WLS WELCOMES NEW BOARD MEMBERS

Two new members have joined the Westchester Library System (WLS) board of directors. Susan Morduch of Ardsley is the District VI representative, covering Ardsley, Dobbs Ferry, Greenburgh, Hastings-on-Hudson and Irvington. Karen Zevin of Croton-on-Hudson is the District I representative, covering Croton-on-Hudson, Montrose and Yorktown. Each will serve a five-year term.

Morduch is a licensed psychologist in private practice and at CHE Senior Psychological Services in Croton-on-Hudson, where she conducts psychotherapy sessions with geriatric residents and consults with professional staff. Previously she worked with the Ardsley Public Library for more than five years.

Zevin is a market researcher, analyst and project manager. Her nonprofit experience includes nine years as an elected school board trustee, leadership roles in regional school advocacy associations, treasurer of the Croton Free Library and involvement with the village of Croton financial sustainability committee.

"We are pleased to have these talented and experienced individuals join our board and look forward to their active participation," said Terry Kirchner, Westchester Library System executive director. "Their diverse knowledge and extensive community engagement will bring new insight to the Westchester Library System."

In addition, the WLS board re-elected the following officers for 2017: Catherine Draper of Pelham as president, Mary Amato of Yonkers as vice-president, Sean Ryan of Armonk as secretary and Edris Scherer of North Castle as treasurer.
COUNSELING AND PLANNING AT LIBRARIES

The WEBS Career and Educational Counseling Service will be offering career-counseling and life-planning programs in Westchester public libraries beginning in late February. WEBS is sponsored by the Westchester Library System. The programs are 19-hour seminars consisting of an orientation session, eight weekly group sessions and one individual session with a career counselor.

The first program is titled "Managing Your Career in Changing Times." It will help adults assess themselves, explore career options, obtain career and educational information, learn trends in resumes and job searches and develop a career plan. The program is geared to those who are unemployed, changing careers, reentering the workforce or returning to school. The program will be offered at three public libraries: Pelham on Tuesday evenings, Greenburgh on Wednesday afternoons and Somers on Wednesday mornings.

The second program is titled "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. It will cover part-time and full-time work, volunteering, entrepreneurial ventures and learning and leisure opportunities. This program will be offered at the Chappaqua Public Library on Tuesday mornings and the Yonkers Public Library (Will Branch) on Thursday afternoons.

For information and registration, call 914-674-3612.
GREENBURGH, NY — The lack of parking at the Greenburgh Public Library has prompted the Town Supervisor Paul Feiner to recommend adding funds for parking expansion.

Feiner said he will suggest appropriating $50,000 in the 2017 budget for parking at the library.

"We're lucky that we have a fantastic library that people love to use," he said. "The town will do the work in house—which should save taxpayer dollars."

Feiner is interested in whether people have had problems parking at the library. If so, email him here (mailto:pfeiner@greenburghny.com).

Image via Shutterstock.
Author Abigail Pogrebin will speak about her new book, "My Jewish Year: 18 Holidays, One Wondering Jew" at Scarsdale Public Library on Thursday, March 16, at 7:30pm.

"My Jewish Year" chronicles Pogrebin’s experience researching and observing every holiday in the Jewish calendar. Released this month, it’s a poignant, funny, and thoughtful take on finding modern-day meaning in ancient rituals. Combining a treasure trove of information with personal anecdotes, Pogrebin’s spiritual journey is moving and inspiring.

Abigail Pogrebin also wrote “Stars of David: Prominent Jews Talk about Being Jewish” and “One and the Same.” Previously, she was an Emmy-nominated producer for shows including Charlie Rose and 60 Minutes. Currently, she moderates a blockbuster interview series at the JCC in Manhattan called “What’s Everyone Talking About,” with such guests as Malcolm Gladwell, Nicholas Kristof and Mario Batali. She is also the President of Central Synagogue.

“We are looking forward to having Abigail Pogrebin share her unique experience at the library,” said Library Director Beth Bermel. “I think that the insight she gained while pursuing a greater knowledge and understanding of the Jewish faith is one that will be of great interest to our community.”

