



# The Greystone Connection

A Monthly Newsletter

*Building the Greystone Community Together!*



DECEMBER 2022

PUBLISHED BY SUSAN SCHWEITZER AND BILL NAEDLER

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dear Neighbors and Friends,*

“There are some upon this earth of yours,” returned the Spirit, “who lay claim to know us, and who do their deeds of passion, pride, ill-will, hatred, envy, bigotry, and selfishness in our name, who are as strange to us and all our kith and kin, as if they had never lived. Remember that, and charge their doings on themselves, not us.”  
*(Spirit of Christmas Present) A Christmas Carol, Charles Dickens, 1843*

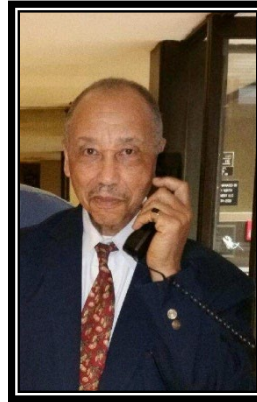
A Christmas Carol by Charles Dickens is my favorite book. Each holiday season I read and watch the Alastair Sim 1951 film version, which I think is the best of all the film versions, and I am inspired as the story tells of a sad, miserly, almost lifeless, Ebenezer Scrooge and his redemption. He is visited by 3 ghosts that enlighten him, piercing the darkness of his heart and calling him to live in the brightness of what is important. Even though the days are getting shorter, and darkness seems to be snuffing out the light, December is a month of celebrating light and of Hope.

The quote above admonishes me to look deep within and reflect if I am blaming or expecting others to do the things that I may be able to do to make the world around me a better place. May this story be a source of Hope and enlightenment, challenging us to see the importance of the now and to be kinder and gentler to all we meet.

*Bill*



## A SAD DAY AT THE GREYSTONE



It is with deep sadness that we mourn the passing of our long-time beloved doorman, who served The Greystone Community for more than 30 years. Neville Black retired several years ago after serving as doorman at The Greystone and, for those of you who joined us recently, you missed a real class act. Neville was a fine man, a gentleman, who always looked professional, acted in a

professional manner and was a trusted and dedicated part of our community. There was never a negative word said about Neville. Once, during an event held in the Community Room, Neville was invited to come down and enjoy some food during his break. When he entered the room, without a word being said, the entire group of over 100 residents, spontaneously stood and gave Neville a long and well-deserved standing ovation. This said it all.

Recently, Neville has had medical problems and, sadly, was unable to overcome his issues. We extend our sympathy to his family and friends and we will never forget our doorman, co-worker, team member and friend, Neville Black. May he rest in peace and may his memory be a blessing.

## MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY



As you already have heard, Hudson North is was bought out by AKAM. A property management company, established in 1983, AKAM is working on the premise of shifting the mindset within the property management

industry, and claims to be the only brand to fulfill its promise of providing a highly personalized, attentive, hospitality-led service designed for an enriched

residential experience, leadership in the management space while transforming the future of the industry. Powered by state-of-the-art technology, AKAM claims "Our vision is to deliver an exceptional experience driven by a diverse team focused on continually elevating the level of hospitality in everything we do."

With over 1,000 professionals across the communities they now serve, AKAM is proud to grow a team of the most experienced, knowledgeable, and diligent experts in the field. We hope to be able to benefit from the many services that AKAM can provide.

Now that we are part of a large property management organization that claims to give an "exceptional experience" we hope to see positive changes in the near future. We are happy to report that Chantel and Keith will still be working with our team under new management.

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### THE GREYSTONE AND SMART THERMOSTATS

The following information was provided to us by Richard DeSanctis. He can probably help to answer any questions that you may have.

Con Edison is offering a great deal on smart thermostats from NEST, Honeywell and Emerson. Simply stated, you can get one of these approved smart thermostats with a \$50 discount on the purchase price, and then, an additional rebate of \$85 if you register your device with Con Ed. Total savings - \$135!

These smart thermostats can also potentially save users 10-20% in energy usage, while also keeping your home warm and comfortable.

Please be advised that these thermostats make use of the low power 24-volt line that powers your heating zone valve, so you will likely need help from either Max, