

# Westchester Library Offers WEBS Career And Educational Counseling Service

Two programs called 'Managing Your Career in Changing Times' and 'Take Charge! Career/Life Planning After 50' will be offered in February.

By [Damita Thomas \(Patch Staff\)](#) - January 18, 2017 12:31 pm ET

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**From Westchester Library:** WEBS Career and Educational Counseling Service will be offering two types of free eight-week career counseling and life planning programs in public libraries throughout the County this winter. WEBS is sponsored by the Westchester Library System.

The first type of program is called a Managing Your Career in Changing Times. It will help adults assess themselves, explore career options, obtain career and educational

information, find out about the latest trends in resumes and job search, and develop a career plan. The program is geared to those who are unemployed, changing careers, reentering the workforce or returning to school. The seminar will be offered at three public libraries: Pelham on Tuesday evenings, Greenburgh on Wednesday afternoons and Somers on Wednesday mornings. All programs will start in late February.

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The second type of program is called Take Charge! Career/Life Planning After 50. Its purpose is to help adults over 50 assess themselves and plan a direction for the next stage of life. Options that will be considered include part/time or full/time work, volunteerism, entrepreneurial ventures, and learning and leisure opportunities. These programs will be offered at the Chappaqua Public Library on Tuesday mornings and the Yonkers Public Library (Will Branch) on Thursday afternoons. Both programs are nineteen-hour seminars consisting of an orientation session, eight weekly group sessions and one individual session with a career counselor. They will begin late February.

# WESTCHESTER

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## 10 New Hobbies to Try in Westchester in 2017

**A new year is the perfect time to expand your horizons with a new hobby**

Published: 01/05/2017

BY MEAGHAN GLENDON

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With the start of the new year, many are thinking about their goals and resolutions; but instead of making the **same old type of resolution** for 2017, what about setting out to try a new hobby? Having a dedicated hobby can help clear your mind and even **reduce stress**. Plus, the new year is the perfect opportunity to be adventurous and explore new things. Here are some local hobbies we think are worth checking out.



PHOTO COURTESY OF ORANGETHEORY

### 1. Orangetheory's Group Classes

If you want to get in shape, but hate going to the gym and working out by yourself, group fitness classes are the way to go. **Orangetheory** (with locations in White Plains and Mt. Kisco) is the latest in workout trends and combines cardio with resistance training. The workouts are based on Orangetheory's premise that if you exercise at 84 percent of your maximum heart rate, it maximizes fat burning.

### 2. Learn a Language

Apart from being an exciting new challenge, being able to speak two languages has **benefits** like reducing the likelihood of the onset of dementia and making you a better multitasker. Apps like **duolingo** are free, and the easy-to-use interface makes learning a language (and there are so many to choose from!) easy and fun.

If you dream of being Westchester's next best chef, then you need to check out the **Zwilling Cooking Studio** located in Pleasantville. Take a class to brush up on your knife skills, learn to expertly pair wine with food, or how to make pasta from scratch.



FOTOLIADARIA MIROSHNIKOVA

## 9. Knitting

We know -- you're probably thinking of your grandmother sitting in a rocking chair, knitting away. But, contrary to that image, knitting is actually a great hobby to learn at any age because once you get the basics down, you can make anything. It's pretty rewarding to be able to see all your hard work in a finished product. **Flying Fingers Yarn Shop** in Tarrytown offers small-sized six-week classes for \$125.

## 10. Swipe Your Library Card



Start taking advantage of the **Westchester Library System** (really, who doesn't want to try and read more?). If you don't already have a library card, get one -- it's free! Support your local library and pick a new book to read or movie to watch. You can even browse for books or movies online and if it isn't available at your local library, you can have it delivered to the nearest branch.

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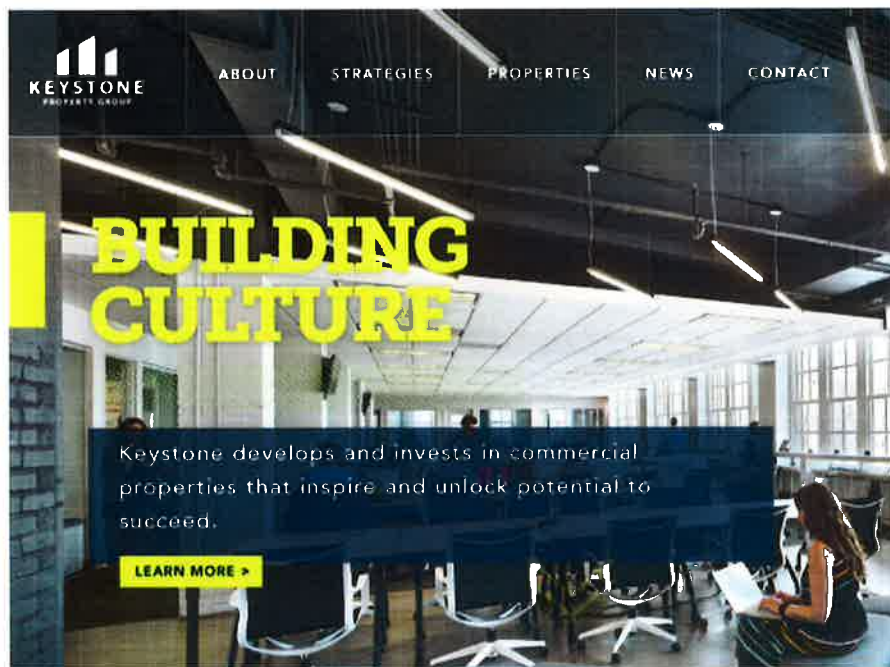
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# Keystone seals deals for 100,000SF in Westchester leases

by John Golden | November 30, 2016 12:31 pm

[Keystone Property Group](#) recently completed deals for more than 100,000 square feet of space in new and renewed leases by tenants at its Taxter and Talleyrand Class A office parks in Westchester, according to [CBRE Group Inc.](#) in Stamford.



In Keystone's Elmsford office complex, CBRE brokers said, one of the largest recent transactions was a 17,600-square-foot lease at 555 Taxter Road by the law firm of Pillinger Miller Tarallo LLP, an insurance defense litigation firm. At 565 Taxter Road, Nationwide Mutual Insurance Co. inked a 13,448-square-foot lease renewal. At 570 Taxter Road, the Westchester Library System newly leased 14,316 square feet of space.

CBRE said seven new deals were completed at 200 & 220 Talleyrand in Keystone's 179,000-square-foot office complex on state Route 120 in Tarrytown.

Thomas J. Sklow, vice president of development and leasing at Keystone, in a press release said the company's improvements to common areas, amenities and building components as part of a multimillion-dollar capital program for its Westchester office buildings "have created best-in-class properties and have helped us attract numerous industry-leading tenants to these buildings."

"Today's leading companies and nonprofits recognize the benefits of collaborative working environments," Sklow said. "They are increasingly seeking out office facilities with the amenities and meeting spaces to enhance employee productivity."

Headquartered in suburban Philadelphia, Keystone in 2014 bought the Westchester properties, a third office building on Taxter Road and a Stamford office building for approximately \$91.5 million from Mack-Cali Realty Corp. as part of its acquisition of Mack-Cali's tristate office portfolio.

# The Journal News

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LOCAL NEWS  
Wednesday, January 25, 2017

## Yonkers library unveils new vision for future

**ERNIE GARCIA**  
ELGARCIA@LOHUD.COM

**YONKERS** - The Yonkers Public Library announced its goals for the next five years, including new cafes, more meeting spaces and expanded hours.

The goals are in a strategic plan for 2017-21 released Monday that addresses how the library's leadership will keep the taxpayer-funded institution relevant to city residents amid changes in the public's use of libraries.

"The library is beloved by many in Yonkers," library board President

Nancy Maron said in a statement. "Our task over the next five years is to continue to expand our range of offerings and to make them even more accessible to all who want and need them."

The library's top priorities for the five-year period are closing the digital literacy gap, engaging new audiences by increasing Spanish-language services and expanding programs targeting working families, at-risk youth and students exploring college opportunities.

Among the new initiatives under consideration,

the library will assess the feasibility of putting cafes in the Riverfront and Will branches.

The library is also in the process of identifying new meeting spaces in all three of its branches to address the demand for small- and medium-sized rooms from community organizations and co-working groups.

The planning process was launched in September 2015 and it got feedback from nearly 3,000 Yonkers residents and stakeholders.

Twitter:  
@ErnieJourno

# THE RECORD REVIEW

SERVING THE TOWNS OF BEDFORD AND POUND RIDGE

SUNDAY, JANUARY 22, 2017

## Letters to the Editor

### Closing the Pound Ridge Library could be a win for everyone

To the Editor:

This is not as radical as it might seem. Follow my logic please:

1. If there is no library, there is no director's position, so the Marilyn Tinter lawsuit for reinstatement becomes moot.

2. If the Committee of Concerned Citizens of Pound Ridge Library are going to boycott, then library usage will drop to less than it was when Ms. Tinter reportedly felt she had to churn the numbers of books coming in and going out to make it look busy.

3. We are surrounded by other fine libraries in the Westchester system to which we have access and we would

still have access to the online system as well. Since online is where most of us do our research, and where many of us read, the impact is small.

4. Clearing out the building would open it up for many other functions. This town has needed a community center forever. Let's leave the computers for those who need them, and then use the space for art exhibits, small performances, kids programs, adult programs, senior citizen programs, all set up and managed by Pound Ridge volunteers. We could even have a free lending library of donated books.

5. No library means no staff and

no need for the \$750,000 yearly tax burden to our citizens. I would suggest continuing a 50 cents tax rate (about \$50 per year to the average homeowner), to maintain the building, pay for internet access and computer upkeep or such other needs as the elected, volunteer, board can get voter approval for.

So, the board tells Ms. Tinter and her attorneys the well is dry; the town gets its community center; readers go on reading; sounds like a win-win-win to me. Anyone want to help?

Justin Friedland  
Pound Ridge

### Library trustees' decision a shock to many longtime patrons

To the Editor:

It is beyond discouraging to this 36-year resident of Pound Ridge that the library director who my family has known and loved since our move here has not been reinstated. The board that the citizens elected and trusted to bring Marilyn Tinter's yearlong public pillory to an end, and reach a peaceful and reassur-

ing conclusion that is respectful of her hard work and long tenure, has acted in a way that shocks many of us. That no settlement has been negotiated, and no opportunity for healing has been initiated, has caused great sadness and no little anger among many longtime patrons and supporters of the library. I, for one, along with my family members, are

no longer able to support this place we love. As a former board member, foundation board member, fundraising chair and contributor to the annual fund and capital drive, I regret that my local library will no longer be a stop on my trips around town.

Judy Ostrow  
Pound Ridge

### Previous library board should be held accountable for expenses

To the Editor:

Once again justice for Marilyn Tinter has not been achieved. This time the blockage is by the current library board. I seem to recall during the campaign for election to the current board, the candidates expressed their desire for trust and transparency if elected to serve. If that was truly their plan, why did they feel the need to vote by secret ballot as reported in a recent issue of The Record-Review? ("Trustees

vote to not reinstate Marilyn Tinter," Jan. 6.)

I hope the board is not using the investigation regarding the use of the library credit card as an excuse to block reinstatement of Ms. Tinter. As previously reported, Ms. Tinter and several library staff members were authorized to use the credit card. Most important is the fact that such credit card charges should have been approved by the previous board. They should be held ac-

countable for the charges, not Ms. Tinter.

It seems to me that the current library board is simply looking for a "way out," and denying fair play and justice for Ms. Tinter is a way out of the situation.

I wonder if the Pound Ridge Library will ever recover and be held in high regard again by the residents.

Betty Goodman  
Pound Ridge

# THE RECORD REVIEW

SERVING THE TOWNS OF BEDFORD AND POUND RIDGE

FRIDAY, JANUARY 6, 2017

## Pound Ridge Library

# Trustees vote to not reinstate Marilyn Tinter

By LUCIE COUILLARD

The Pound Ridge Library Board of Trustees voted 4-2 on Tuesday during an executive session to not continue any effort through civil service to reinstate former library director, Marilyn Tinter.

Board President Miriam Schindel described the ballot as a secret vote, with each trustee's individual decision remaining confidential. The result of the vote was made public in the board's Jan. 3 minutes.

