

ARTSNEWS

MAY 2022



Sculpture by Georgi Minchev at 50 Main Street in White Plains (photo credit Thompson & Bender)

SERIOUS FUN ARTS FEST
COMING SOON

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From the County Executive

Hello, and Happy Spring! Thank you for taking a few moments to read this edition of ArtsNews. As we make our way into warmer weather and begin to explore the outdoors, I want to encourage all of you to take advantage of the many events offered by our friends at ArtsWestchester. If you are looking for a family-fun activity or a Saturday afternoon outing, there are plenty of in-person arts happenings throughout our County. This season, arts groups will be providing a new, robust schedule of programming, which are detailed in this issue of ArtsNews, including:

- an upcoming arts festival in White Plains (see page A4-7)
- celebrating 75 years of Bedford Playhouse (see page A16-17)
- the world premiere of five one-act plays (see page A23)

The arts can help all of us re-set, reflect and refresh for the days ahead. We should all find a few moments of respite, and participate in the wonderful arts opportunities that are right at our fingertips. As Westchester County continues on its path forward, remember that the arts will always be here for us to enjoy.

Sincerely,
George Latimer
Westchester County Executive

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Jean-Marc Superville Sovak, *Pinkster King*

FROM THE CEO

by Janet Langsam,
ArtsWestchester CEO



(photo credit: Cathy Pinsky)

Who Writes History?

ArtsWestchester’s current *Who Writes History?* exhibition was conceived during the height of the disinformation surge in this country. If one were to ask Winston Churchill his view on the subject, he would likely say with a smirk: “history is written by the victors.” And, to be sure, many scholars agree. However, at ArtsWestchester we think everyone has a story for the history books. We are story-keepers here and have become a repository of voices – the voices of women, immigrants, minorities, indigenous peoples – that echo stories left out of history books. This is one of the reasons we call ourselves The Arts Exchange. Years ago, banks were called exchanges, and we house our gallery in the former People’s National Bank. Here in our home, we amplify diverse voices. As a community museum, we collect and reveal our peoples’ pasts as well as their future aspirations. Those voices that are most yearning to be heard are the voices in this exhibition. *Who Writes History?* acknowledges that all voices are valid in what has become our undeniable American narrative.



Don’t miss Janet’s weekly blog posts at: thisandthatbyjl.com

WHAT IS SERIOUS FUN?



“At ArtsWestchester, when we talk about ‘Serious Fun’, we mean art that tickles you; art that challenges you; and especially art that is in your face,” says CEO Janet Langsam. “Surprise! It’s public art right there on the street. What fun!”

Take for example the monumental sculpture by artist Georgi Minchev, which Martin Ginsburg worked with ArtsWestchester to commission for his City Square development. Ginsburg Development Companies (GDC) is one of many developers and corporations working with the arts organization as sponsors and participants of the [Serious Fun Arts Fest](#), when art takes over White Plains on October 12-16.

Other festival partners include the Cappelli Organization; City Center; The Galleria White Plains; Glacier Global Partners and The Opus; Greystar; LMC, a Lennar Company; MTA Away; Southern Land Company and Westchester Magazine.

Now artists in the Hudson Valley are cheering with the news that ArtsWestchester has been awarded a \$500,000 grant to mount the festival, which is touted as a five-day celebration of the cultural community, [where art and music will take over White Plains](#).

The Market New York grant from I LOVE NY/New York State’s Division of Tourism was awarded through the State’s Regional Economic Development Council initiative. At its core, this will help ArtsWestchester to use the arts as a way of supporting economic development and promoting tourism in White Plains.

According to Langsam, the grant gives the organization an opportunity to showcase the vast talent that exists in the Hudson Valley region: “The Serious Fun Arts Fest is the capstone project of more than five years of work and planning in public art. We know this investment in public art and placemaking will enliven the city for years to come.”

Westchester muralist Daniel Carello says: “I’m thrilled to hear the news about the arts festival grant. It will certainly help the arts community, which has greatly been affected by the pandemic, with financial support and aid in restoring enthusiasm and an esprit de corps

among artists during this challenging period.”

The Serious Fun Arts Fest will brighten the city with arts activities that range from concerts and live mural painting to a public art walking tour and dancing in the streets. There will be sculptures, performance

art, massive public art unveilings by renowned artists, family art-making activities, and more throughout the downtown.

The timing of the festival capitalizes on the fall foliage period, when consumers seek accessible and exciting destinations for long weekends. The event will be a perfect outing for locals and visitors who come to White Plains by bus, train or car, and traveling up the

The Serious Fun Arts Fest is the capstone project of more than five years of work and planning in public art. We know this investment in public art and placemaking will enliven the city for years to come.”

-Janet Langsam,
CEO, ArtsWestchester

Hudson Valley. Successful “mural fests” in urban settings like Jersey City, Miami and Brooklyn inspired the festival’s strategy.

Ross D. Levi, Empire State Development Vice President and Executive Director of Tourism, says: “The Serious Fun Arts Fest will bring the arts outdoors in a fun and innovative way for residents and visitors alike. Paired with local museums and historical sites, outdoor activities on the nearby Empire State Trail, and farm-to-table food and craft beverage offerings, it will make for a great weekend getaway, and we encourage everyone to come be a part of some serious fun.”

Langsam and White Plains Mayor Tom Roach were on a recent

MTA panel to select a major new work of art for the Metro North Train Station, which just completed a \$94 Million renovation. Visitors coming to White Plains by train are now welcomed to the city by [two major art installations by Barbara Takenaga](#), which were commissioned by MTA Arts & Design.

Roach explains: “A number of years ago, Janet Langsam and ArtsWestchester articulated to me their vision of weaving art into the city’s downtown landscape by incorporating it into mixed-use development projects and other public improvement projects occurring in the city. Since that time, they have pursued making this vision a reality with laser focus and steadfast attention. Clearly, their efforts have paid off and White Plains is the better for it.”

In addition to Takenaga’s luminescent mosaics at the train station, the 2022 fall arts festival will spotlight landmark artworks, including a two-story reflective [stainless steel teardrop sculpture](#) by Bulgarian artist Georgi Minchev, a nine-story vibrant fabric installation by internationally renowned artist Amanda Browder, a skyscraper-high landmark mural by a celebrity of the street art scene, three sculpture installations by Hudson Valley artists, and more.

Says Roach: “‘Serious Fun’ aims to coalesce the variety of public

art projects that have already been completed, and launch several new ones in a five-day event that will attract new visitors and position White Plains as a creative force in the county well into the future.”

ArtsWestchester has been working with multiple major developers, such as GDC; LMC, a Lennar Company; the Beitel Group; and Trinity Financial to incorporate public art into new residential housing projects.

ArtsWestchester’s recent public art commissions include five vibrant murals at Ridge Hill Shopping Center in Yonkers; six colorful murals around the former Westchester Pavilion Mall in White Plains; two murals at the White Plains Housing Authority’s Winbrook residences; and a series of [10 major works of art on the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge path](#).

This festival is the organization’s latest investment in a public art program that, since 2020, has provided artists with more than \$700,000 in grants and commissions, and has delivered two-dozen new works throughout Westchester County.



Mural by Oscar Lett on South Broadway in White Plains, commissioned with ArtsWestchester by LMC, a Lennar Company (photo credit: William Bermingham)

feature

Friends of Neuberger: Capturing a Contemporary Spirit

by Susan Manspeizer



Cleve Gray, *Threnody*, 1972-73. polymer acrylic, Duco enamel and oil on canvas. 28 panels, 20 feet x 250 feet. Collection Friends of the Neuberger Museum of Art, Purchase College, SUNY. Gift of the Artist with support from the Friends of the Neuberger Museum of Art. (photo credit: Jerry Thompson)

What is contemporary art? This is a question not to be answered in a word, but pondered and defined in one's own terms. Today's contemporary art differs vastly from the contemporary art that existed in the time of Roy N. Neuberger, the founder of the Neuberger Museum of Art (NMA), situated on the campus grounds of SUNY Purchase. He felt that the way to support artists was to buy their work while they were alive. In fact, the work that he purchased for his personal collection in the 1940s-'60s became the basis of the Neuberger's permanent art collection. The world has changed dramatically since then, and art perceptions have changed along with it.

The Friends of Neuberger group, which formed in 1972 prior to the Museum's opening in 1974, understood its founder's mission, and has since continued to honor it by carrying out his vision and acquiring works of living artists. The group has also been instrumental in supporting NMA's programs and educational outreach to underserved communities. In short, the Friends of Neuberger capture a

collection continues to grow through its acquisitions and donations. In fact, visitors may notice a plethora of materials and techniques used in the works on display.

For instance, artist Shahram Karimi, paints a scene entitled *Winter*. Superimposed on the cool gray and white oil paints is an element of surprise: Karimi uses a light source to produce a flickering effect, causing the wintery field to shimmer. Polly Apfelbaum created *Carpet of Color* using felt yarn and safety pins to mimic rows of randomly placed color. Chakaia Booker utilizes black rubber tires and metal stain to create a small box sculpture with a large statement. Cut rubber tires, which have traveled miles before being recycled into this new form, spill over the box towards the viewer.

Two works that use the female figure as a focal point are Whitfield Lovell's *Bringer* and Richard Diebenkorn's *Girl on a Terrace*. Lovell's larger-than-life charcoal female, surrounded by lamps, table and lace cloth, stares at the viewer and brings them into her actualized space.

When I decided to re-install *Threnody* for the 50th anniversary of our Friends organization, I did so long ago – prior to the beginning of a new war. As I watched the piece being installed for the exhibition, I was reminded of the poignancy of art and its ways of communicating in times of hardship and sorrow.”