This program is free and open to the public, but registration is required as space is limited. Copies of “My Jewish Year” will be available for purchase and signing. To register, visit www.scarsdalelibrary.org, or call the Reference Desk at 914-722-1302.
John C. Hart Library Receives Large Gift from Woman’s Estate

By Rick Pezzullo

John C. Hart Library will soon be making several upgrades thanks to a former patron who left the 96-year-old institution in Shrub Oak $390,854 in her will.

Library Director Patricia Hallinan notified the Yorktown Town Board last week of the generous gift made by Alice Maram, who died on April 15, 2013. The library learned about the funding about a year later but some legal hurdles had to be cleared before the money could be deposited into the library's Trustees Gift Fund.

"The Library Board of Trustees will ensure that her gift to the library will provide a lasting benefit to library users in the Town of Yorktown," Hallinan said.

Maram was a teacher, art collector and a naturalist. According to Hallinan, Maram and her sister, Cora Sanders, spent summers in Shrub Oak Colony before Sanders and her husband moved there permanently and Maram visited often on weekends and vacations. Maram also eventually relocated to the area full-time. She died at the Fieldhome in Cortlandt.

Hallinan said the library plans to use some of the money to renovate the three public bathrooms and make them Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant for the handicapped and elderly. Plans are also in the works to remodel the adult room and library officials will be reaching out to the community for input on that project.

"This truly is a gift and we're really looking to make necessary improvements to the physical library," said Library Board of Trustees President Michael Resko. "In the long-term it will be incredibly beneficial. In all respects, it's a blessing to the library."
IN PLAIN SIGHT
Drug and alcohol concealment trends and identifiers

FREE TRAINING SESSION
for law enforcement personnel,
school personnel,
prevention counselors,
and community members

PRE-REGISTRATION REQUIRED
Walk-ins welcome, space permitting.

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 2:45pm - 4:45pm or 7pm - 8:30pm
Hendrick Hudson Free Library, 185 Kings Ferry Road, Montrose, NY

Presented by Police Officer Jermaine Galloway,
aka "the Tall Cop." At 6' 9" tall, Galloway is an
intimidating figure, but his concern for the well being
of American youth and our communities is
undeniable. Galloway is a career law enforcement
officer with 20 years of experience and expertise in
drug and alcohol concealment, trends and prevention.
"You can't stop what you don't know," says Galloway.

To register for either session, contact:
Cortlandt Community Coalition Coordinator
Colleen Anderson
ColleenA@townofcortlandt.com
or call 914-734-1052
NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. -- If you're going to be sad, why not be sad in Florence? At least that was the thinking of Pamela Hull, who, three years after her husband of 36 years passed away, decided to go abroad.

At the time Hull was living in New Rochelle and had two grown kids. She had a career as an interior designer and painter and had dabbled in writing. Her first book, "Where's My Bride?" a memoir of a marriage -- which she wrote at age 60 -- had just been published.

Paul's death from pancreatic cancer meant there was a lot of deep mourning, some therapy, and much inner soul searching, said Hull. When an opportunity arose to live in Europe for two months, she figured, why not?

The experience became so empowering -- and freeing -- she went to Rome. Then London. And eventually, Paris (though not all on the same trip). The result is her latest tome, "Say Yes! Flying Solo After Sixty," a personal account of learning to live her best life.

It was a process that took many steps and was never easy.
I was determined to make my life an expansive one, take it to higher levels of capability, find new creative outlets," she said.

She said talking to strangers -- which she'd always been good at -- helped, though in Europe, this often led to flirting. "Nothing that went anywhere," she said. "And were often with men half my age, the guy who sold cheese, or flowers, etc., but it was wonderful and felt so self-empowering. It makes one bold, gives one moxie."

Writing, she said, was cathartic. "It made me feel powerful that I could fill a blank page, a blank canvas, and produce something wonderful."

