



# The Greystone Connection

A Monthly Newsletter

Building the Greystone Community Together!



OCTOBER 2022

Published by Susan Schweitzer and Bill Naedler

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

“Do your little bit of good where you are; it’s those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world.” -Desmond Tutu

I remember as a child, adults saying how fast time is flying by. Now that I am...ahem, dare I say it, a senior, I understand what they were talking about. We were just anticipating spring and summer and here we are in the season of autumn. How did that happen?

As I reflect on autumn and what a beautiful season it is, its bursts of color giving its last hurrah before we enter into the greys and browns of a snowy winter. I think of how humanity is similar with each of us having our own colors of many ages, personalities, opinions, and yes, quirks. As beautiful as humanity is, we are not as harmonious as mother nature. We are living in a “me” culture where respect, acknowledgement of others, and listening is somewhat lost. As the quote above says if we show kindness and do a little bit of good, it will overwhelm our community. Let us continue to foster and continue these noble attitudes in our daily lives.

*Bill*

## GREYSTONE SPOTLIGHTS

### FELIX, OUR DOORMAN MAKES THE NEWS - OPINION



I’m 70 years old and planning to retire next year so I can spend more time with my wife. That means this month will be the last time I assist my union, 32BJ of the Service Employees International Union, to

negotiate an updated labor contract for Westchester’s proud residential workers. My hope is to win a strong new contract for the doormen and women who will keep my profession thriving. We rely on our employer-paid healthcare. Plus, I myself need a good pension, since Social Security won’t even cover my rent when I retire. There are 1,400 of us in all. We are the door-people, porters, handy-people and supers who run 500 co-ops and condo buildings that more than 100,000 Hudson Valley residents call home. The last years have been like nothing I’ve ever seen over the course of my 35-year career as a doorman.

When the pandemic hit, most people sheltered in place. But not us. We got up every morning so residents could stay home. It was a scary time. No one understood the new virus. We were adapting and innovating as we went, sanitizing peoples’ grocery deliveries, helping people quarantine and masking up. Tragically, not all of us survived the pandemic. At least one Hudson Valley residential worker tragically passed away due to complications from COVID-19. Some things have gone back to normal — other things have changed forever. When the pandemic hit, people started shopping online like never before. Boxes now start arriving at 6 a.m. — and it continues all day long. FedEx comes a few times a day, Amazon comes a few times a day, USPS and UPS come once a day. And now they all deliver on Sundays (including USPS, but just parcels). It’s a new normal. And it’s a lot of work for us. The number of packages I get in one day is now what I used to get in one week.



When I've gotten sick over the years, our employer-paid healthcare has been a lifeline. I don't know what I would have done without it the time I had to stay in the hospital for 23 days. My wife has some chronic health challenges. There's no way I could afford her medications without the healthcare benefits we get from the job.

When residents got sick and had to quarantine, we were their primary contact with the outside world — delivering groceries and essentials right to their door. This helped keep everyone safe. We workers have to be taken care of, too.

Our labor contract expires on Sept. 30. Now is the time to show that the gratitude we received during the pandemic leads to recognition via wage increases and pension improvements so we can survive during these difficult times. Support Westchester's essential frontline residential workers this month because I'm sure readers agree, we all deserve a secure future.

*Felix Cano is a doorman and member of Service Employees International Union, Local 32BJ. He lives in Yonkers.*

### **OUR RESIDENT AUTHOR WRITES AGAIN!**

Our very own Jonathan Vatner, Apt 805, will be discussing his new book, "The Bridesmaid's Union", on Oct 25 from 7:00 to 8:30 at the Scarsdale Library via ZOOM. The book is the story of a young woman who has had it with all the craziness involved with being a bridesmaid. She goes online with her grievances and ends up with more than she bargained for. Goodreads has this to say about the book: "Bridesmaid's Union shows the power and limits of alliances we form on social media, and how to make the most of the ones we are born into...a captivating novel of family, Facebook groups and bridesmaids gone rogue."

This is Jonathan's second book. His first, "Carnegie Hill" is set in a Manhattan co-op. If you have experienced co-op life in the Greystone for more than 6 months, this is a book I am sure you will enjoy. I loved it. You can buy the book on Amazon or find a copy in the Greystone Library.