-Tracy Fitzpatrick,
Director, Neuberger Museum of Art

contemporary spirit, becoming risk-takers like their founder.

It is through the lens of this Friends group that the Museum presents its current exhibition, [*The Friends at 50: Selections From Their Collection*](#), on view through July 3.

Says NMA's director, Tracy Fitzpatrick: “Roy Neuberger championed emerging artists working in the United States at that time. Inspired by the struggle of artists to gain notice and support, he saw their place within the building of his collection as an essential part of his lifelong work.”

Since Roy Neuberger's original gift of several-hundred pieces, the Museum has expanded to over 6,000 objects that span a wide range of media and artists, forming what Fitzpatrick calls a “collections of collections.” Significant holdings include the Aimee W. Hirschberg and Lawrence Gussman Collections of African Art; the Hans Richter bequest of Dada and Surrealist objects; the George and Edith Rickey Collection of Constructivist Art; and the Luis Calzadilla Collection of Contemporary Latin American Art.

While the Museum's works do not all fall within Neuberger's specialty of mid-century American art, it is with the same zest that the

Diebenkorn's work, which was part of Roy Neuberger's collection, creates bold color fields of blue, green and terracotta, superimposing a partial figure dreamingly looking into the distance. His space is contained within a traditional rectangle, while Lovell's installation encompasses real space.

While Roy N. Neuberger's collection has become a more familiar palette to digest, the Friend's show is creating a new language to be understood. One of the most substantial works in the collection was one commissioned specifically for the NMA: Cleve Gray's *Threnody*, which is on view as part of the *Friends at 50* exhibition.

Says Fitzpatrick: “When I decided to re-install *Threnody* for the 50th anniversary of our Friends organization, I did so long ago – prior to the beginning of a new war. As I watched the piece being installed for the exhibition, I was reminded of the poignancy of art and its ways of communicating in times of hardship and sorrow.”

Threnody, like many works in the exhibition, demonstrates: Seeing images of artworks, versus seeing the works in person are indeed two very different experiences.

Rising From the Ashes

by Sarah Van Buren

The male-rock-star smashed-guitar cliché is nothing new. But in Naama Tsabar’s internationally acclaimed 2018 *Melodies of Certain Damage* installation, the artist uses this same cliché as a device to explore connections between destruction and creation.

Tsabar begins by breaking a guitar in her studio, alone. Then she reassembles new instruments that defy categorization using piano strings, guitar strings and hardware. There is a sort of alchemy involved; the pieces transcend brokenness to occupy a new, hopeful space. Tsabar shifts the focus from a violent act to a focus on its aftermath. What might arise from the ashes? She then, along with several collaborators, plays the instruments.

This month, KinoSaito Art Center will bring Tsabar on-site for an [installation and set of performances](#) that feature these exploded guitar works. With collaborators, the Israeli-born, New York City-based artist will rehearse at the Center to build and perform a musical composition, *Melodies of Certain Damage, Opus 5*.

Tsabar works exclusively with female-identifying and gender-nonconforming performers in her projects. She explains: “Thinking of these works as new instruments – and thinking about the history of mastering an instrument as being so gendered and so male, [working with non-male performers] gives them a new history and a new gender.”

The cast includes KinoSaito’s Treasurer and board member Sarah Strauss, who is also a drummer that has worked with Tsabar in the past. Strauss was involved with the planning and opening of KinoSaito last September, helping to transform its building from a former Catholic school into the current multidisciplinary arts center.

Strauss adds: “During the design and renovation process, I kept imagining Naama performing this piece, which has a destructive-creative energy that rhymes perfectly with [our] work of turning the wreckage of a neglected school into a world-class art space.”

Strauss explains that KinoSaito is rooted in the creation and practice of abstract art, and is committed to experimentation. The Center also honors the spirit of its founding muse, Japanese-American abstract painter and avant-garde theater designer Kikuo Saito (1939–2016). Once

a Catholic school, and then Saito’s studio, the building now houses several galleries and residency studios, as well as a performance space, classroom, café and garden.

“We are in a circular pattern as a species...constantly destroying and having to pick up the pieces,” observed Tsabar. She references past art movements like Dada, which sprang out of a resistance to capitalism and war. “Art reacts to... the stress of the human condition, [introducing] new ways of thinking about creation.” When the Arab Spring began in 2010, “there were all these...archaeological sites that were bombed... That, paired with the devastation of killing, shook me so much – and brought me to these works.” However, Tsabar concedes, “there is hope in these works; there is a way to think about the breaking as generating a new life, and a new way.”

Naama Tsabar brings *Melodies of Certain Damage, Opus 5* to KinoSaito for [four performances](#) on May 14 and May 21. When performances are not taking place, visitors may interact with the installation. The Center will also hold [all-day screenings](#) of two of Tsabar’s video works: *Untitled (Babies)* on May 15 and *Stranger* on May 22.

“There is a sort of alchemy involved; the pieces transcend brokenness to occupy a new, hopeful space. Tsabar shifts the focus from a violent act to a focus on its aftermath. What might arise from the ashes?”



Naama Tsabar, *Melody of Certain Damage #14*, 2021 (photo credit: Zaire Kaczmariski)

Photographer Tony Vaccaro: Still Searching at 99

by Alyssa Monte

When looking at old photographs, one often instinctively wishes that they were present for the moment during which the photo was taken. [Rye Arts Center \(RAC\)'s latest exhibition](#) fulfills that desire. The works on display by Tony Vaccaro can make an observer feel like they are stepping into a time machine, placing them right behind the photographer's lens.

Portraits, Personalities, Passion: The Photography of Tony Vaccaro showcases portraits of prominent artists, scenes of war and a selection of the artist's cameras and personal memorabilia through May 13.

The RAC exhibited a fifty-year retrospective thirty years ago. Still, co-curator Gail Harrison Roman, after a visit to the artist's studio, decided it was time to display his work once again. She adds: "Vaccaro's international reputation as an innovator of creative photographic techniques and artistic presentation is well deserved." Roman curated the current show with Patrick Cicalo and Sarah Mackay.

Tony Vaccaro was introduced to photography at an early age, and shot more than 8,000 photos while serving in the army during World War II. During this time, he produced insightful, raw images that evoke intense emotion to this day. Cicalo emphasizes that "to do what Tony did, he had to have a certain amount of humility and empathy for his subjects [to be able to] bring back the horrors of war for all of us to see."

These photographs are attributed to his bravery, fearlessness and trusty Argus C3 camera. This camera was able to withstand the extremely harsh environment, and stayed intact even when Vaccaro had to dive into the dirt to snap the photo he wanted. This camera, just one of many in his large collection, is on display in RAC's gallery.

Says Mackay: "These objects bring his past to the present in a very tangible way. I see them not just as vital aspects of his career and artistic practice, but as a collection of treasures."

Following the war, Vaccaro worked as a photojournalist for several established magazines. On each assignment he was given, he developed a personal relationship with his subjects, helping them to feel comfortable letting their guard down in front of the camera. Whether it was Georgia O'Keeffe playfully posing with a piece of cheese on an unexpected car picnic, Willem de Kooning deep in thought as he stares into his painting or Peggy Guggenheim on a gondola with her dog, Vaccaro spotlights sides of these individuals that we would have never otherwise known. He achieved this by creating honest environmental portraits that unveiled his subjects' true essence.

Mackay adds: "Displaying Vaccaro's celebrity portraits allows viewers to create their own narration and insert themselves into the experience. It humanizes these famous figures."

This exhibition is a monumental culmination of Vaccaro's work. It highlights his honest documentation of history and his innate ability to tell a story. "I am part of all these pictures," Vaccaro says. "Each one is a story."

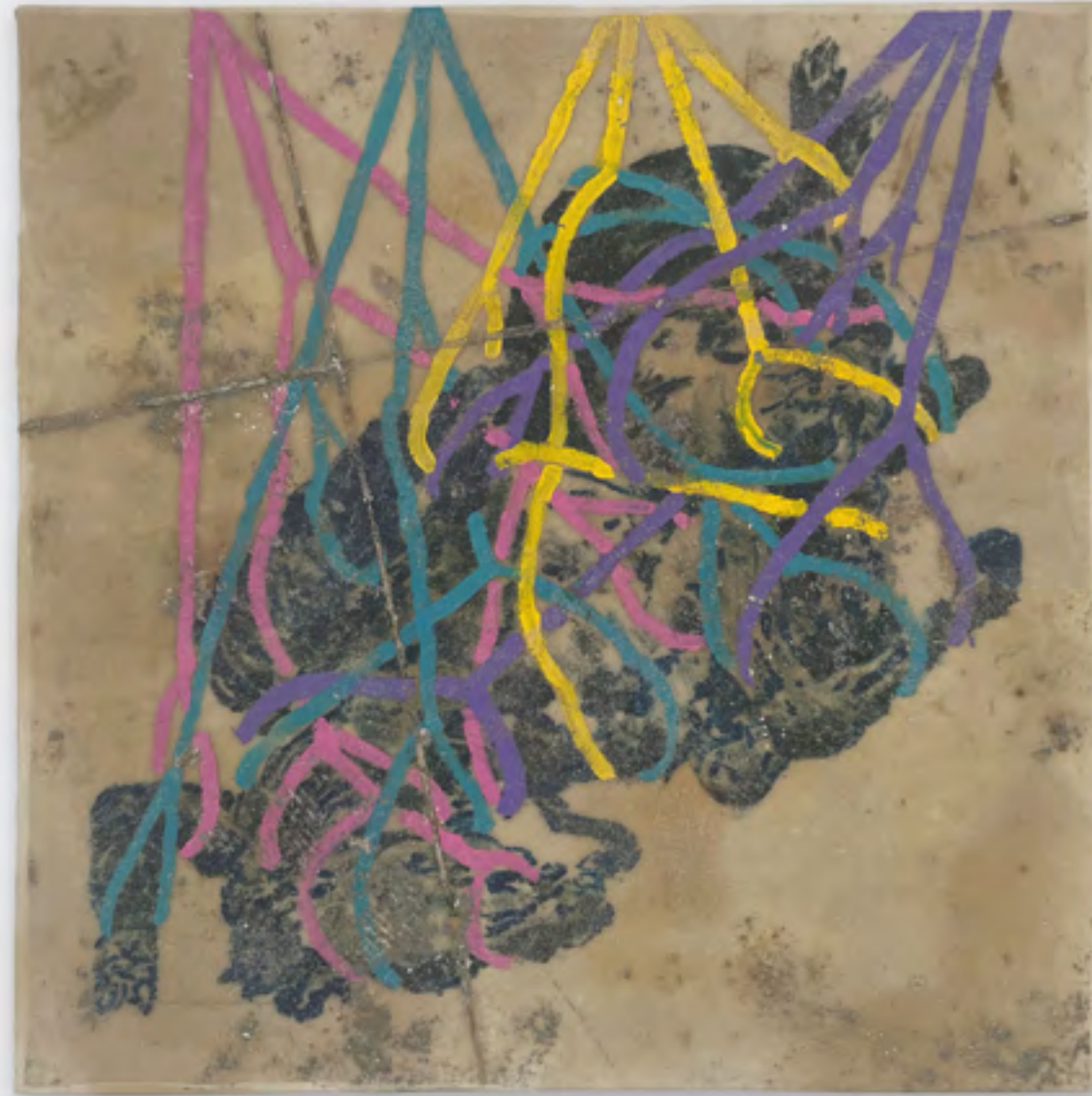
As a pioneer of his craft, Vaccaro continues to lay the groundwork for generations of photographers to come. He remains curious and optimistic despite today's unprecedented world, even after recently surviving COVID-19.

"Even now, at 99, I'm searching," he says. "What can I do differently? What can I do that I've never done before?"

Tony Vaccaro, *Leonard Cohen* (photo courtesy of Rye Arts Center). This exhibition includes photographs drawn from the Monroe Gallery of Photography Collection, Santa Fe, NM, USA, and the Tony Vaccaro Studios, New York City, USA.

feature

Diving Deeper Into Shared History



Jorge Otero-Pailos, *The Fall*

ArtsWestchester's current [*Who Writes History?*](#) [*exhibition*](#) focuses on a more inclusive recounting of the past and present. Who "owns" history?

What is the "truth"? Is there one truth, or many? Twenty exhibiting artists explore the ways in which images and language (together and independently) shape society's collective memory and mainstream narratives.

However, the show also delves deeper. A series of in-person and virtual programs bring music, fashion, poetry, lectures and more together in an effort to create a rich and diverse conversation around the different interpretations of a shared history.

According to Exhibitions Manager Adam Chau, "the concurrent lectures, performances and celebrations of *Who Writes History?* all weave in topics that artworks in the gallery touch upon. Other programs will give audiences a deep-dive into the pursuits of exhibited artists, and will provide insight and context to the artworks."

On May 7, artist Marcy Freedman presents [*Women: This Much and More!*](#), an in-person multimedia performance that blends visual art with other artistic disciplines. Freedman's digital collage series, for which she transformed women from the past into a contemporary version of them, will be on display behind the performances of poets, dancers and musicians as they create and perform their own interpretations of

these artworks.

Later in the month, Luangisa African Gallery will celebrate the culture and history of Africa with a new May 19 [*Gallery Nite Out event*](#), which will feature live music and an immersive fashion show. Rose Luangisa, the Gallery's founder, says: "My family and I have dedicated our lives to showcasing the work of African artisans and supporting women and their children while also supporting their art and craftsmanship." Luangisa has also done a take-over of ArtsWestchester's gift shop with a pop-up shop that will remain in place through July 3 when the exhibition comes to a close.

A series of four lectures will make subjects and conversations accessible to all audiences through a virtual format. On May 31, exhibiting ceramic and mixed-media artist [*Sana Musasama*](#) [*will discuss*](#) her *I See Me* dolls. In a recent interview with ArtsWestchester's gallery intern, Georgia Connor, Musasama explains that as an early teenager, her mother saw her sulking about her hair. She pulled hair from Musasama's brush and placed it on a wooden doll to show her how beautiful her African-American hair was. Now, Musasama creates dolls similar to these from clay. "It's important I

have ownership over my own story," says the artist: "...and that my voice is the first and loudest telling it."

On June 6, [*artist Jean-Marc Superville Sovak will virtually sit down with White Plains Mayor Thomas Roach*](#) to talk about how public art can direct our understanding of civil discourse, including the timely addition of a [*visiting Harriet Tubman statue*](#) in the City's downtown.

Only two days later on June 8, a full discussion will bring together several distinct perspectives in Latinx media and storytelling – spanning documentary work, journalism and academia. [*Telling Our Stories From the Roots Up*](#) will be in an informal and bilingual conversation that allows panelists to deliberate various approaches for sharing immigrant and community narratives. Chau says that panelists "will also grapple with the politics of authentic storytelling within communities while liaising with mainstream media channels."

Finally, a virtual lecture on June 15 will bring to the table For Freedoms, the largest community of creative civic engagement in the United States, which includes thousands of artists and organizations. In addition to having works displayed in the exhibition, For Freedoms will participate in [*You are just in time, an invitation to play*](#), during which one of the group's team members, Jun Mabuchi, will talk about the collective's evolution and share more about re-imagining the future of the artist-driven society.



For Freedoms, *Freedom From Want*

Audience members enjoying a screening at the Bedford Playhouse (photo credit: Rhonda Smith)

The Bedford Playhouse: 75 Years Young

by Mary Alice Franklin, *ArtsNews* Editor

The legacy of [The Bedford Playhouse](#) is a storied one. It spans 75 years, six million dollars of renovations and one incredibly supportive community.

This three-quarters-of-a-century also includes the theater’s near-extinction, a community-driven fundraising effort, an international pandemic, and a complete restructuring of its programming. What stands today is a cultural center that offers film screenings, arts programming and a welcoming space that is conducive to conversation and discussion.

In the years following World War II, the Bedford Playhouse opened in the heart of Bedford Hills. The single-screen movie theater’s first screening was the Elia Kazan-directed *Boomerang*. Tickets cost between 30-80 cents. After nearly 68 years of screenings, a rent

dispute threatened the future of the theater. In 2015, it shuttered.

Enter John Farr, who stepped up to the plate with a plan to head grassroots fundraising efforts that would keep the theater alive and turn it into a nonprofit organization. Farr already had success with co-founding The Avon Theatre in Stamford. The right price, according to the Playhouse’s landlord? Two and a half million dollars.

In a spirited effort, Farr, along with Sarah Long, who became Board Chair, pulled together a strategy to resurrect interest and support in the theater, boasting their vision for what-could-be.

Says Long: “We knew the business couldn’t sustain itself as [just] a movie theater. That had already been demonstrated... So we had to do something more.”

The “something more” turned out to be the creation of a bonafide

community hub that reopened in 2018 with two additional theaters, state of the art furnishings (Long flew to Michigan herself to test out the theater seats), high-tech equipment and a café.

Long adds that the café was a crucial part of the design: “We wanted a place where people could have a drink and talk about art and culture and movies. If you can’t stay and talk about something, you go home... and then you don’t have a place for the discussion. It was a really integral part of what we wanted the experience to be like.”

The building wasn’t the only thing to get a complete makeover. The Playhouse’s programming was also given an about-face, becoming inclusive of all different types of art, not just film.

This additional programming is supported in part by a capital campaign donation from legendary music producer Clive Davis, which

series, which includes programming related to mental health, the environment and social justice issues.

Executive Director Michael “Hoagy” Hoagland says: “There has to be a place where those conversations start. We’re trying to provide a safe space for those conversations and a place to not only educate our community but also challenge them to think a little more about each other as a community.”

The COVID-19 pandemic threw one more complication at the Playhouse. Luckily, thinking outside the box is nothing new to these folks. Hoagland is particularly proud of the outdoor “Broadway in Bedford” series that was created during the pandemic. In addition to live music and theater productions, this summer series will bring Broadway luminaries to the Bedford Playhouse’s lawn. He says: “We



The Clive Theater at the Bedford Playhouse (photo credit: Peter T. Michaelis)

established the Clive Davis Arts Center at Bedford Playhouse.

In May alone, the Playhouse does still offer Hollywood blockbusters like [Doctor Strange in the Multiverse of Madness](#) (opening May 6), and the '80s comedy classic [Three Amigos](#) featuring Steve Martin, Martin Short and Chevy Chase, which wouldn’t be complete without an introduction from Chase himself (May 18). However, also on the docket is a night of [stand-up comedy](#) (May 4) and a [play reading by Kathryn Ryan](#) (May 15).

On May 9, a screening of [The Interview](#) shines a spotlight on the parole board process for incarcerated people serving life sentences in New York State. The film is followed by a Q&A with panelists from both sides of the issue, including former incarcerated people and a parole commissioner. *The Interview* is part of the Playhouse’s Social Impact

happen to have this beautiful lawn that is perfectly situated as a natural amphitheater, allowing us to do programming outside.”