Ms. Schindel said in a statement prior to the executive session that the board must "act in the best interests of the library and taxpayers of the library district. We do not have the option of simply ignoring facts that are unpleasant or difficult to deal with."

The board had the library's attorney attempt to make a settlement with Ms. Tinter's attorney, Anthony Tersigni, but it was unsuccessful, Ms. Schindel said. Now the issue is being handled by the court.

Two petitions have been released by the Committee of Concerned Citizens of Pound Ridge Library — one in 2016 petitioning against the former board, and the other on Jan. 3, supporting the reinstatement of Ms. Tinter. The second petition, released prior to the executive session,

stated that many of the signatories have been boycotting the library. Ms. Schindel said she hopes that the boycott will not be carried out, and that the library does not want to lose any of its patrons.

"We cannot, however, make our decision on the ba-

sis of threats, from either side in this internecine conflict over Ms. Tinter's termination," Ms. Schindel said in the statement.

She ends the statement with a plea that the library staff be treated with respect and kindness.

"In the tumult over Marilyn Tinter's termination, they have become unwitting victims of undue criti-

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*'We do not have the option of simply ignoring facts that are unpleasant or difficult to deal with.'*

— MIRIAM SCHINDEL, POUND RIDGE LIBRARY BOARD PRESIDENT

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*continued on page 6*



# Library trustees vote to not reinstate Tinter

*continued from page 1*  
cism," Ms. Schindel said. "I urge the partisans on all sides to bear these things in mind, to tone down the rhetoric, and not to take out their feelings and frustrations on the staff."

Audrey Insoft, co-chair of the Committee of Concerned Citizens of Pound Ridge Library, said the vote not to reinstate Ms. Tinter was "unfortunate because the charges that were filed against Marilyn Tinter were a lot of nonsense."

Ms. Insoft continued, "Many people voted for the current board with the belief that they would reinstate Ms. Tinter. They thought they (current board) were going to do everything possible to reinstate her—that was the expectation," Ms. Insoft said. Ms. Insoft said the committee has to wait and see what will happen with Ms. Tinter's appeal that was filed Dec. 13.

"I don't think there is a next step," Ms. Insoft commented. "It's out of our hands."  
Co-chair of the committee, Paula

Cappa, said board members "have effectively stabbed (Ms. Tinter) in the back and been disingenuous to the voters" by voting to not reinstate Ms. Tinter.

"I can only say that the majority of library voters will be very upset to hear that these trustees have failed Marilyn Tinter," said Ms. Cappa said.

Ms. Tinter's attorney, Mr. Tersigni, said via email Ms. Tinter "will continue to seek justice in court." Mr. Tersigni filed suit in State Supreme Court Dec. 13 asking that Ms. Tinter's termination be annulled and she be reinstated as library director, with back pay, benefits and other compensation.

"In the meantime," Mr. Tersigni said, "the residents of Pound Ridge are entitled to more than they have thus far received from their recently elected library trustees."

Members of the Board of Trustees were presented with the petition, dubbed the "Marilyn Petition," Jan. 3, prior to their vote. The petition, which was sent by the Committee of

Concerned Citizens of Pound Ridge, had 95 signatures supporting the reinstatement of Ms. Tinter as the Pound Ridge Library director.

In the petition the committee stated, "Marilyn Tinter has suffered a gross injustice by the former board and that her termination should be rescinded."

The document reminded the current board of the former board's actions against the former board's actions in 2016 that had more than 200 signatures. Many signatories are boycotting the library by refusing to attend programs or donate to the foundation, the committee stated.

The petition stated these decisions are determined by the signatories' own beliefs and "the yearlong attack on Marilyn's character, competency, professionalism and capabilities as library director."

In the last paragraph, the committee asked the board to reconsider having the appeal advance, since it "will only continue to damage and divide our community."

"We hope you will make every effort to find a way to negotiate a fair agreement for both sides in an effort to restore the dignity to Marilyn Tinter's reputation and heal our library community," the document stated.

The board of trustees is still in the interviewing process of hiring a new director for the library, Ms. Schindel said. There are five candidates at this time — one has been called back.

Ms. Tinter was placed on administrative leave Dec. 1, 2015, by the board of trustees based on mismanagement concerns after serving as library director for 40 years. Throughout 2016, Ms. Tinter was given a hearing process. Prior reports estimated that the total costs of the process has exceeded \$200,000, including legal bills.

On Sept. 26, 2016, a hearing officer found Ms. Tinter guilty of 38 of the 40 charges against her. Based on the hearing officer's recommendation, the board voted to terminate Ms. Tinter.



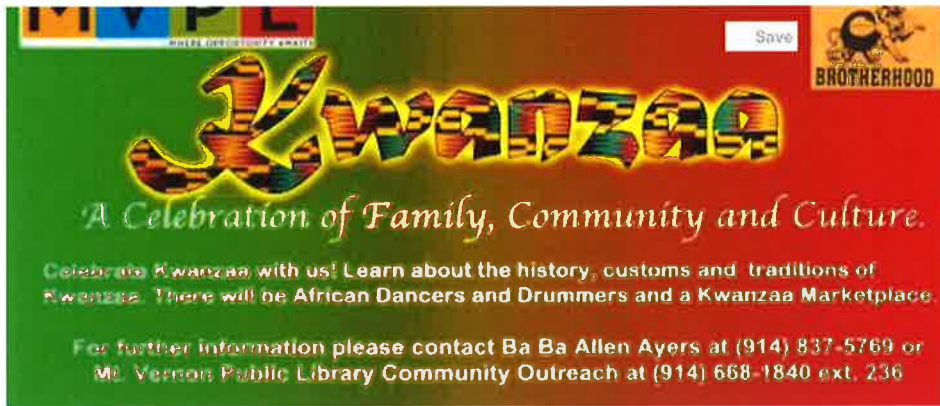
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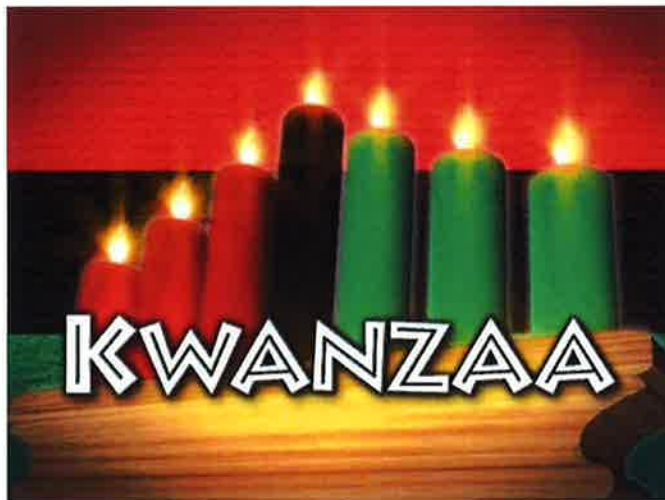
News Ticker December 20, 2016 in Across The Nation: **San Francisco Mayor Names LAPD Veteran As Police Chief**

# Mount Vernon Public Library Invites Community to Celebrate Kwanzaa

Posted on December 19, 2016 by AJ Woodson in BW News



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Kwanzaa is an African-American celebration established in 1966 by Dr. Maulana Karenga. It is a seven-day, non-heroic, non-religious and non-political celebration of family, community and culture. The Mount Vernon Public library is offering a series of special programs for the community to celebrate the 50th year of practicing the principles exemplified

in the values of Kwanzaa: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose, creativity and faith. Kwanzaa is Monday, December 26, 2016 through Sunday, January 1, 2017.

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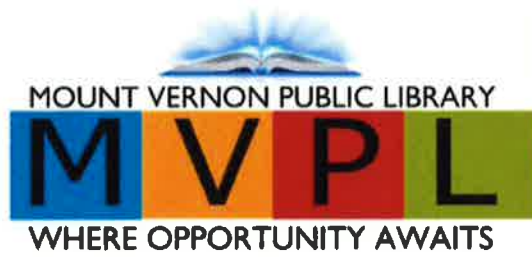


## BWTV - 4 Square Peace Project

by AJ Woodson in Entertainment  
In this episode of BWTV, Black Westchester Magazine's Editor-In-Chief AJ Woodson caught up with the founders of the upcoming 4 Square Peace Project, Capella Grey and CJ Read  
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## BW SIDEBAR ADS

As an African-American and Pan-African holiday celebrated by millions throughout the world African community the Mount Vernon Public Library has scheduled a Children's Kwanzaa Workshop and a Family Kwanzaa Celebration. The MVPL engages in this living cultural tradition which reflects the best of African thought and practice in its reaffirmation of the dignity of the human person in community and culture, the well-being of family and community, the integrity of the environment and our kinship with it, and the rich resource and meaning of a people's culture.



**Children's Kwanzaa Workshop**

Wednesday, December 28th 3:30 - 4:30pm



Get the children ready for a fun-filled cultural experience where they can learn about the beautiful meaning and practices of the festive Kwanzaa season.

The values of Kwanzaa, the Nguzo Saba (The Seven Principles), will be emphasized in ways that children can participate and understand. We encourage parents to participate as well.

**Family Kwanzaa Celebration**

Thursday, December 29th 6:00pm



A92BR1 Close-up of a family celebrating Kwanzaa

Be a part of the Library's celebration of family, community and culture. Our event has grown increasingly popular over the years. While the typical celebration is a week-long, this one-day event will feature African drummers and dancers as well as the traditional lighting of the candles. Attendees can become familiar with or renew their knowledge of the 7 principles guiding the spirit of Kwanzaa.

Kwanzaa was created to introduce and reinforce seven basic values of African culture which contribute to building and reinforcing family, community and culture among African-American people as well as Africans throughout the world African community. These values are called the Nguzo Saba which in Swahili means the Seven Principles. Developed by Dr. Karenga, the Nguzo Saba stand at the heart of the origin and meaning of Kwanzaa, for it is these values which are not only the building blocks for community but also serve to reinforce and enhance them.

The Nguzo Saba of the seven days of Kwanzaa:

- Day 1. Umoja means unity.
- Day 2. Kujichagulia means self-determination.
- Day 3. Ujima means working together.
- Day 4. Ujamaa means supporting each other.
- Day 5. Nia means purpose.
- Day 6. Kuumba means creativity.
- Day 7. Imani means faith, especially faith in ourselves.



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# Mount Vernon's library director resigned amid "misconduct" claims

Ernie Garcia, [elgarcia@lohud.com](mailto:elgarcia@lohud.com) 6:58 p.m. EST December 16, 2016

*Carolyn Karwoski said the board of trustees' charges against her have been dropped.*



*(Photo: Stephen Schmitt)*

The Mount Vernon Public Library's director has resigned after she was suspended for alleged "misconduct and incompetence."

Carolyn Karwoski resigned Monday after the library's trustees suspended her for 30 days at a Nov. 1 special meeting.

The trustees suspended Karwoski based on 16 charges against her, according to the board's Nov. 1 agenda, which did not elaborate on the charges.

On Thursday Karwoski said the charges against her have been dropped.

"They carefully put together somewhat defamatory charges to cover up their mismanagement of the library board," said Karwoski, who accused board president Oscar Davis of harassing staff and creating a hostile work environment.

The board's agenda indicated that library board president Davis would serve as the library's director until further notice.

Davis declined to comment on Karwoski's departure, saying only that her departure may be discussed during the library board's next meeting on Dec. 21.

Karwoski worked at the Mount Vernon Public Library for four years.

Gary Newman, president of the CSEA union chapter that represents staffers at the Mount Vernon Public Library, noted that it's not the first time in recent years that the library has been without a director. In 2012 Opal Brown Lindsay, who was unpopular with the union, abruptly left after she made a secret deal with the library trustees.

"I recall there was a period after Opal Brown Lindsay left, for one and a half years, and the place ran itself, as it is now," Newman said.

Karwoski said some of the conflict between the trustees and staff happened after the board became an elected body about two years ago.

"It was very apparent that they wanted to run it like a city council meeting," said Karwoski.

*Twitter: @ErnieJourno (<https://twitter.com/ErnieJourno>)*

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## Ossining Public Library 10 Years Later!

*Written by James Trapasso  
Friday, 16 December 2016*



March 25, 2017 will mark the ten-year anniversary of the opening of the “new” Ossining Public Library. On that first day, the library had 1,000 visitors who lined up along Croton Avenue anxiously awaiting the opening of the doors. Guided tours were given throughout the day, the community received library cards and people enjoyed the celebration of the dedication of the 200-seat theater to the talented pianist, and Ossining resident, Camille Antoinette Budarz. With a maximum seating capacity of 205 and standing room for 250, The Camille Budarz Theater holds many programs and events throughout the year including monthly concerts, theater productions, dramatic readings, workshops, film screenings, and many recitals – you name it, the library has it. The Ossining Public Library is also lucky to have a Steinway Grand piano that was once owned by Camille Budarz herself. Performers in our Words & Music Concert Series, from Livingston Taylor and Willie Nile to Jimmy Webb and Art Garfunkel, have all raved about playing such an amazing instrument.



The John Cheever Reading Room was also dedicated on the library’s first day. Named for the local iconic author John Cheever (who is known for his literary works Falconer, The Wapshot Chronicle, and Bullet Park, as well as the films The Swimmer, The Sorrows of Gin, The Five Forty-Eight), the Reading Room is fully equipped with a double-sided fireplace as well as current periodicals, newspapers, magazines and new books. Patrons enjoy the warmth of the fireplace in the winter months and reading on the window seat all year long.

The Ossining Public Library is a modern 44,000-square-foot building made of glass, metal and brick. The “new” building was built with the community in mind: bigger and more open spaces for a growing village and town. Combining the new and the old, the window seat is reminiscent of the original Carnegie Library window seats, and the lamps that adorn the second floor tables mimic the famous New York Public Library. There is something to enjoy on all four floors of this modern-day library. When a patron enters on the lower level, they are greeted by a café area, an art gallery and a theater. Climb the stairs to the first floor and you are welcomed by the Circulation Desk, media section, multi-cultural collection and Children’s Room. The second floor houses the Reference Department, Teen Room, and the non-fiction collection, as well as awe-inspiring views of the Hudson River. Finally, the mezzanine level has the fiction collection and more impressive views. Many local authors come to the Ossining Library and draw inspiration from, not only our expansive collections, but also the incredible setting.



The Children’s Room staff is hard at work every day creating programs like Mother Goose, Shake Baby Rattle and Roll, Family Fun Night, Food Fest, and most recently, their Election Day Extravaganza. The Teen Room, too, works to provide programming each day creating events such as Teen Yoga, baking programs like Pancakes vs. Waffles, National Button Day craft, Letters to Veterans for Veterans Day and many more. The staff has created an inviting fun atmosphere for both teens and kids. These spaces fill up each day after school with kids who want to be here at the library, learning and having fun at the same time.

The Ossining Public Library began with a small collection of 700 books housed in Park School in the 1880’s. In 1893 it was known as the Sing Sing Public Library; it changed its name in 1901 to the Ossining Public Library. In 1903, the library moved to the Twigg Building on Main Street, and then a few years later moved to the YWCA. Looking to expand, a letter was written to Andrew Carnegie, and that was when one of the original Carnegie libraries was built on Croton Avenue in Ossining. A beautiful stately brick building with arched windows and large heavy wooden doors at the entrance, a permanent library building was finally available for the people of Ossining. By the 1960’s, the library was looking to expand again as it was growing even more. Instead of adding onto the Carnegie building, it was torn down and a new library structure opened in September of 1968. This building was a modern square with a flat roof. That library’s community room was also the theater and art gallery. Very often for large concerts, staff would clear out the main floor and put down rows of chairs. People would be standing in the stacks to hear great jazz music or enjoy classical tunes. Not an ideal space for a growing population! By 2003, the Ossining community voted overwhelmingly to pass a bond and build a brand new, much larger building that would be more conducive to the changing world around us. The property adjacent to the library was purchased and the old, 1960’s building was torn down to make way for a larger parking lot, and the final new building opened in 2007. The new building was constructed with future expansion in mind, if the community should ever need it, and the rest is history.



The Ossining Public Library is a school district library and a proud partner with the Ossining School District.

The Ossining Public Library has won many awards over the years including: Best Library in Westchester from Westchester Magazine in 2009 and 2016; Best Teen Room from Westchester Magazine in 2013; and it is LEED Certified from the U.S. Green Building Council. I am sure there will be many more awards to come in the future.

The large art gallery on the lower level has monthly art exhibits including specific shows for African American Heritage Month in February, the Ossining Girl Scouts Annual Exhibit in March, the Ossining School District Annual Exhibit in May and the Ossining Arts Council Annual Exhibit in June. There is a Main Gallery and an expanded area of the gallery which is called the Hallway Gallery. Sometimes the gallery sees two to three shows in a given month. From local artists to artists from other areas, the library is happy to bring exceptional artwork to the Ossining community all year long.



The Ossining community has a large Hispanic population which is growing every day. The library historically has always reflected the ever-changing population and the demands of the world around us. The library offers assistance in many ways including, but not limited to: an English Conversation Group every Wednesday; English as a Second Language (through Westchester Community College) two days a week; a Spanish Film Series; a multi-cultural collection; and many performances and celebrations for Hispanic Heritage Month. In turn, the community has expressed interest in learning Spanish, and the library has listened and responded with offerings of a Spanish Conversation Group every Wednesday and a Beginner Spanish Class every Friday.

The Ossining Public Library encompasses the idea of a library in the future, not only by its modern architecture but also in its role in the community. In my opinion, libraries are not going anywhere anytime soon, even with the internet; they are a part of the fabric of American history. There is still a need for human interaction, and also to have a space, other than home, to study quietly. With more and more libraries expanding to meet the demands of a growing population, libraries now, more than ever, have a major role to play. Within the Ossining community the library is one of the only places in town that has a café and art gallery, as well as the only real theater space. The word has gotten out about the library's space and is why it is in such high demand for use from all over the County. In the spring, the library will embark on a new initiative to get people thinking about the library in a different way, re-imagining the library within the community. The library will have "information" tables strategically placed in high-traffic areas out in the Ossining community, in hopes of signing up more people for library cards, educating the public about library services, and reaching those who don't already use the library on a regular basis.



Within the walls of this beacon of light perched on top of the hill, are not only books, CDs, DVDs and computers, but also, learning tools for all walks of life from all ages and generations just as Andrew Carnegie's legacy had intended it to be.