So far, the response to her story has been "phenomenal" as it's inspired others -- as well as herself -- "to take one's life to a more expansive level, to resurrect old passions, to find new dreams and adventures that will enhance one's life in so many ways and get rid of the feeling of helplessness."

It also let to the impetus behind her move to Manhattan, a dream she never knew she had.

Go to Amazon (https://www.amazon.com/Say-Yes-Flying-After-Sixty/dp/1683489721) for more information. And mark your calendars. Hull will be speaking about her adventures at the Chappaqua Library on May 4.

Follow Jeanne Muchnick on Facebook and Twitter lifestyle Content Partnership
HARRISON, N.Y. -- Aviation pioneer Amelia Earhart was once a resident of Harrison.

Earhart moved to Harrison in 1931 shortly after marrying Rye native George Palmer Putnam, a renowned publisher in his day.

Shortly after moving to Harrison, Earhart became the first woman to fly across the Atlantic Ocean as a passenger. Two years later, she piloted her own plane across the Atlantic making her the first female to do so.

To celebrate her many contributions to the fields of aviation, publishing, and fashion, Harrison Mayor Ron Belmont said the community will be holding an array of events, throughout the coming months, that honor the 80th anniversary of Amelia Earhart's last flight.

In 1937, Earhart attempted to pilot her own plane around the world and disappeared over the Atlantic Ocean. To mark her feats, the Harrison Public Library will be showing the movie, “Amelia” at 1 p.m. on Thursday, Feb. 23.

On Friday, Feb. 24, at 2 p.m., local historian Paul Hicks will offer an in-depth look at the life and times of Amelia Earhart. Check the library’s website, www.harrisonpl.org, for updates on new events and programs.

Earhart attempted to fly a plane around the world in 1937, but disappeared somewhere over the Pacific Ocean. Her disappearance remains unsolved.
A monument in Earhart's memory and accomplishments is in Sawon Park downtown by the Municipal Building.

More on Earhart and other famous Westchester residents can be found by clicking here. (http://www.westchesterarchives.com)

Follow Jon Craig on Facebook and Twitter
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Welcome to

Harrison Daily Voice!

This is a one time message inviting you to keep in touch

Get important news about your town as it happens.
LIFE & STYLE
Thursday, February 16, 2017

Black History Month Events

Feb. 16


Yonkers: Yonkers African American Heritage Committee Educational series. Topic: Black Panther Vanguard of the Revolution. 4:30-7:30 p.m. at Yonkers Public Library, Grinton I. Will Branch, 1500 Central Park Ave., Yonkers, 914-751-8023.

Ongoing

New Rochelle: Notable African-Americans of New Rochelle. From powerful civil rights activists to internationally renowned vocalists; award-winning actors to celebrated sports stars, New Rochelle has been home to a significant number of the country's leading African-Americans. The remarkable lives of 16 of these late, great New Rochelle residents are celebrated in this new exhibit from the library's local history department, presented in partnership with the New Rochelle Council on the Arts. On view at New Rochelle Public Library through Feb. 26. The popular African dance workshops by Bokandeye African Dance and Drum Troupe, a tradition at New Rochelle Public Library, continues Saturdays throughout February. The hands-on music and movement series for ages 7 and older (and parents, too), provides instruction on native African dance, while also instilling an understanding of the cultural meanings of the movements, rhythms, dress, African village life and the role of the extended family. Sessions are free. Culminating performance at 2 p.m. Feb. 25. 11 a.m.-noon. through Feb. 25. Ossie Davis Theater, New Rochelle Public Library, 1 Library Plaza, New Rochelle. 914-632-7878, nrpl.org.

Feb. 26

New Rochelle: Concert: “Milestone Negro Spirituals Until The Civil War: When Folksongs Bring Freedom.” Renowned bassist Hilliard Greene performs the interactive concert that traces the role of spirituals and folk songs in the struggle for freedom from slavery. Greene uses a lively narrative to explain the messages behind familiar songs and invites audience members to raise their voices as well. 3 p.m. Suggested donation: $2 for audience members 16 years and older. Ossie Davis Theater of the New Rochelle Public Library, 1 Library Plaza.