This year, the “Broadway in Bedford” series will be expanded upon with “Broadway Behind the Curtain.” Each program dives into the career of someone who is influential on Broadway but may not be known to the general public. Starting off the series on June 5 is a part-performance, part-Q&A event with Tony-, Emmy-, and Grammy Award-winning composer/writer David Yazbeck, who has worked on *The Band’s Visit*, *Dirty Rotten Scoundrels*, *Tootsie* and more.

As for his vision for the Bedford Playhouse’s next 75 years, Hoagland says: “We try our hardest to create an environment that is welcoming and inclusive, and I want to make sure that everyone who walks through the door feels like they’re home.”

feature

Graced With Midday Music

by MJ Territo

Downtown Music at Grace has been entrancing noontime audiences for thirty-four years and counting.

In 1988, as development in downtown White Plains was beginning to burgeon, the Trustees of Grace Church were on the lookout for an arts program to complement their active role in social services. The church, which has been a fixture in White Plains since the Civil War era, had just purchased a new pipe organ, and reached out to organist Tim Lewis, now Managing Director of the resulting organization, Downtown Music at Grace (DTM).

As discussions ensued, they hit upon the idea of a lunchtime series, which would attract residents as well as the workers who were filling the new nearby office buildings. Lewis says that it was important to the Trustees that the concerts be free and available to everyone in the community – a perk that exists to this day. As no tickets are required, the concerts are welcome to anyone who plans to attend or wanders in for a respite from their work day, shopping trip or lunch date. Not only that, DTM built an education component into the series as well, inviting middle and high school students to attend the concerts and meet the artists.

Though the series was originally conceived as a classical music series, Lewis has added jazz, world and folk performances over the years as well: “The programming evolved based on our audiences. People would mention musicians they admired, and I added them to the mix.”

When planning for a season, Lewis seeks a balance of instruments, genres and audience favorites. All of these elements are evident in DTM’s May noontime concerts, taking place on each Wednesday throughout the month.

The cello and piano duo of Raman Ramakrishnan and Erika Switzer will kick off the month on **May 4** with a program that features works by Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms. Pianist Switzer is a frequent performer at DTM, and touted the talents of the young cellist to Lewis, who is just as excited for the show as his audience: “It’s going to be fireworks time! I can’t wait to hear them together.”

The acoustics in the church are part of what has made the



series so well-loved. “The building itself becomes part of the performance,” says Lewis. He adds that the building is “especially well-suited to certain instruments, particularly the cello and violin.”

The church will get to show off these acoustics the following Wednesday, **May 11**, when internationally-known violinist Chee-Yun puts bow to strings. Chee-Yun, with her accompanist Howard Kramer, will play works by Strauss, Kreisler and Mancini. Broadcaster and music critic Bob Sherman will provide narration for Bizet’s *Fernando the Bull*.

Folk music fans can mark **May 18** on their calendars for the co-bill concert of Mara Levine with Gathering Time. Levine is a very busy performer, and Lewis and was happy that the mid-weekday programming allowed her to accept the upcoming gig.

The programming evolved based on our audiences. People would mention musicians they admired, and I added them to the mix.”

-Tim Lewis,
Managing Director, Downtown Music at Grace

Gathering Time, a folk-rock Americana harmony trio, shares the bill. Each will perform a segment of the program, and will perform together as well. Sherman, a longtime friend of Downtown Music at Grace, will be on hand again to host the program.

Westchester’s own Angelica Women’s Chamber Choir closes the month’s noontime concerts on **May 25**. Lewis describes Angelica’s director, Marie Caruso, as a “scholar and a musician,” adding that Angelica’s performances have a depth that draws audiences in.” The choir, made up of avocational musicians of a very high caliber, first came

to DTM with a holiday concert, which proved so popular that Lewis now adds a spring appearance to the calendar. This year’s concert will reflect back on the group’s twenty-five-year history and will include favorites like *Codex Las Huelgas* and the *Llibre Vermell de Montserrat*.

ABOVE: Chee-Yun (photo source: dcsymphony.org)
RIGHT: Grace Church (photo courtesy of Downtown Music at Grace)

ARTSWESTCHESTER, THE CITY OF WHITE PLAINS & THE WHITE PLAINS BID

JAZZFEST

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Westchester's Favorite Jazz Festival Returns!

WED., SEPT. 14

Jazz at the Farmer's Market
12–1:30pm | (FREE)

White Plains Farmers Market, 59 Court St.

Jazz Stroll (Details TBA)

THURS., SEPT. 15

François Moutin & Kavita Shah Duo
12–1pm | (FREE)

Downtown Music at Grace, 33 Church Street, White Plains

* For the safety of all audience, musicians, and staff, proof of vaccination and masks are required for entry to Downtown Music concerts. The events will take place in accordance with New York State and local health department guidelines.

FRI., SEPT. 16

Jazz at Noon: Miki Hayama x Richie Goods Ensemble
12pm | (FREE)

White Plains Public Library Plaza, 100 Martine Ave.

Joey Alexander Trio

7pm | (\$35 for 7pm set | \$65 for both 7pm & 9pm sets)

ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave.

Joey Alexander Trio

9pm | (\$35 for 9pm set | \$65 for both 7pm & 9pm sets)

ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave.

* For the safety of all audience, musicians, and staff, proof of vaccination and masks are required for entry. This performance will take place indoors in accordance with New York State and local health department guidelines.

SAT., SEPT. 17

A Workshop/Conversation with Legendary Jazz Bassist, Buster Williams
1–2:30pm | (FREE)

Music Conservatory of Westchester, 216 Central Ave.

The Buster Williams Quartet "Something More"
7pm | (\$35 for 7pm set | \$65 for both 7pm & 9pm sets)

ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave.

The Buster Williams Quartet "Something More"
9pm | (\$35 for 9pm set | \$65 for both 7:00 & 9pm sets)

ArtsWestchester, 31 Mamaroneck Ave.

* This performance will take place indoors in accordance with New York State and local health department guidelines.

SUN., SEPT. 18

White Plains Jazz & Food Festival

12:30–6:45pm | (FREE)

Mamaroneck Ave., between Main St. and Martine Ave.

12:30–1:15pm | **Westchester Center for Jazz & Contemporary Music**1:45–2:35pm | **Albert Rivera Quintet**3:05–3:55pm | **Carlos Jimenez Mambo Sextet**4:25–5:15pm | **G. Thomas Allen Quartet**5:45–6:45pm | **Ragan Whiteside and Friends****Council on the Arts**

JazzFest White Plains is made possible by the New York State Council on the Arts with the support of the Office of the Governor and the New York State Legislature.



This engagement of Buster Williams & Something More is made possible through the ArtsCONNECT program of Mid Atlantic Arts with support from the National Endowment for the Arts.

PRODUCED BY:

Save the Date!
#WPJazzFest

The Search for Costumes Gathering Dust

by Mary Alice Franklin, *ArtsNews* Editor

Croton-Harmon High School student Isabel Lavery has been dancing since she was four, and has the costumes to prove it. In fact, she says she has piles of old costumes, each worn only a handful of times, just collecting dust. And she knows she's not the only one.

Lavery decided to do something about those accumulated costumes. As the pandemic and inflation have made finances difficult for some families, she created Star2Star, a dance costume drive to collect new and gently used costumes, which she plans to donate to local dance schools. Her goal is for students to perform without worrying about the associated costs.

This sentiment rings true with Genia Flammia, Board President at Youth Theatre Interactions (YTI), one of the schools to receive donations from Star2Star. "We find that some parents are reluctant to participate in performance-based programs because they anticipate added expenses for appropriate attire and costumes," Flammia explains that the donations will also help YTI to expand its programming with offerings like costume design, "thus providing a more holistic approach to the performing arts."

Marion Archer, whose The Revelators Dance Troupe will also benefit from Star2Star's donations, adds: "In our hard economic times, it is hard for young people to afford dance clothing. This donation will help to defray much of the cost for the dancers' outfits and shoes."

Lavery, who has trained and performed with the American Ballet Theater, Bolshoi Ballet's Summer Academy and more, says that she "wants to share with others what [she] has been blessed to have as a dancer."

"I want to get rid of barriers that prevent young dancers from moving forward... Knowing that someone is supporting you is *everything* sometimes. It can give you the confidence you need to step on stage in front of an audience and shine."

Star2Star will collect lightly used dance costumes for all genders and age groups, as well as leotards that are in good shape. Marked collection bins can be found at Repertoire Dance Shop in Scarsdale and Ms. Dancewear & Footwear Boutique in Mohegan Lake. Donations will be accepted

through Memorial Day so that costumes can be allocated before year-end recitals in late spring.

Lavery says: "I want dancers to remember that we can feed as well as be fed. Donating your once-worn costume...adds a link to the chain of support that the dance community relies on."



Isabel Lavery (photo courtesy of Isabel Lavery)

spotlight

CALLING ALL ARTS VOLUNTEERS!

by Judith Weber, Volunteer Coordinator of ArtsWestchester's Arts Ambassador Program



A small group of Arts Ambassadors met at Pelham Art Center earlier this year to discuss the upcoming year of the arts in Westchester.

Spring is finally here and, after an extended isolation, many people are finding that there is a need to re-engage with life in the "outside world." In Westchester, that re-engagement is being powerfully driven by the arts. It has been long recognized that the arts enrich lives, create valued connections, and inspire growth and creativity. The arts are also a cultural resource – not only for participating audiences, but for those who volunteer behind the scenes.

When researchers at the London School of Economics [examined the relationship between volunteering and measures of happiness](#), they found that the more people volunteered, the happier they were. In ArtsWestchester's [Arts Ambassadors program](#) for instance, volunteers are provided with a "behind the scenes" opportunity to support the arts directly. The volunteers, called "Ambassadors," help the organization in a variety of areas like assisting with office work, supporting educational programs, and representing ArtsWestchester at cultural events and exhibitions.