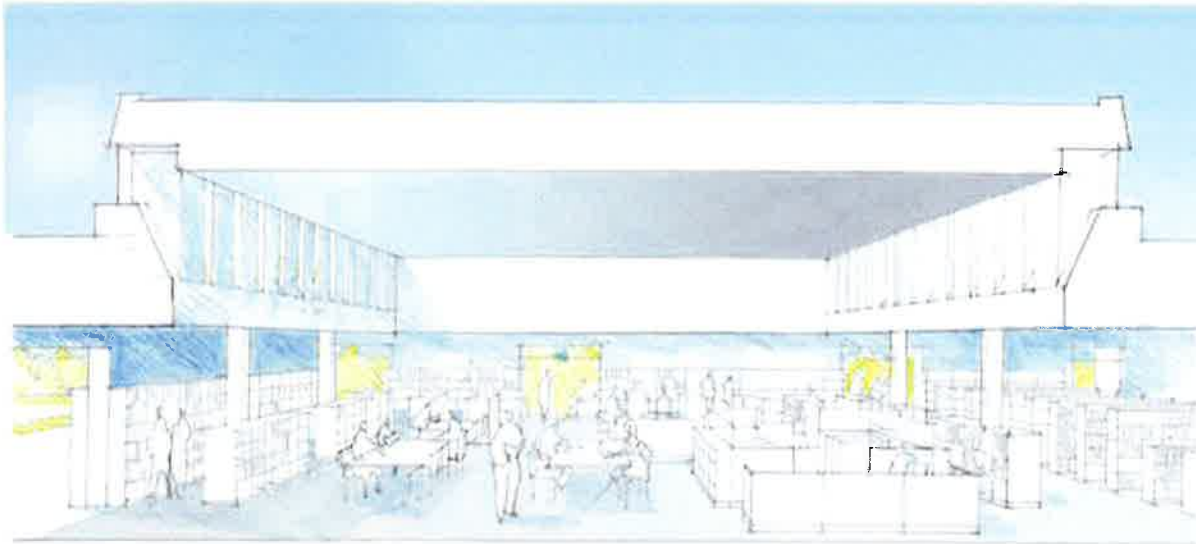
Director, Karen LaRocca-Fels said, "As the Ossining Public Library approaches its 125th anniversary as an institution in 2018, we are reminded not only of the importance of the library to its community in the past, but of its vibrancy and relevancy today. The future of libraries, and the Ossining Public Library in particular, is ever changing. But the library's role in serving the Ossining community – and the support of the Ossining community for its library – is a constant."

For more information on the Ossining Public Library visit [www.ossininglibrary.org](http://www.ossininglibrary.org) and be sure to visit us on social media (Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and Pinterest).

*The author is the programming and public events coordinator at the Library.*

## Library Project is a Go! Village Board Approves \$9.9 MM Bond Offering

VILLAGE VOICES PUBLISHED ON THURSDAY, 15 DECEMBER 2016 15:27 JOANNE WALLENSTEIN



Calling the proposed library renovation a right-sized project at the right time, the Scarsdale Village Board made history on Tuesday night 12-13 when they approved a \$9.9 million bond offering to fund the "public"

portion of the ambitious project which will update and expand Scarsdale's aging library. Trustee Bill Stern said the library was "The jewel in the crown of the community," and voted "yes" for the bond saying "We owe it to Scarsdale to make that crown shine." Plans call for a complete overhaul of the library that will open up the main reading room, add meeting spaces, install new wiring and technology, expand the children's and teen areas and include a café that will serve as a gathering place for the community.

The vote marked the culmination of six years of planning by Scarsdale Library Board of Trustees, who began the process with focus groups and an assessment of community needs. Non-profit consultants Plan A Advisors were retained to evaluate the potential for private fundraising. Schematics were drawn to address these needs and allowed the board to get estimates of what it would cost to take the library into the 21st century.

The group overcame major obstacles, specifically fierce objections to the 2016 Revaluation that consumed almost all of the Village Board's attention for the better part of a year and brought out a cost-conscious segment of the community who railed against higher taxes and public spending. Ultimately the Library Board managed to re-position the proposed library renovation as the answer to the Village's woes, switching the focus from taxes to investment in the community. They communicated the concept of a 21st century cultural and intellectual hub that would serve all residents from tots to seniors, now and for future generations.

When the Village Board proposed putting the bond offering to a community-wide referendum, the group advocated for the Village Board to use their authority to make the decision themselves. Perhaps they feared that a Village-wide vote might incite a backlash, similar to a movement that brought the first negative school budget vote in Scarsdale in 2013. At the meeting on Tuesday night, trustees voted down a resolution to put the bond offering to a village-wide vote.

Undoubtedly a key piece of the group's success was their ability to attract a large and capable group to their team, who reached out to the community at large, were a constant presence at Village Hall and were flexible in addressing criticisms. In response to objections to the original \$20.5 million project, they identified \$3 mm in cost savings in July 2016, bringing the cost down to \$17.9 million.

The Library Capitol Campaign Committee has pledged to raise a total of \$7.5 million and they have already met \$4.1 million of that goal. At the meeting on Tuesday, Dara Gruenberg, who heads the Campaign Committee, made a surprise

announcement that they had secured two major donations of \$1 million each, contingent upon the Village Board's approval of the bond.

Funds will come from a variety of sources. Proponents pointed out that the Village Board had already approved \$4.5 million for renovations to the existing building in 2014. They also believe that during the two years that the library will be closed there will be \$1.5 million in operational cost savings to the Village. In addition, the Village Manager has also applied for a \$500,000 grant from the NYS Dormitory Authority that will be used toward this project.

Under the terms of the resolution, private contributions will need to be secured before the Village issues the \$9.9 million bond offering. The agreement says, "No bonds or notes shall be sold by the Village Treasurer pursuant to the authority delegated to the Village Treasurer here in unless and until an aggregate of \$7,500,000 expected to be received from the Friends of the Library or other sources shall have been received by the Village Treasurer or are available from a Qualify Back-stop Facility."

Though the Library Board has now achieved this major hurdle, the Campaign Committee will still need to raise another \$3.4 million to make the project a reality.

