the 1920s the Bennett sisters lived here, and Lawrence Olivier took flying lessons from a pilot who lived on Hillside Drive. The lawyer to Mary Pickford and Douglas Fairbanks lived on Alta Avenue, and a large house near the Racquet Club was allegedly built by Flo Ziegfield of the Follies for his mistress.



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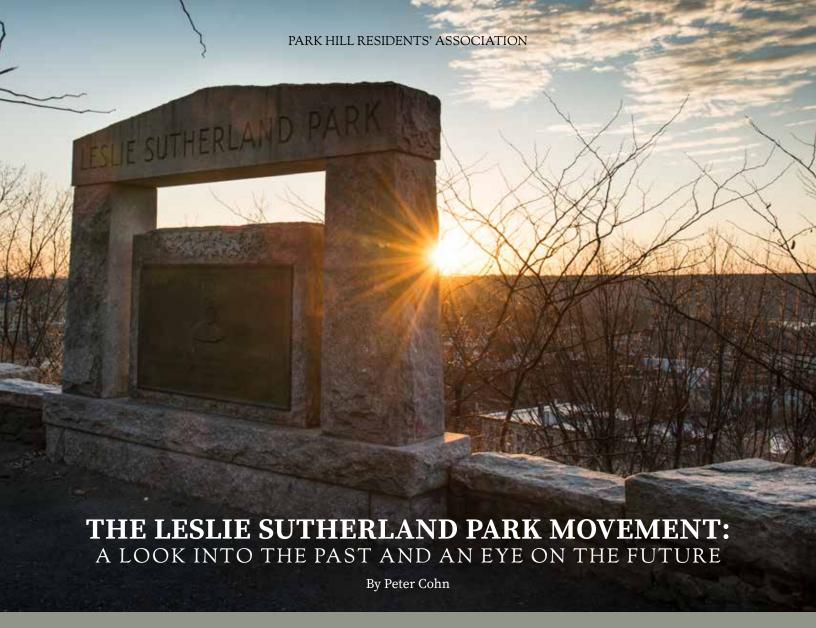
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•Club parties and member events

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On an almost perfect late September day, there could be no one better than Park Hill resident Barrymore Scherer to conjure the spirits lurking in the stone walls of Leslie Sutherland Park.

Scherer, an erudite music historian and critic, captivated a few dozen Park Hillers with his tale of the neighborhood's grand Hendrik Hudson Hotel—a Titanic-scale story of how a magnificent castle hotel, complete with 230 sleeping rooms, banquet halls, smoking and billiard rooms, burned to the ground in 1901, just a month prior to its scheduled grand opening. The ashes of the Hendrik Hudson no doubt seed much of the ground we stood on at that very moment in Sutherland Park (fortunately not human ashes, for no one died in the fire).

The September 22 sunset gathering, ideated and organized by the PHRA

Board to celebrate Sutherland Park and its history, came at a critical moment in the park's history. While an inspiring surge of energy has made the park more beautiful and accessible to all, the upper area continues to show many signs of deferred maintenance. The urban forest, trails and stonework in the area below the park have deteriorated dramatically. damage. Storm neglect, graffiti and littering have reversed years of volunteer efforts to clear, plant and beautify the Sutherland woods.

But nothing could mess with the good karma everyone was feeling at the sunset party. Other speakers that day included Anthony Landi, the Commissioner of the Yonkers Parks Department; Ann-Marie Mitroff, from Groundwork Hudson Valley; Richard Haas, a noted artist and long-time resident of a cliffside

house adjoining the park; Robert Buckner, PHRA Board President and Master of Ceremonies; and this writer—an Overcliff Street resident and part of a group working to improve the park and the adjacent area.

Commissioner Landi showed a deep appreciation for the park—he has gone to great lengths to help with the renewed neighborhood effort around Sutherland, committing extra resources at a time when the city's park budget continues to be stretched.