According to Arts Ambassador Linda Eatmon, the combination of providing support and enjoying the results of that support produces the best of all outcomes: "The variety of programs brings a unique

sense of richness and flavor to my interests as a volunteer. It has expanded my understanding of the many ways in which the arts can be enjoyed and supported."

Since she joined the program in 2018, Eatmon has attended sewing sessions for *Metropolis Sunrise*, an upcoming public art project; worked as a greeter at JazzFest White Plains; and assisted in reading and taking notes on grant proposals with ArtsWestchester's grants department. She also regularly provides evaluative reports for projects that are funded by ArtsWestchester, including musician [Pamela Sklar's "Words Into Music" performance](#) in Mt. Vernon and the Town of Pelham Public Library's recent family ice sculpture event.

On the whole, these community volunteers value the arts and understand the role that the arts play in improving education, enriching lives and building communities. This type of participation in support of cultural activities throughout the county assists organizations like ArtsWestchester in fulfilling their missions to provide the arts for their audiences, thereby reinforcing and growing the County's foundation of cultural enrichment.

Ossining Audiences Get an Attitude Adjustment

by Rocio de la Roca

"There is a certain energy and excitement about having a work premiere for the first time – and witnessing as actors become the first ever to identify with the characters," says Alan Lutwin, Executive Director of Ossining's Westchester Collaborative Theater (WCT). This is exactly what is happening through May 8, as WCT presents its annual festival of one-act plays. [Attitude Adjustments](#) will premiere five new plays that are written, directed and performed by local members of the theater. The festival launches WCT's 12th season of theater performances.

Lutwin says that the theater "is fortunate to have an audience that trusts [them] to create quality theater and continues to attend [their] performances of new works without ever knowing what to expect."

The plays present a mix of thought-provoking comedies, dramas and dramedies that cover a broad selection of subject matters and themes. However, each play includes characters that undergo a personality transformation, or "attitude adjustment" as the festival's title suggests, based on the challenges they try to overcome. For instance, in Serena Norr's *Fast \$\$*, a suburban wife in need of money is offered the chance to become rich, but she must give up everything she is in the process. In Lori Myers's *Dressing On the Side*, a stubborn diner waitress learns about love from the most unexpected

of sources. Carol Mark's *Love at First Rewrite* follows a playwright who knows that her play about love at first sight isn't working, but takes matters into her own hands when her play gets panned by a local theater critic. Other works explore whether the cost of winning changes a person (Joe Carlisle's *Mexican Train*) and a fictitious Google complex in Ossining, where anxious job applicants encounter a chilling symptom of the future (Robert McEvily's *The O-Town Google*).

The featured plays were created over the past year through WCT's incubator workshop program, which allows member playwrights, actors and directors to improve their works through rewritings, readings and feedback sessions. After the plays are selected, the playwrights and directors work with a dramaturg to fine-tune the pieces for production. According to Lutwin, this collaborative process is an integral part of WCT's mission to develop new works for the stage, but it also helps them to provide engaging plays for their audiences and give artists a chance to show off their works.

On May 1, 7 and 8, WCT will host performances complete with costume, set designs, lighting, sound effects and music at its intimate newly renovated Black Box Theater. Following the May 1 production, there will be an interactive talk-back, during which the audience will provide feedback to the playwrights and actors.



Artwork courtesy of Westchester Collaborative Theater

photo recap



Photo Recap:
**ARTS AWARD
CELEBRATION
2022**

ArtsWestchester recently gathered with the Westchester arts community and public officials at Brae Burn Country Club to celebrate the winners of this year's *Arts Awards*. The annual awards recognize artists and organizations that positively impact the cultural life in the County.

Winners included Livia and Marc Straus (Emily & Eugene Grant Arts Patron Award), Joanie Madden (Artist Award), Lyndhurst Mansion (Arts Organization Award), Juneteenth Committees of Haverstraw, Irvington, Mount Vernon, Peekskill, White Plains and Yonkers (Community Award), Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation (Sophia Abeles Arts Education Award) and Lori Adams (Larry Salley Photography Award).



All photos by Leslye Smith. ABOVE: Members of awardee Juneteenth Committee groups. RIGHT: 1) Mara Manus, Executive Director, New York State Council on the Arts, ArtsWestchester CEO Janet Langsam and ArtsWestchester board member Judith Schwartz 2) Bernadette Kane, awardee Joanie Madden and Helen Madden 3) Terry Feldman, ArtsWestchester President Michael Minihan and ArtsWestchester board member Barbara Monohan 4) Deputy County Executive Kenneth Jenkins, County Executive George Latimer and Legislators MaryJane Shimsky and Benjamin Boykin 5) Kenneth Gould and ArtsWestchester board member Michael Madonia 6) ArtsWestchester board member Sondra Salley and awardee Lori Adams 7) Representatives from awardee Steffi Nossen Dance Foundation (SNDFF): Board Chair Tia Tiedt; student dancers; Director Shelley Grantham 8) Barry Shenkman of Arts Award sponsor Jacob Burns Foundation with awardee Joanie Madden 9) Awardees Livia and Marc Straus 10) Robert Winstead and Athena Dent, representing Juneteenth awardee Yonkers African American Heritage Committee

Artist OPPORTUNITIES

ArtsW.org is Westchester County’s guide for all-things-art. On its “Artist Opportunities” page, artists in all disciplines can find nearby working opportunities that will help to strengthen and further their careers. Below is a sampling of some upcoming opportunities. To get these opportunities sent directly to your mailbox, [sign up here.](#)

Call for Entries: *Queer Perspectives* Exhibition presented by The LOFT and Upstream Gallery

The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Center and Upstream Gallery are partnering for an upcoming national juried exhibition, *Queer Perspectives*. Artists can submit recent works that represent current, creative and personal explorations of LGBTQ+ life, issues, history and culture. All media are welcome, including painting, drawing, printmaking, photography, collage and sculpture.

[Deadline: May 19.](#)



Hoff-Barthelson Music School’s Festival Orchestra (photo credit: Steven Schnur Photographer)



Pumpkins from The Great Jack O’Lantern Blaze (photo credit: Tom Nycz for Historic Hudson Valley)

Seeking Artistic Carvers presented by Historic Hudson Valley

Historic Hudson Valley (HHV) seeks several experienced artists to join its team of The Great Jack O’ Lantern Blaze carvers, who hand-carve thousands of jack o’lanterns for HHV’s annual fall event. Ideal candidates will have experience as a cameo or intaglio artist, fruit carver, etcher or engraver, block print maker, wood carver, sculptor or tattoo artist.

[Deadline: May 13.](#)

Orchestral Auditions for High School Students presented by Hoff-Barthelson Music School

Hoff-Barthelson Music School seeks high school students to audition for the 2022-2023 season of the School’s Festival Orchestra, a full symphonic orchestra under the direction of Jun Nakabayashi. The Festival Orchestra performs three concerts annually; two with guest artists of international stature.

[Auditions: May 10, 18 and 20.](#)

Accepting Proposals for Tarrytown Mural presented by The Placemaking Committee of the Village of Tarrytown

The Placemaking Committee of the Village of Tarrytown is seeking an artist to undertake a mural to be painted on the side wall of the Taste of China restaurant on Kaldenberg Street, just off Main Street. The desired mural will feature the phrase “Welcome to Tarrytown.” Accompanying the phrase can be some iconic Tarrytown sites or other representations of what makes the Village a special place to live.

[Deadline: May 31.](#)

Call for Visual Artists: Rye Poetry Path presented by Rye Arts Center

The [Rye Poetry Path](#) is a collaborative public art installation in Rye that offers opportunities for reflection and conversation about themes of community, conservation and social justice. Rye Arts Center is partnering with the Path to bring poetry to life through visual interpretations and integrations of a chosen poem’s words.

[Submissions are accepted on a rolling basis.](#)

Enlighten Peekskill: Seeking Illuminated Sculptures presented by Hudson Valley MOCA

Enlighten Peekskill, a project conceived by Hudson Valley MOCA, will help to illuminate the one-mile path from the Metro North Peekskill station to the City’s downtown through a series of long-term sculptural installations. The Museum seeks sculptors and artists who integrate illumination into their works. Artists are asked to "pull from their own history, culture and roots to use the universal language of art to create a symphony of voices."

[Deadline: June 1.](#)

Call for Ceramic Artists: *The Family Portrait* Exhibition presented by Clay Art Center

Clay Art Center invites ceramic artists to submit functional or non-functional ceramic works that define what family means to them for an exhibition juried by Kukuli Velarde. Works can explore the family unit as image, system, historical reference or metaphor for where we are as a contemporary culture and society.

[Deadline: May 27.](#)



Various poems from Rye Poetry Path ready for installation (photo courtesy of Amy Vijayanagar)

spotlight



MARSHA ON THE MOVE
Monthly Web Feature

When Business Council of Westchester President Marsha Gordon, is not advocating for businesses in the County, she can be found at the cinema or theater. Read Marsha's reviews on ArtsWestchester's "As a Matter of Art" blog: artsw.org/artsblog.

The Eyes of Tammy Faye (Netflix)

In an effort to watch the films nominated for Oscars this year, I finally watched *The Eyes of Tammy Faye*. It's a good thing, since Jessica Chastain won Best Actress for her leading role in the film. Even more than Chastain's realistic performance and great singing was the (surprising) empathy I felt for Tammy Faye who, despite having a good heart and the best of intentions, got caught up in greed and lifestyle, and experienced the ultimate fall from grace. Many have rolled their eyes at this woman, but this film made this viewer, surely a very different woman, feel sad. Worth a watch.