Commenting on the vote, Terri Simon, the President of the Board of the Scarsdale Library said, "The Library Board is so pleased by the vision and leadership shown by the Village Board in approving the \$9.9 million bond resolution, a critical step toward making a 21st century library a reality for Scarsdale. The trustees worked immensely hard, as our elected representatives, asking us focused and challenging questions about project complexities for several years, and the project is the better for it. We appreciate their commitment now to moving forward in a way that will be good for all of Scarsdale. We are also immensely gratified by the outpouring of community support for the project, and we are confident that, with the Village commitment, we will be able to complete the private fundraising that will, with the benefit of this unusual public-private partnership, bring the project to fruition."

In a meeting that extended to midnight, each Trustee offered a lengthy explanation for their vote, which was six for and one against.

Jane Veron said that she "joined the board with no preconceived ideas about the library, but after lots of research I will support the project and vote no to a referendum." She continued, "The library is woefully inadequate. ... It would be irresponsible not to act now when we have private funds at the ready. The library is core to our brand. Families expect us to have a library like or better than like towns... Our community prides itself on engaged learning... We believe in the power of Scarsdale."

Matt Callaghan was the sole "no" vote on the board. He had reservations about securing the pledges and feared construction cost overruns that would be paid for by the Village. Instead, he favored funds going to the renovation of Fire Station #1, calling it a "life and death matter."

Bill Stern showed a photo of duct tape holding up a portion of a wall at the library. He said, "Keep the library in the 21st century. There is not enough space, not enough room and services are stymied. I think this is a godsend for the community. It will maintain Scarsdale's property values and make it attractive in the future."

Carl Finger acknowledged and thanked the public, saying, "It's been an education." He said this issue "Has had the most public participation of any in recent memory .... and there has been lots of research and involvement." He said, that "Circulation, attendance and events and usage have been increasing every year." Justifying the expense, he said, "The Village is getting the library at half the price" and it is "incumbent upon us to improve our village." He voted "yes."

Trustee Deb Pekarek concurred, remembered her experience with libraries as a child, a mother and a teacher. She said, "I can conjure up libraries all over the country and have visceral remembrances of past and present. " She called libraries places of "adventure and discovery," and said, "Now is the time to weigh the project we have before us." She said that "careful cost controls are in place," and voted yes.



Trustee Marc Samwick said he was originally skeptical of the plan but ultimately decided that the Village's net investment was only \$4 million more than they would have paid for a renovation. He promised to "remain diligent as we move forward" and said he was "proud to vote in favor of this library that we will enjoy for decades to come."

Mayor Jon Mark call the Library Board "a driving force" and said the library had been on the agenda at 40 public meetings. He said, "libraries are very much in demand," and "are treated as a core function in communities large and small, adding, "There is no reason that Scarsdale should not act now." He quoted former Scarsdale School Superintendent Harold Howe (1960-64) who said, "What a school thinks about its library is a measure of what it feels about education" and said "The same can be said about a village. What we think about our library is a measure of what we feel about education in a broader sense here in Scarsdale. Now is a moment to show this is a core value and we are prepared to make an investment both for ourselves and those who come after us."

The Board voted 6-1 to approve the bond offering and voted unanimously against a public vote on the bond referendum. You can watch the meeting in its entirety here:



# The Journal News

FRONT PAGE  
Monday, December 12, 2016

## SCARSDALE LIBRARY SEEKS FUNDS FOR \$18M FACELIFT



**\$17.9M**

The library board has proposed a \$17.9 million private-public project to modernize the building inside and out

**\$7.5M**

It is seeking \$7.5 million in private donations

**\$9.9M / .5M**

The remainder coming from a proposed \$9.9 million bond, and a \$500,000 state grant

7,000 s.f. would be added  
to 31,000 s.f. building

DAN REINER DREINER@LOHUD.COM

**S**CARSDALE - A nearly \$18 million plan to renovate and expand the village's library, with residents on the hook for about half the money, could go to a community vote in the next few months.

With few updates to the building at 56 Olmsted Road since the 1970s, the library is dated and in need of repair, library board President Terri Simon said. While the stone building sitting snug in a wooded area gives it a sophisticated, old-age look, many of the rooms inside are dimly lit and congested.

Simon said the building's restrooms do not comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act, and an elevator is needed. The building is two stories with a basement, which only have stair access.

The village Board of Trustees has recognized the need for some of the renovations, Simon said, including access for those with mobility issues, a new HVAC system and other interior fix-ups.

"The village already acknowledges that there is work necessary on this building for pure infrastructure maintenance and remediation that has piled up over years," she said.

The library board has proposed a \$17.9 million private-public project to modernize the building inside and out. It is seeking \$7.5 million in private donations, with the remainder coming from a proposed \$9.9 million bond and a \$500,000 state grant.

See LIBRARY, Page 4A



CAROLINA L. MELUSE/THE JOURNAL NEWS

From left, Beth Bernel, library director, and Terri Simon, library board president, at the Scarsdale Public Library

**"There's a big difference between wants and needs, and we feel that vision has been totally missed here. We're already a highly-taxed community."**

CARRIE MOSKOWITZ  
SCARSDALE RESIDENT

# Library

Continued from Page 1A

library Director Elizabeth Bermel said.

The village board this week was expected to discuss whether to put the bond to vote as early as February. If approved, the average household in Scarsdale would pay an additional \$137 per year in property taxes over the 15-year bond period.

If renovations move forward, the library would move into a temporary location on Heathcote Road for two years, Bermel said.

The 31,000-square-foot library lacks technological capabilities and meeting spaces that compare with others in Westchester County, she said.

"The people just want more," Bermel said. "So we started doing more and more, and now we're at the point where we would do more if we had the space, if we had the resources and the technology. (The concept) is all there, we just can't implement a lot of it because of constraints in the building."

The project would add about 7,000 square feet of space, including a glass-walled reading gallery overlooking a nearby park. In addition to the maintenance projects, interior construction would nearly double the children's space and add two large program rooms, four small meeting rooms, a technology instruction room and a larg-

er entrance with a café area.

"We came up with a plan that integrates all of these different needs in a lovely design that is not extravagant," Simon said. "It's functional, and it uses the residential, domesticated feel of our setting."

Alan Ellis of White Plains said he frequents the Scarsdale library because of its cozy location and old-school vibe, unlike larger, more modern libraries in White Plains and Greenburgh.

"The new one in Greenburgh has no soul to it," he said. "This place has a lot of character and it really reflects the demographic."