Twitter: @MaMalmonte
Yonkers' Will library faces makeover

The exterior changes include swapping single-pane windows for double panes, which will reduce the intrusions of noise and cold. The concrete wall panels will be replaced on all sides with terracotta.

YONKERS - A $4.2 million makeover for the Yonkers Public Library's Will branch will eliminate the multicolored panels on its facade and warm up the main reading room.

The library's trustees expect to open contractors' bids this month on the $1.8 million first phase of the renovation, which will address the rusting, crumbling front window panels that make the library one of Central Park Avenue's most distinctive landmarks.

"Every exterior part of the building except for the roof is going to be changed under this plan," said library director Edward Falcone. "The building will be insulated for the first time. There is not a lick of insulation in that building, which is unfortunate. It's not something they did 50 years ago."

COFFEE BREAK: Yonkers Public Library considering cafes in branches (story/news/education/2017/01/24/yonkers-public-library/96969342)


LIBRARIAN-LESS: Former Pound Ridge Library director asks court to reinstate her (story/news/local/westchester/pound-ridge/2016/12/30/former-pound-ridge-library-director-asks-court-reinstate-her/95965810)

The exterior changes include swapping the single-pane windows for double panes, which will reduce the intrusions of outside noise and freezing temperatures. The library's concrete panels will be replaced on all sides with a terracotta material that has a similar appearance.

Library officials began thinking about renovations because the concrete panels on the Will library's exterior started curling away from the building 20 to 30 years ago and they present a future safety threat.

The library, formally known as the Grinton I. Will Branch, opened in November 1962 and was designed in the mid-century modern style by architect Eli Rabineau (http://findingnids.cul.columbia.edu/ead/mnc-a/idpd_10238481/summary), who was active in Westchester County from 1946 until 1970. Rabineau, who died in 1991, designed many local public buildings and Jewish centers, including Bet Torah (https://bettorah.org/) in Mount Kisco and Montessori School 27 (http://www.yonkerspublicschools.org/montessori27) in Yonkers.

The first phase of the work is expected to begin in the late spring or early summer and it will focus on the front of the building and part of the northern side where the children's library is located. Library officials expect phase two after the city borrows $2.4 million in July to complete the back and north sides of the building.

No interior renovations are planned, unless there is money left over from the exterior work.

Falcone said library officials encountered little public resistance to the idea of changing the Will library's appearance at public meetings, though said the library board was very concerned about the change.

"It turns out that the panels were originally designed as a sun-screening device," said Falcone, noting that the library's renovation architect determined the panels were ineffective as sun screens. "They let the wrong kind of sunlight in and the block a lot of the good sunlight."

Photos: Yonkers library slated for renovation
Clerk Betsy Sodano checks in materials that were left in the overnight bin at the Yonkers Public Library's Will branch. (Photo: Mark Vergari/The Journal News)

The sun-screening replacements will be stainless steel screens that will sit perpendicular to the windows and extend from the roof to the ground. They are designed to block the day's most destructive direct sunlight while allowing ambient light to enter the building.

The steel screens will also have colored metal pieces clipped on to them that resemble the colors of the original panels.

"We actually met with the state historic preservation office and worked with them to make sure that the design would reference the original design and colors," said Susan Thaler, the library's deputy director.

There are other changes in store for the Will library, including a new boiler that is not part of the remodeling project. A survey last year of the Yonkers Public Library's patrons revealed that some patrons want a cafe, so library officials will consider self-service beverage stations or vending machines at the Will and Riverfront branches.

Library officials are also considering creating new, smaller meeting rooms for community and study groups at the Will branch.

On a recent weekday, patrons waiting outside for the doors to open said that they were happy with the Will library.

Wonderful Aba, 16, a junior at the nearby Roosevelt High School, said he regularly comes to the library after school with friends.

"It's more like a place where kids come to hang out," Aba said. "You can also study. It's not too noisy, not too crowded."

James Penin, 39, came to the Will branch from the Bronx. He used to live in Yonkers, and said the environment at the Will branch is better than in the Bronx's public libraries.