Still from *The Eyes of Tammy Faye* (photo source: Searchlight Pictures)



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NEWS BRIEFS



Mural by Victor Ash in New Rochelle (photo credit: Theresa Kump Leghorn)

Katonah Museum Announces New Evening Hours

[Katonah Museum of Art](#) (KMA) recently announced that, beginning May 5, it will adjust its Thursday hours to accommodate the opportunity for an evening visit. Every Thursday, KMA will be open from 1-8pm. It will keep its existing hours, 10am-5pm, for every other day of the week. The Museum is closed on Mondays. Reservations are still recommended to visit the Museum.



Katonah Museum of Art (photo courtesy of Katonah Museum of Art)

MuralFest Coming to New Rochelle

New Rochelle Council on the Arts, the City of New Rochelle and Street Art for Mankind have announced a new set of murals to be completed by May 1 for a [MuralFest celebration](#). The day's event will include a guided tour of the new murals and on-site talks with the artists, as well as music, dance and theater performances. The festivities will take place at Library Green, the New Rochelle Public Library and NewRo Parc. MuralFest is possible with support of a [Restart the Arts grant](#) from ArtsWestchester. This set of murals joins eight large-scale works that were unveiled in 2019.



SPARC participants with teaching artist Ronnie Negro on drums (photo courtesy of SPARC, Inc.)

Drumming Residency Creates Opportunities for Special Needs Community

SPARC, Inc., a social service agency focused on enriching the lives of the developmentally disabled community, received a Special Needs matching [grant from ArtsWestchester](#) last year. This grant allowed the agency to engage teaching artist Ronnie Negro in a drumming residency. According to SPARC's Executive Director, Kathleen Macias-Torres: *"SPARC was able to provide a week-long program for those who were on Winter Break. It had a true impact on the teens and young adults who attended, as they were able to have a hands-on experience. One of our participants who has Down Syndrome lives alone with his grandmother and does not have many opportunities to socialize. Thanks to this program, he has become fascinated with music and has created an opportunity for him to socialize with his peers. He is now also participating in our other programs."*

Two Westchester Cultural Institutions Listed on State's New Historic Businesses Preservation Registry

The Office of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation recently launched the New York State Historic Business Preservation Registry. The online registry was established to honor and promote New York businesses that have been in operation for at least 50 years and have contributed to their communities' history. Nominations to the registry must be sponsored by an elected state official. Among the first 100 businesses designed to the list are the Capitol Theatre, which was nominated by Senator Shelley Mayor, and Tarrytown Music Hall, nominated by Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. The honorary program "provides educational and promotional assistance to help ensure businesses in the state remain viable." An [interactive storyboard map](#) also provides information about the location and history of each business.



TOP: Tarrytown Music Hall Director Bjorn Olsson with Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins (photo source: [instagram.com/andreastewartcousins](#)) // BOTTOM: The Capitol Theatre owner Peter Shapiro with Senator Shelley Mayor (photo source: [instagram.com/shelleybmayer](#))

spotlight

An Abundance of Spring Beauty for Photographers

by Jerry Spette, Membership Host at [Color Camera Club of Westchester](#)

Spring is here, and beauty abounds. What a great time of year to get the photographic juices flowing. The crocus and tulip sprouts are reaching up from the cold barren earth to warm themselves in the long-awaited 60-degree temperature. Photo-interested people are itching to grab their digital cameras or iPhones and get out of their houses to capture some images in Westchester's newly warm outdoors.

Westchester County offers an abundance of colorful subjects to photograph. Besides the obvious array of colors that flowers manifest, fast-flowing streams reflect the deep blue sky, spillways at local dams gush from spring's thaw, and buds are emerging in the young woodland to produce a palette that photographers can cherish. The light green radiant leaves on these buds, found mostly during the spring season, contrast with the earthen shades of brown. Hey, with a creative eye even skunk cabbage is photogenic.

One can take a trip to Rye Playland and walk the beach and boardwalk; stroll the many bike paths along Westchester's rivers; find a flower garden and get up-close-and-personal with the tulips; stroll along the Hudson River in Sleepy Hollow, or

on Rockefeller's Reservation off Route 117. Up in Yorktown are the extensive trails of Teatown Lake Reservation, and eagles can be sited at George's Island or Croton Point Park.

Now is the time to venture out and have some fun; shake off the cabin fever and stimulate those creative juices that are just itching to break out; and capture the abundance of beauty that Westchester County's open spaces have to offer.



Gotta love the arts!

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May 2022 Arts Offerings

Eilen Jewell, Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts, 5/14 (photo courtesy of Caramoor)

5/1 SUNDAY

Family & Kids: Hudson River Museum presents *The Sky Tonight Planetarium Show*. This 60-minute live and interactive show will provide a tour of the night sky as seen from the local area. Through 5/29. 2-3pm. hrm.org

Workshops: Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Generative Poetry Workshop with Nathan McClain (via Zoom)*. This is a four-hour generative writing workshop taught on Zoom and capped at 15 students. 12:30-4:30pm. writerscenter.org

Family & Kids: Hudson River Museum presents *We are Aliens*. This planetarium show takes kids aged 8+ and audiences on an epic ride in the hunt for the evidence of alien life. Through 5/29. 3:30-4pm. hrm.org

Festival: New Rochelle Council on the Arts presents *MuralFest*. A guided tour of new murals in New Rochelle with the artists on site will be followed by an afternoon of free music, dance and theater performances. 11am-5pm at Ruby Dee Park at Library Green. newrochellearts.org

Music: RiverArts presents *Beethoven's Belated Birthday Bash*. Cellist Peter Seidenberg and pianist Hui-Mei Lin will perform the complete works for cello and piano by Beethoven. 3pm at Irvington Presbyterian Church. riverarts.org

Music: St. Thomas Orchestra presents *Spring Chamber Concert*. The program will include works by Copland, Pachelbel, Eckfeld, Vaughan Williams, and Beethoven. 3-4:30pm. storchestra.org

Theater: Broadway Training Center of Westchester presents *Singin' in the Rain Jr.* This production will be performed by the Center's award-winning Junior Ensemble (Grades 4-7). 3- at Hasting High School. BroadwayTraining.com

Theater: Hudson Stage Company presents *Off Peak*. In this new play about forgiving, two old flames run into each other and discover that different views of the same past threaten to derail their connection. Also 5/6-5/7. Times vary- at Whippoorwill Hall at North Castle Public Library. hudsonstage.com

Theater: New Rochelle Public Library presents *Acting Shakespeare*. Irvington Shakespeare Company will present a one-man show of

Shakespearean scenes interspersed with theatrical anecdotes. 3-4pm. nrpl.org

Theater: Westchester Collaborative Theater presents *Attitude Adjustments One-Act Festival*. The festival will feature a wide variety of plays and new works from the Theater's member playwrights. Through 5/8. Times vary. wctheater.org

Theater: White Plains Performing Arts Center presents *Side Show*. This musical tells the true story of famed entertainers and twins, Violet and Daisy Hilton, who became famous during the 1930's. Through 5/8. Times vary. wppac.com

Tours: Hudson River Museum presents *Frida's Flowers: Horticulture and Crowns*. This gallery tour will celebrate the color and culture of Frida Kahlo's flowers. 1-4pm. hrm.org

Tours: Hudson River Museum presents *Gilded Age Glenview: Historic Home Tour*. The 45-minute guided tour will explore the six fully restored period rooms of one of the most important early Gilded Age residences open to the public. Through 5/29. 1-1:45pm. hrm.org

5/2 MONDAY

Music: Hudson Valley Music Club presents *Hudson Valley Music Club Concert*. The renowned Brentano Quartet will perform Haydn's *Quartet opus 33 no. 4*, and Dvorak's *Quartet in A-flat, opus 135*. 1-2pm at Irvington Presbyterian Church. hudsonvalleymusicclub.org

5/3 TUESDAY

Film: Jacob Burns Film Center presents *NT Live: Frankenstein*. This is a recording of the 2011 production that stars Benedict Cumberbatch as Victor

Frankenstein. 2-9pm. burnsfilmcenter.org

5/4 WEDNESDAY

Workshops: Neuberger Museum of Art presents *Wellness Wednesday: Sound Bath*. This is an immersive healing and restorative experience with Yoga and Meditation Instructor Janelle Berger. 1pm. neuberger.org

Lecture: Hudson River Museum presents *The Origins and Mythology of the Constellations: Spring (Virtual)*. For Star Wars day, science educator Vivian Crea will discuss the connection between Luke Skywalker and the stories of the constellations. 7-8pm. hrm.org

Music: Downtown Music at Grace presents *Cellist Raman Ramakrishnan and Pianist Erika Switzer*. The acclaimed musicians will perform works by Robert Schumann and Johannes Brahms. 12-1pm. dtmusic.org

Spoken Word: Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *An Evening with D. Nurkse, Michael Waters, and Mihaela Moscaliuc (in person & via Zoom)*. Three poets will participate in the Center's spring reading series. 7-8:30pm. writerscenter.org

Theater: The Bedford Playhouse presents *Stars of Late Night*. Four comedians will bring their sharp wit, satire and hilarious one-liners. 8-10pm. bedfordplayhouse.org

Theater: The Play Group Theatre presents *The Lightning Thief*. This musical follows a teenager who discovers he's the descendant of a Greek god and sets out on an adventure to settle an on-going battle between the gods. Also 5/5, 5/8. Times vary. playgroup.org