At a recent village board meeting, Scarsdale resident Carrie Moskowitz said she wasn't in favor of increasing taxes for a project of this magnitude.

"There's a big difference between wants and needs, and we feel that vision has been totally missed here," she said. "We're already a highly taxed community."

Library and village officials visited more than a dozen libraries in Westchester and Connecticut, including Ossining, Greenburgh and Mamaroneck. Those locations completed projects in recent years.

The village board meets Tuesday, 13. If it reaches a resolution then, a referendum vote would take place before Feb. 13. Otherwise, if a decision is reached by March, the vote could be held during the March 21 general village election, Village Attorney Wayne Essanason said.

Twitter: @reinerwire

# Hendrick Hudson Library Receives NY State Joseph F. Shubert Excellence Award for Green Initiatives

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Published on Monday, 05 December 2016 10:26

Written by PR2



The Hendrick Hudson Free Library in Montrose was recently honored by The New York State Regents Advisory Council with the 2016 Joseph F. Shubert Library Excellence Award. Given annually, the prestigious award recognizes the achievements of small, medium and large libraries in New York State that have taken significant steps within the past two years to improve the quality of library service to the community they serve. The Hendrick Hudson Library received this honor for being the first library in all of Westchester County to achieve their official Green Business Certification.

According to Jill Davis, Library Director for Hendrick Hudson, the library staff began the year and a half process leading to certification in 2013 and was part of the pilot group of businesses who undertook the challenge. The library officially received their certification in January of 2015 and as a Westchester Green Business-Certified (WGBC) business they have served as a model for their community. This award has given the staff at the library the opportunity to showcase the steps they were already taking to be eco-friendly while finding more ways to be resourceful and advance the need for sustainable thinking. According to Davis the entire building uses LED lights including the parking lot, they use compost for staff waste and 275 solar panels are being installed on the building for the new construction and addition to the children's room which will open in the spring. "We are so honored to receive this distinction for our leadership and advancement in the environmentally friendly practices we instituted at the library," said Davis. "Preserving our environment and resources is something everyone in our community must incorporate into their daily lives and we are glad to do our part and to help pave the pathway to a better future."

WGBC is the region's only green business certification program that provides the tools, training, and expertise for organizations to become true green business leaders within their industries. Certification is achieved through visionary leadership, organizational commitment and the successful integration of environmental sustainability into all areas of operation. According to Davis, since completing the official certification process, the

Hendrick Hudson Free Library continues to collect relevant data on energy, waste, and purchasing to submit it yearly to the WGBC. In addition to Green Business Certification, the Library has also received recognition for its achievements in leadership and education in the field of environmental conservation and efficiency from the Westchester Business Council, County Executive Rob Astorino and other local officials.

According to members of the award committee they were uniformly enthusiastic in the decision to honor the Hendrick Hudson Free Library submission as an excellent example of the "spirit of the Shubert award." The award which is named after the late Joseph F. Shubert, former State Librarian, includes a monetary gift of \$1,000 sponsored by the Friends of the New York State Library and will be officially presented to Davis in November at the New York Library Association Conference in Saratoga Springs. To learn more about the Hendrick Hudson Free Library connect with them on Social Media or visit them at [www.henhudfreelibrary.org](http://www.henhudfreelibrary.org)

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## Mamaroneck Voters Pass Library Budget, Elect Trustees



[Jon Craig](#) a minute ago



Mamaroneck voters approved the Mamaroneck Public Library's budget by a wide margin, 262 to 37 votes, and elected four library trustees. Photo Credit: *Robert Christie*

MAMARONECK, N.Y. -- About 88 percent of residents casting votes for the annual Mamaroneck Public Library supported it, officials said.

The budget totaling \$2,765,105.00 was approved by a vote of 262 for and 37 against on Wednesday.

Four library trustees were elected for a three-year term commencing June 1, 2017: Robert Sid Albert, who received 202 votes, Joanne Shaw, elected with 175 votes, Martha Sokol McCarty, who received 164 votes, and Katie Langan with 157 votes. (Clayton Otto just missed getting elected with 146 votes.)

In a press statement, Mamaroneck officials wrote, "The Library would like to thank the residents of the Village of Mamaroneck for their ongoing support. We look forward to another year of providing wonderful service to the community!"

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# The Journal News

LOCAL NEWS  
Monday, November 14, 2016

## Here's how to help this #GivingTuesday

Social media campaigns for philanthropy raised \$116M last year

PETER D. KRAMER PKRAMER@LOHUD.COM

You've made it through Black Friday, Small Business Saturday and Cyber Monday, days dedicated to consumerism.

Welcome to Giving Tuesday, a day set aside for altruism.

Since 2012, Giving Tuesday has changed the start of the holiday season, turning social media into a marketplace for philanthropy.

Last year alone, Giving Tuesday campaigns raised more than \$116 million online from 700,000 people in more than 70 countries. Closer to home, the campaign in the Lower Hudson Valley took off in 2015, with Non-profit Westchester reporting \$226,682 in donations, a

See **GIVING**, Page 4A

## Giving

Continued from Page 1A

343 percent rise from 2014.

Here's how you can do your part today. Check out our non-profit database, compiled in conjunction with Nonprofit Westchester and Volunteer New York, two umbrella groups for nonprofits. The database also includes agencies from Rockland and Putnam counties.

You can sort the database by county, by organization name or by issue area. You can follow links to their websites and do-

nate directly to groups you'd like to support. Or you can find out how to give of your time or talents, by clicking on the green link under the "give" column.

Here are a few of the ways you can help:

If you like animals, you can help Therapeutic Equestrian Center in Putnam, Children of Promise Stable in Rockland or Greenburgh Nature Center in Westchester.

Into the arts? Consider ArtsWestchester, Songcatchers, the Westchester Children's Museum or the Yonkers Philharmonic.

There are nonprofits specializing in helping kids. Among them: Big

Brothers and Big Sisters of Rockland County and Today's Students Tomorrow's Teachers.

Are you a bibliophile? There are 37 libraries listed in our database — from Ardsley to Ossining to White Plains — who'd love to hear from you on Giving Tuesday.

Once you've made your choice — to give your time, your talent or your treasure — take the last step and let your social-media friends know about it, using #GivingTuesday and #lohudcares. After all, Giving Tuesday is about building community around an idea.

Today, that idea is giving back.