"I'm trying to get my driver's license," Penin said. "It's a place for peace of mind. You can come here and study."
Holocaust survivor in New Rochelle

Dr. Moshe Avital and his wife Anita Avital with New Rochelle board of trustees representative Haina Just-Michael. Avital shared his story Sunday at the New Rochelle Public Library.

Moshe Avital spent 6 years in Nazi hands
NEW ROCHELLE - Moshe Avital lived through "hell on earth" and shares a special mission with other Holocaust survivors to reveal that history to future generations.

Standing alone Sunday on a stage inside the New Rochelle Public Library, the 88-year-old Avital related to an audience his harrowing history of survival through six years of concentration camps, labor camps, ghettos and forced marches during World War II.

Speaking in a deep and penetrating voice, Avital said the world was going through a time when "mass murder was routine" and "the message of hate has found receptive ears in many European countries."

But through it all, Avital said his faith allowed him to carry on through the "Jewish tragedy."

"Strength, dignity and hope can take root in even the darkest of places," Avital told the crowd of more than 50 people in the library's Ossie Davis Theater. "My story includes suffering, along with stories of faith, hope and perseverance and courage in the face of overwhelming odds; and of never, ever giving up."

Avital spoke about his experiences days after international Holocaust Remembrance Day, which on Friday marked the 72nd anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the Nazis' largest concentration camp.

The program was presented in conjunction with the photo exhibit "Odor Vador/From Generation to Generation," which features portraits of Holocaust survivors and their children and grandchildren by The Journal News/lohud photographer Seth Harrison.

Haina Just-Michael, a member of the library's board, said she drew historical parallels from Avital's story to President Donald Trump's executive order on Friday to temporarily bar people from multiple Muslim-majority nations from entering the U.S.

"What happened yesterday at the airports, where immigrants weren't allowed in, hurt us so much, because we, as Jews, came from immigrants," Just-Michael said.

Protests erupted at airports and in cities around the country this weekend as reports spread of refugees, immigrants and green-card holders, among others, being detained and denied entry.

Avital, who lives in New Rochelle, spoke for about an hour. He is also the author of more than a dozen books, the most recent of which is "Hope, Faith, and Resilience: What The Germans Couldn't Take From Us."

During his talk, Avital recounted his journey starting at the age of 9 when Hungarian forces occupied his town in eastern Czechoslovakia — while Germans annexed the western portion of the country — to his liberation from a concentration camp in 1945 when he was 16.

Avital described how he and his family were forced into boxcars with thousands of others and transported to a ghetto and later to Auschwitz, which he described as "the largest slaughterhouse in all of Europe."

It was in Auschwitz that Avital was separated from his remaining family. He recalled the final moment he saw his mother, sisters and others.

"I just saw them disappear into the group of women and children," he said. "We didn't have time — even a moment — to say goodbye."

Avital then worked in slave-labor camps in other concentration camps. He described working 12-hour shifts on little food, enduring harsh winters, and the constant sight of soldiers with guns pointed at him.

When liberated from a concentration camp by U.S. soldiers in 1945, Avital said he weighed a mere 70 pounds.

Avital said it was the duty of all survivors "to tell the tragic truth in full."

"We survivors carry with us all the broken fragments of our people's past: the broken lives, the anguished deaths. For we refuse to let the deaths be in vain," he said.

Among those in the audience was Christopher Place, 17, of Pawling, who said Avital's story "has to be known by people."

"This is stuff that shouldn't just disappear," Place said. "It's a thing that needs to be shared, and that's what he's doing."

"Very powerful," said Eugene Wilk, 71, of New Rochelle.

Wilk, who attended the program with his wife, Deborah, said Avital's story was important for both people of the Jewish faith and mankind.

"This happened to us. We can't forget it," Wilk said. "It's something that's in our history. For the human-kind answer. This is still going on. You would think that the world would have grown to realize that no matter what religion it is, no matter what race it is, no matter what reasons you think you have to exterminate people, that it is just plan wrong."