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### **MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY**

#### **Maintenance**

- The boiler project is well-underway with all the boilers now dismantled and removed. Workers start early in the morning, sometimes at 6:30, working to meet the heating season date of October 15.



Photo by Howard Schatz

- The garage project has been slower, due to delays on level one and two needing lead abatement. Progress is being made and we give a special "Thank you" to Joel Bloom for organizing the difficult task of moving cars so that workers have the parking area to get the work done.
- You will be able to access to the south side entrance door using the common key (gym, bathrooms, and bike room).
- Ongoing repairs and touch-ups as needed.

We ask all residents to put a notation in the work-order book located at the Doorman's Station if you see a bulb that needs to be replaced, a battery that is beeping, or any other issue on your floor or that you notice in the public areas of the building that needs attention. This will get the work done quicker as the staff will be notified. As they say....if you see something (that needs staff attention), say something.

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### **UPDATE OF OUR KEY SAFE**



The BoD is in the process of updating our secure key safe. It is important that there is a copy of your house keys in the safe in case of an emergency. Although residents are unaware of the many times that keys are needed, and as long as there is a copy of your keys locked in the safe, emergencies can be easily handled and resolved. Residents have needed to get their keys when they inadvertently let their doors slam behind them as they realize their keys are inside the apartment, in cases when there is a medical emergency and the resident needs immediate help or can't get to the door, or in cases when a leak occurs and the staff need to get into the apartment if the resident is out or on vacation, just to name a few. For those who worry about the security of their apartment, in all the years that The Greystone Coop has kept keys in the safe there has never been a case of anyone getting a key and entering an apartment without permission. The keys are kept in a locked safe, which is in a locked boardroom, which is in a locked community room. There is no chance of your keys being stolen. Over the years, locks have been changed and residents have come and gone and the keys have not

been checked. Gary, Bill and Susan are checking the keys to make sure that there is, locked in the safe, a functioning key for every unit. Instructions will be sent to every resident as to when we will be doing the key checks. If there is not a key to check, those residents will be asked to supply a labeled key to be placed in the safe. This will start the 2<sup>nd</sup> week of October and will be a quick and simple process. We appreciate your cooperation and help in getting this done for the safety and welfare of all.

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### THE 2022 POOL SEASON COMES TO AN END

It is hard to believe, but it is already October and the 2022 pool season has come to a close. The last day that the pool will be open is Sunday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>. Due to the changing of the weather and the fact that the gas is off because of the boiler project and the pool cannot be heated, in addition to the need to drain and winterize the pool before it gets too cold, it was decided that the last day should be Sunday. Where did the summer go? This season was a very successful one and it was due to the effort and work of many of our residents. Many thanks, again, to Steve Kahn who volunteers every year to oversee the pool. This year we give a special “Thank you” to Rich DeSanctis, who oversaw replacing the old and broken pool furniture. Our residents enjoyed the new chairs and lounges and the comfortable conversation areas. We especially thank our resident lifeguards, Eugene Conway and Billy Walsh, who did an excellent job of overseeing the pool deck and keeping our swimmers safe. Thank you all for making this summer a success!

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### COMMITTEES

Our community has many committees to enhance our community life here at the Greystone. The list of committees are posted on the Board bulletin boards located in the mailrooms. New residents are encouraged to join and those already on committees are asked to confirm if they are still members of a committee. Email name apt. # and committee name to President1085@gmail.com.

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### Halloween At The Greystone

The Greystone Community has always made Halloween a fun day for the children and grandchildren of Greystone residents (and even the adults) by planning parties and putting out baskets of goodies for the trick-or-treaters in our building. Due to the continuing notices of Greystone residents testing positive for Covid19, the BoD has decided that the policy of not holding an official event, nor allowing Trick-Or Treaters to roam the hallways, will be continued for another year. Treats for the resident

children can be placed on tables that will be set up in the lobby for our ghosts and goblins to pick up. The treats will be in the lobby starting around 5 P.M. and any adults in costume who want to participate in supervising this distribution are welcome.

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### FYI

The word circulating is that Max and Demir are cousins. To set the record straight, they are not related.