5/6 FRIDAY

Film: Jacob Burns Film Center presents *Memoria*. This is a bewildering drama about a Scottish woman, who begins experiencing a mysterious sensory syndrome while traversing the jungles of Colombia. Through 5/12. Times vary. burnsfilmcenter.org

Reception: Lincoln Depot Museum presents *2022 Opening Weekend*. The Museum will kick off its new season with a Ulysses S. Grant's 200th Birthday party, new artifacts and an interactive exhibit. Through 5/8. 11am-4pm. lincolndepotmuseum.org

5/7 SUNDAY

Workshops: Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *How Line Break Works with Erin Hoover (via Zoom)*. This intensive craft class looks at how poets have used line break to expand the understanding of the line's potential. 12:30-2:30pm. writerscenter.org

Family & Kids: Hudson River Museum presents *One World, One Sky: Big Bird's Adventure*. This planetarium show follows Big Bird and Elmo with friend Hu Hu Zhu on a trip to the moon during which they discover that planets are different from one another. Through 5/29. 12:30-1pm. hrm.org

Music: ArtsWestchester presents *Women: This much and More*. During this in-person multimedia performance, poets, dancers and musicians will bring their interpretations of artist Marcy Freedman's projected digital portraits of contemporary women. 8-9pm. artsw.org

Music: Westchester Symphonic Winds presents *Spring Concert*. The program will include classic works for accordion performed by guest soloist Matt Podd, as well as works by Rossano Gallante, Harrison J. Collins and others. 8-10pm at Tarrytown Music Hall. tarrytownmusichall.org

Tours: Rock and A Soft Place Studio presents *ARTmostNY Open Studio Tour*. This is a group of working artists who are opening their studio doors for two days. Also 5/8. 11am-5pm. rockandasoftplace.com/studio

Workshops: Oak & Oil Gallery presents *Flower Crafting Workshop with Artist Natalya Khorover*. This workshop showcases the artist's creative process using an out-of-the-box approach. 2-4pm. oakandoil.com

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To learn more, contact Remy Kuhn at rkuhn@artswestchester.org.

Workshops: Hudson River Museum presents *I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter*. This workshop will explore aspects of Mexican culture and identity through the lens of a novel by Erika Sanchez. 1-2:30pm. hrm.org

Workshops: Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Reading to Revise with Chaya Bhuvaneswar (via Zoom)*. Attendees will work through a group revision to understand how revision converts a piece of work to its final form. 12:30-4:30pm. writerscenter.org

5/8 MONDAY

Music: Hudson River Museum presents *Celebrate Mother's Day with Ballet Folklorico Mexicano de Nueva York*. The event will feature regional dances from Frida Kahlo's maternal ancestry and traditional social dances of the people of Mexico City. 2-4pm. hrm.org

Music: The Sanctuary Series presents *Celebrate Mother's Day with pianist Fei Fei*. The program will include works by Beethoven, Debussy, Chopin and Rachmaninoff. 4-5:45pm at South Salem Presbyterian Church. thesanctuaryseries.org

5/9 MONDAY

Reception: Color Camera Club of Westchester presents *Street Photographer Paul Kessel (via Zoom)*. Kessel will show his candid street photos

upcoming virtual and in-person arts activities



Mark Morris Dance Group, Emelin Theatre, 5/13 (photo credit: Stephanie Berger)

and discuss his approach, equipment, contests and more. 7:30-9:30pm.

Film: The Bedford Playhouse presents *The Interview screening with Q&A*. The documentary explores parole justice in NY and reveals the impact of the current system on incarcerated people and their families. 7pm. bedfordplayhouse.org

5/11 WEDNESDAY

Music: Downtown Music at Grace presents *Chee-Yun, violin*. The musician will be joined by broadcaster Bob Sherman as narrator, for this program of personal favorites. 12-1pm. dtmusic.org

Spoken Word: Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Prose Reading by Meghan O’ Rourke and Cathy Park Hong (via Zoom)*. The writers will each read from their most recent nonfiction, participate in a discussion, and answer audience questions. 7-8:30pm. writerscenter.org

5/12 THURSDAY

Reception: Mamaroneck Artists Guild presents *In Full Bloom / Color*. An opening reception. 3pm. mamaroneckartistsguild.org

Theater: The Rye Arts Center presents *An Evening of Comedy*. The celebration will include comedy by Tom Cotter, music by Urban Coyotes and the Rye High School Jazz Band and more. 6-10pm at Whitby Castle. ryeartscenter.org

5/13 FRIDAY

Music: New Rochelle Public Library presents *A Capella Concert*. Counterpoint, an all-female a cappella singing group, will perform original arrangements of popular songs. 7-8pm. nrpl.org

Workshops: Hudson River Museum presents *Paint Night: Frida Kahlo Still Lives*. This paint night will celebrate Kahlo’s still lifes, some of which inspired works in the museum’s *The World of Frida* exhibition. 6:30-8:30pm. hrm.org

Dance: Emelin Theatre presents *Mark Morris Dance Company*. The internationally-renowned group will provide an evening of dance and live music. 8pm. emelin.org

5/14 SATURDAY

Music: Caramoor Center for Music and the Arts presents *Eilen Jewell*. The singer-songwriter will lead a quartet that blends influences of surf-noir, early blues, classic country, folk and 1960s-era rock ‘n’ roll. 8pm. caramoor.org

Workshops: Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Poetic Space with Karen Finley via Zoom*. This class will consider poetic space for inspiration for deeper, symbolic, creative and critical contemplation. 12:30-3:30pm. writerscenter.org

Lecture: New Rochelle Public Library presents *Freedomland: The Definitive History*. This program will explore the rise and fall of Freedomland USA, an American history theme park that was built in 1960. 2-3:30pm. nrpl.org

Music: Walkabout Clearwater Coffeehouse presents *Robert Jones and Matt Watroba*. The artists perform American roots music that reflects history, social change, migration, hopes and dreams. 7:30-10pm at Memorial United Methodist Church. walkaboutchorus.org

Music: KinoSaito presents *Melodies of Certain Damage, Opus 5 by Artist Naama Tsabar*. This immersive sculptural and site-specific installation and performance uses broken guitars to explore questions of power, gender and more. 1 & 3pm. Also 5/21. kintosaito.org

Music: Westchester Collaborative Theater presents *Music in the Box*. Musical artists Anne Carpenter and Peter Calo will perform an evening of folk and rock tunes. 7-10pm. wctheater.org

Reception: Hudson River Museum presents *Artist Talk: Adela Antoinette and Maya Vera*. The exhibiting artists will discuss how Frida Kahlo’s work influenced them and their self-portraits. 1-2pm. hrm.org

Spoken Word: Peekskill Arts Alliance presents *Painting, Poetry and Music*. Three combined artistic disciplines will create an outdoor experience through a multimedia collaboration. 1:30-4pm at Bean Runner Cafe. peekskillartsalliance.org

Workshops: Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Open Write (in person & via Zoom)*. This recurring monthly program will facilitate an evening of generative writing, story swapping and community building. 7:30-9:30pm. writerscenter.org

Workshops: Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *What’s in a Word? A Craft Class & Workshop with Martha Collins (via Zoom)*. This workshop will focus on poems that build on a single word. The remainder of the workshop will be devoted to a discussion of the attendees’ work. 12:30-4:30pm. writerscenter.org

concert. 7-8:30pm at Community Unitarian Universalist Congregation. hbms.org

Music: Sound Shore Chorale presents *Mayfest Concert*. This program, led by Richard Slade and Diane Guernsey, will celebrate the spring 2022 season. 3-4pm at New Rochelle Public Library. SoundShoreChorale.org

Music: Westchester Children’s Chorus presents *Spring Concert*. The ensembles of the Children’s Chorus will perform choral music. 4-5:15pm at Larchmont Avenue Church. wcchorus.org

Theater: The Bedford Playhouse presents *Play Reading: The End of the Middle by Kathryn Ryan*. The play follows Amanda, a lawyer, mother and wife who faces unexpected challenges in clinging to the belief that America is a classless society while confronting the realities of life on Manhattan’s Upper East Side. 1pm. bedfordplayhouse.org

5/18 WEDNESDAY

Music: Downtown Music at Grace presents *Mara Levine with Gathering Time*. Levine is joined by a folk-rock harmony trio for this concert. 12-1pm. dtmusic.org

Film: The Bedford Playhouse presents *Screening: Three Amigos with Introduction by Chevy Chase*. The comedy film revolves around three out-of-work silent film movie actors who are accidentally drawn to a Mexican village that is being tormented by a gang of outlaws. 7-9:30pm. bedfordplayhouse.org

5/15 SUNDAY

Workshops: Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Small Fires: Writing the Short Poem with Philip F. Clark (in person)*. This workshop will explore and practice the rich form of the short poem. 12:30-4:30pm at Hudson Valley Writers’ Center. writerscenter.org

Film: KinoSaito presents *Babies (2008)*. This rarely screened film from installation and performance artist Naama Tsabar features a band of young women performing a song by the British band Pulp. 10am-5pm. kinosaito.org

Music: Hoff-Barthelson Music School presents *To the Night for Cello Quintet*. Students will perform composer Juhi Bansal’s piece at the Music School’s Annual Contemporary Music Festival’s culminating

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5/21 SATURDAY

Workshops: Hudson River Museum presents *Chisme Con Chocolate (Gossip with Chocolate)*. This is a tasting and demonstration of how traditional Mexican hot chocolate is made using a molenillo or a grinder. 1-3pm. hrm.org

Workshops: Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *Writing Someone Else: A Persona Poem Workshop with Gretchen Primack via Zoom*. This workshop will share the ins and outs of writing someone else. 12:30-4:30pm. writerscenter.org