Mitroff updated the group on Groundwork's planned rail trail connecting Van Cortlandt Park with downtown Yonkers. The trail will follow the old Putnam railroad line, including a long section that parallels McLean Ave and South Broadway in the lower reaches of Sutherland Park itself—a promising,



future intersection for Park Hill.

Haas presented his beautifully rendered vision for a monument to the Hendrik Hudson Hotel. His concept is for a rough-hewn stone slab and a bronze plaque with a representation of the hotel, a work of art that would stand in relation to the existing large monument and plaque honoring Leslie Sutherland (the park's namesake and the 11th mayor of Yonkers who was in office at the time of the hotel conflagration).

This writer recounted recent neighborhood efforts to improve the park. Residents of Overcliff Street and Alta Avenue have formed an informal "Friends of Sutherland Park," which has been working with the PHRA and City Hall to make the park more beautiful and safer than it already is. To date, improvements have included new and clearer traffic and parking signs, a new official

Sutherland Park sign, and a new Yonkers Police Department security camera. Upcoming improvements are expected to include a repaying of the park area streets, a clean-up of dumped debris below the park walls, and new street lighting in the park. In addition, we are planning a push to make the Friends of Sutherland Park an official notfor-profit that can seek grants and other fundraising opportunities, while at the same time forging new connections with government agencies and neighborhood groups that can join in our efforts to restore the park.

Just one week before the sunset event, the neighborhood showed its love for Sutherland when many residents spent the afternoon spiffing up the area in advance of the party. Litter got picked up. The PHRA Board led a group of gardeners who replanted a major flower bed along the circular turnaround at the end of Alta Ave. Earlier in the week, a Parks Department crew removed poison ivy vines that had taken over the bed and the stone walls. This created further momentum for more plantings in that section of the park— with the Maldonado family returning later on to replant a large flower bed directly to the west of the new PHRA bed.

Making this all happen was a big job, and a couple of shout outs are in order. Thank you to Kathryn Buckley and Hettie Jordan-Vilanova (Park Hill Residents' Association Board Members) who really sparked the idea and orchestrated the event's many details and to all the many others who helped out and contributed.

PHRA INTERNATIONAL POTLUCK











The annual PHRA International Potluck was held at the Racquet Club on October 14th and had a very nice turn out. In addition to several fun fall themed raffle prizes, participants both young and old were treated to a craft table—a new addition to this longstanding event. Everyone had a chance to paint a pumpkin or make a nifty refrigerator magnet using salt clay dough prepared and baked ahead of time by the PHRA Board. Participants left the event with magnets and memories.

The PHRA Board was inspired by the array of delicious dishes offered by members of our diverse neighborhood and has decided that a cookbook is in order. We will spend the next several months collecting favorite recipes, treasured photos, stories, or even dedications. Perhaps you have a special memory of baking a cherished holiday dish with your Grandma. We are interested and want to include such

memories and recipes in our very own Park Hill Cookbook, which will be printed, bound, and sold around the holidays.

We are hoping for broad participation that will result in an interesting combination of recipes representing the cultural richness of Yonkers. Our goal is to fill the following categories: appetizers, main dishes, soups, salads, sides, desserts and miscellaneous. We are eager to receive recipes for what you love to make most and want to contribute.

Please send your contributions to

PHRAcookbook@gmail.com

Please include:

Your recipe with ingredients and directions

Your name

The street you live on

A photo of the dish (optional)

A brief dedication or mention of a special memory (optional)



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share their favorite family recipes, stories and photos



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Deadline for submissions: 08/01/2019