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### GREYSTONE COMMITTEES, ACTIVITIES, EVENTS



#### GREYSTONE GARDEN

info provided by Rita Walton

We think our test garden in the south lawn has been a success, and we're looking forward to expanding next spring. Thanks to the board, we now have a direct water source as well as access in and out through the south door. A gate in the fence is also planned so that gardeners can get to the garden more easily. Residents should be on the lookout for garden updates, as we make plans to expand in spring 2023!

This year, we were lucky enough to see sunflowers bloom from seeds planted by Karen Levy! We also have lettuce, green beans, kale, basil, mint, rosemary and thyme going strong in their containers. Gardening experts say that we can still plant chard, kale, lettuce and spinach seeds, as the weather cools this month. We didn't get sweet peas planted this fall, as we had hoped to do. But... there's next spring to try again!

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#### THE GREYSTONE READERS' CIRCLE

The Greystone Readers' Circle will take place on:

Date: Tuesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>

Time: 7:30 – 8:30 PM

Where: Via Zoom

Book: *The Lincoln Highway*: A novel

Author: Amor Towles

Eighteen-year-old Emmett Watson is driven home to Nebraska by the warden of the juvenile work farm where he has just served fifteen months for involuntary manslaughter. Emmett's intention is to pick up his eight year old brother and head to California where they can start their lives anew. Instead, they embark on a fateful journey to the City of New York.

*“A #1 New York Times Bestseller”*

**All are WELCOME!!**

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## LIBRARY NEWS

A big thank you to the anonymous donor who purchased subscriptions to three magazines for our Library: Westchester, Time, and New York. Look for them on top of the shelves closest to the door. You will often find copies of other current magazines on the round table or book cart as well. On the Puzzle Table by the window, you will find copies of the NY Times, Journal News, and the Enterprise. These newspapers are delivered anonymously each day.

A new location will soon have to be found for the newspapers as residents once again begin doing puzzles in the library. You will find a selection to choose from on the book cart. Bring one home or set it up in the library so others can stop by to add a piece.

Please return all magazines, newspapers and puzzles to the library when you are finished with them so others can enjoy them.

**PLEASE BE CONSIDERATE WHEN MAKING DONATIONS.** Limit donations to no more than 20 books **IN GOOD CONDITION.** Please, no textbooks, catalogues, dictionaries, books with outdated information (i.e. health or computers), study guides.

WIFI is available in the Library. If you do not know the code, ask at the front desk. Thank you to the volunteers who help keep our Library in working order.

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## LAUNDRY CONSIDERATION



When your laundry is completed and taken out of the washer, please wipe the rubber piece just inside the door and any drippings of detergent on the machine, floor or elsewhere,

*Thank you!*

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## EMAILS FROM HUDSON NORTH PRESIDENT1085

If you are not receiving periodic emails from Hudson North or President1085, please email your Name and apt# to President1085@gmail.



## HOLIDAY WISHES



Beginning the evening of October 4th, many of The Greystone residents celebrate Yom Kippur, also known as Day of Atonement and the holiest day of the year for the Jewish people. To them, and

to all our residents, we wish you “Shana tova u’metuka”, a good and sweet year. Wishing everyone a year filled with health, joy and sweet surprises.

In addition to this holy day, we wish Happy and Healthy Holidays to those celebrating the following holidays this month....

- St. Francis of Assisi – Oct. 4
- Sukkot – Oct. 9-16
- Shemini Alzeret – Oct. 16-18
- Simchat Torah – Oct. 17-18
- Diwali – Oct. 24<sup>th</sup>
- Baha’i – Oct. 26<sup>th</sup>

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## DATES TO REMEMBER...

As the holidays are quickly approaching, our Celebrations will be held on...

 **Christmas Tree Decorating,**


Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM

 **Hanukkah Candle Lighting,**

Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6 PM

## Annual Collection Drives:

 **Thanksgiving Food Drive,** November 1-19

 **Toy Drive,** December 1-17

## Greystone Holiday Door Decorating Contest,

(Start thinking of your door decoration)

 December 1-20



**Open Board ZOOM Meeting**  
November 14<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 PM  
*Zoom link will be emailed to you.*