Music: Westchester Chordsmen Chorus presents *“Back in Business” Spring Concert*. The concert will feature a wide variety of songs from Sondheim, Stevie Wonder, Duke Ellington and more. 7-9:30pm at First Presbyterian Church of Ossining. chordsmen.org

Music: KinoSaito presents *Stranger (2017)*. This rarely screened video work by internationally exhibited performance and installation artist Naama Tsabar will screen at the center. 10am-5pm. kinosaito.org

Music: New Rochelle Public Library presents *Global Jazz Community All Star Female Band*. The band will perform a jazz concert. 3-4pm. nrpl.org

Workshops: Hoff-Barthelson Music School presents *Master Class with Flutist Brandon Patrick George*. After months of careful preparation, students perform for, and then receive feedback and guidance from a master teacher who challenges the student. 2-4:30pm. hbms.org

Workshops: Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *“I to Eye” with Peter Filkins (via Zoom)*. In this craft talk and

5/22 SUNDAY

Reception: Downtown Music at Grace presents *Angelica Women’s Chamber Choir Spring Concert*. The choir will celebrate 25 years of programming with selections from the medieval Spanish songs, *Codex Las Huelgas* and *Libre Vermell de Montserrat*. 12-1pm. dtmusic.org

Spoken Word: Hudson Valley Writers Center presents *An Evening with Claudia Rankine & Emily Skillings via Zoom*. The two authors will provide the last reading of the Center’s Winter/Spring 2022 Reading Series. 7-8:30pm. writerscenter.org

Theater: The Play Group Theatre presents *Into the Woods*. The musical tells the story of a witch who tasks a childless baker and his wife with procuring magical items from classic fairy tales to reverse the curse put on their family tree. Also 5/29, 5/30. Times vary. playgroup.org

5/28 SATURDAY

Reception: Hudson River Museum presents *Black Hands, Gray Lands, Green Spaces: Advocating for Urban Gardens*. Karen Washington will talk about her work in urban agriculture. 1-2pm. hrm.org

5/31 TUESDAY

Reception: ArtsWestchester presents *I See Me, Sana Musasama*. This is a Zoom program with an African-American ceramic and mixed-media artist whose work parallels her commitment to human rights causes. 12-1pm. artsw.org

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Lisa D'Amico, *Love After Dark*, on view in Pelham Art Center's *Pelham Art Center Artist Club* exhibition through 5/21 (photo courtesy of Pelham Art Center)

EXHIBITIONS & CLASSES

ArtsWestchester | artsw.org

- **Exhibition:** *Who Writes History?* The exhibition explores how images and language shape the collective memory and mainstream narratives. Through 7/3. Wed-Fri & Sun: 12-5pm, Sat: 12-6pm.

Blue Door Art Center | bluedoorartcenter.org

- **Classes:** *Children's Saturday Art*. This workshop for children aged 5-12 is taught by the Center's teaching artists. Sat: 10am-12pm.

Bronxville Women's Club | thebronxvillewomensclubinc.org

- **Exhibition:** *Beaux Arts Exhibition & Competition*. This show will feature the original work in a variety of mediums by Westchester residents. 5/2-12. Mon-Fri: 10am-2pm.

Center for Digital Arts, Peekskill | sunywcc.edu/locations/peekskill/

- **Classes:** *3D Modeling and Printing for Adults - Remote*. Participants will explore new technology, such as 3D printers, that enables the design of everything from car parts to jewelry. Tuesdays from 5/24-6/28. 7-9pm.

Clay Art Center | clayartcenter.org

- **Exhibition:** *Anat Shifan: The Garden*. This solo exhibition includes themes of the garden expressed in three-dimensional still life and centerpieces. Through 5/9. Mon & Thurs: 10am-2.30pm, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10am-5pm.
- **Exhibition:** *Object/Image: In the Space between Thoughts and Things*. SUNY New Paltz Ceramics Program students and faculty reflect on the potential between internal and external space. Through 5/9, Mon & Thurs: 10am-2.30pm, Tues, Wed, Fri & Sat: 10am-5pm.

The City of White Plains & White Plains BID | wpbid.com

- **Exhibition:** *Harriet Tubman – The Journey to Freedom*. This 9-foot high sculpture by artist Wesley Wofford commemorates Harriet Tubman will be installed for a three-month residence in White Plains. 4/1-6/30 art Renaissance Plaza in White Plains.

The Ground Glass | thegroundglass.org

- **Exhibition:** *The Written Word – Part I & II*. This outdoor exhibition represents the work of more than 20 Ground Glass Association photographers. 5/24-6/22 at Katonah Avenue's Railroad Crossing fence, 5/20-6/22. Times vary.

Harrison Public Library | harrisonpl.org

- **Exhibition:** *Debra Friedkin's Narrative Collages*. Friedkin's collages, sculptures and metal assemblages are based on concepts of recycling and repurposing, deconstruction and reinvention. 5/8-6/3. 9:30am-5:30pm.
- **Exhibition:** *Informed by Nature*. Suzanne Montresor has been a watercolor artist for the past 35 years. Through 5/6, 9:30am-5:30pm.

Hudson River Museum | hrm.org

- **Exhibition:** *Frida Kahlo in Context*. The show explores her relationship with Diego Rivera through legendary photographs of Kahlo as well as artwork related to her personal life and Mexico. Through 5/22, 12-5pm.
- **Exhibition:** *The World of Frida*. The show features works of art that include Frida Kahlo as their subject, as well as pieces inspired by her life, Mexican culture, art and more. Through 5/22, 12-5pm.
- **Classes:** *Family Studio Art: Dazzling Icons*. Participants aged 5+ will use printed images of American and Mexican historical figures, including Frida Kahlo, to create a collage painting. Saturdays & Sundays, 5/7–22, 1–4pm.

Hudson Valley Writers Center | writerscenter.org

- **Classes:** *Monday Night Poetry with Nathan McClain (via Zoom)*. This workshop will focus on revision strategies and craft techniques of poems participants have already drafted and look to refine. Mondays, 5/9-6/13. 6:30-9pm.
- **Classes:** *Writing, Revising, and Publishing Short Fiction (via Zoom)*. Each class will focus on a different stage of the writing to submission process—from writing and revising in early weeks, to submitting work in later weeks. 5/4-8 at 6:30-9pm.

Irvington Public Library | irvingtonlibrary.org

- **Exhibition:** *Invented Paintings, Real-life Scenarios*. This exhibition of paintings by Maura Doern Danko portrays her experience of everyday world influences, particularly her experience during the COVID-19 pandemic. 5/1-31, 10am-5pm at Martucci Gallery at the Library.

Katonah Museum of Art | katonahmuseum.org

- **Exhibition:** *Constant Carnival: The Haas Brothers in Context*. This show explores the work of contemporary artists Simon and Nikolai Haas within the art historical tradition of the carnivalesque. Through 6/26, 12-5pm.

Mamaroneck Artists Guild | mamaroneckartistsguild.org

- **Exhibition:** *Reflections: Photography Art Show*. The show will feature the works of Mark Swartz. Through 5/14. 12-5pm.
- **Exhibition:** *In Full Bloom / Color*. 5/17-6/4. 12-5pm.

Neuberger Museum of Art | neuberger.org

- **Exhibition:** *The Friends at 50: Selections from the Collection*. This exhibition is comprised of works that have come into the Museum's collection through the efforts of the Friends of the Museum organization. Through 7/3, Wed-Sun: 12-5pm.

New Rochelle Council on the Arts Rotunda Gallery | newrochellearts.org

- **Exhibition:** *The Subjective Portrait: Reflections of Our Humanity*. The show reflects on humanity and major events that impact who people are, such as a global pandemic, racial reckoning, food insecurity and more. Through 5/7, 9am-5pm.

Northern Star Quilters Guild | northernstarquilters.com

- **Exhibition:** *World of Quilts XLI*. The show will display the many facets of the art and craft of quilting, from traditional to modern and improvisational to fiber art. 5/1 at 10am-4pm at Purchase College, Purchase.

Oak & Oil Gallery | oakandoil.com

- **Exhibition:** *Bellezze da Spazzatura: the Art of Natalya Khorover*. Khorover provides an ode to the beauty of flowers through single-use plastic that she transforms into petals and leaves from sophisticated peonies to humble corn flowers. Through 5/15. 11am-5:30pm.
- **Exhibition:** *Flowers and Landscapes*. The exhibition features new work by Cynthia Mullins, who creates a range of oils featuring florals. 5/20-6/13, 11am-5:30pm.

Pelham Art Center | pelhamartcenter.org

- **Exhibition:** *Artist Club Exhibition*. The show will feature a selection of recent works by members of the Pelham Art Center Artist Club. Through 5/21, 10am-5pm.

Rye Arts Center | ryeartscenter.org

- **Exhibition:** *46th Annual Ground Glass Photography Exhibit*. The Westchester-based association of photographers will be hosting a juried selection of photographs at The Rye Arts Center Gallery. 5/18-6/18, times vary.
- **Exhibition:** *Portraits, Personalities, Passion: The Photography of Tony Vaccaro*. The exhibition features Vaccaro's acclaimed photography of arts celebrities, fashion icons and wartime experiences. Through 5/13. Mon & Sat: 9am-3pm, Tues-Fri: 9am-7pm.

Studio Theater in Exile | studiotheaterinexile.com

- **Exhibition:** *The Perfect Mind*. This video performance of a poem written circa 400 A.D., was adapted by Mara Mills for the exhibit. Thurs & Sat: 11am-5pm. 5/1-31.

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