We look forward to the INTERNATIONAL COOKBOOK

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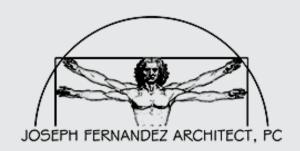
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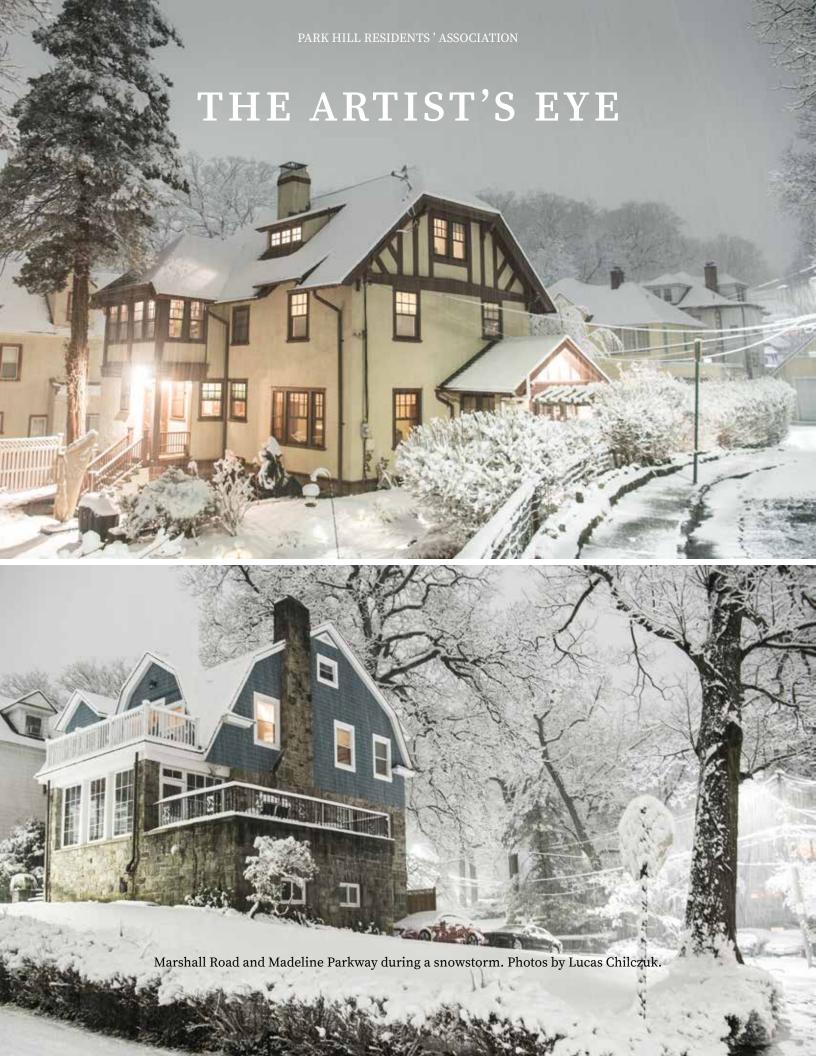
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THE YONKERS BASICS:

FIVE PILLARS OF EARLY DEVELOPMENTAL EDUCATION

By Gabriella Cinquemani

The purpose of this article is to provide Park Hill residents with information regarding the Yonkers Basics movement and how to become involved.

The Yonkers Basics movement which was initiated by Dr. Edwin M. Quezada, Superintendent of the Yonkers Public Schools.

Dr. Quezada sought a movement that would better prepare students entering Pre-K and Kindergarten programs in the Yonkers Public Schools. The Basics movement was developed by Dr. Ronald Ferguson from Harvard University and is based on Dr. Ferguson's theory of socio-ecological saturation, which aims to engage, encourage and support the entire community.

The Yonkers Basics is based on the Boston Basics, a set of five easy and nurturing practices that stimulate brain growth in children from birth to age 3.

These practices help young children thrive cognitively, physically, socially and emotionally, and enter school ready to learn.

Yonkers Basics consists of five evidence-based parenting and caregiving principals. The Basics program consists of training parents, family members and caregivers in using the following five pillars:

- 1. Maximize love, manage stress
- 2. Talk, sing and point
- 3. Count, group, and compare

- 4. Explore through movement and play
- Read and discuss stories.

The Yonkers Basics Campaign is sponsored by the City of Yonkers and Yonkers Public Schools. Dr. Andrea Coddett, Deputy Superintendent of the Yonkers Public Schools, is heading the Yonkers Basics initiative. Under her direction, a voluntary Advisory Board consisting of educators, faith-based leaders, community organizations, and others who have been trained in tools and activities to help guide those interested in implementing the five pillars of the Yonkers Basics

Dr. Rosemary J. Uzzo, a Park Hill resident and Mayor Spano's liaison to the South Broadway BID connected the Yonkers Basics with Karel Littman, the Executive Director of the South Broadway BID.

The South Broadway BID supported this effort by selecting a visible building wall in need of repair at the Radford Parking Lot at the corner of South Broadway and Radford Street. The SBBID then engaged Evan Bishop to create the mural that now displays to the community the five "Pillars" of The Basics-Yonkers program.

The SBBID has also created mural-matching Book Boxes with Bishop. These Book Boxes are filled with books by the Yonkers Public Schools, Yonkers Public Library and City Council Majority Leader Michael Sabatino. They have been placed in and are maintained by the SBBID in more than 35 Barber and Stylist Shops, Laundromats and Nail Salons.



CARLO'S RESTAURANT REVIEW

by Derwin and Shantell James

Since moving to Yonkers, we have been advised to try this restaurant. The venue has both a take out area for pizza, sandwiches, etc and a spacious, casual splitlevel sit-down dining area. There is ample parking available in the back lot where the takeout area is located. The main restaurant is great for a casual dinner or a special event. Easy listening music, such as Frank Sinatra, plays in the background. Patrons enjoy friendly conversation and great food. Carlo's offers traditional Italian fare favorites such as seafood, salad, veal, chicken, beef and eggplant. The average price for an appetizer is around \$11, and the average for an entree is \$25. They have a nice selection of wines and bottled beers. There is also a variety of desserts like creme brûlée, tartufo, cannoli and chocolate cake. The service is prompt, attentive and friendly.

They start you off with a warm fresh bread basket. All the plates are shareable and the portions are perfect for 2 adults. We ordered clams oreganata, which were perfectly baked with breadcrumbs and lemon garlic butter sauce. The salad we chose was a roasted beet and straciatella, which is roasted beets with red onions resting on a bed of burrata cheese. It was light, airy and flavorful. Our entrees were the eggplant parmigiana

with potato croquettes and shrimp fra diavolo with linguini. For dessert we ordered the cannoli.

The clams were fresh and tasty in a sauce of golden goodness, calling you to dip your bread. The shrimp fra diavolo had the right spicy heat to tickle your palate. The eggplant parmigiana melted in your mouth. The potato croquettes were light, fluffy and crispy. The dessert presentation was so pretty, accented with strawberry, raspberry sauce and whip cream. The cream was sweet and delicate sprinkled with chocolate chips. The shell was fresh and crunchy. Overall, a nice treat to top off a great meal.

Everything was fresh and tasty. It was definitely money well spent. This place will not disappoint. The goodbye was as warm and friendly as the initial greeting.

We will miss Park Hill's staple, Giulio's, but Carlo's is an excellent replacement.

Carlo's Restaurant 668 Tuckahoe Road, Yonkers Tel 914-793-1458 M-F 11am to 10pm Google rating 4.3.







MOLE POBLANO TUZANTLAN RESTAURANT REVIEW

by Denny Santos

This cozy little restaurant is perfect for a small group that enjoys the experience of home-style cooking. All of the tables are in close proximity to the kitchen, so everyone has the chance to see their dishes being prepared by the four lovely women who cook everything on the menu at Mole Poblano Tuzantlan.

I ordered the chorizo enchilada with the green sauce. It was a big enough portion that I left feeling full and satisfied at the end of the meal. My wife had a taco and the cheese enchilada with mole. The mole was the

perfect mix of savory and sweet. When I return, I will make a meal of the tacos as they were by far the most delicious in my opinion. The menu is à la carte, so make sure to order some rice and beans if you would like to complement your main dish.

Mole Poblano Tuzantlan

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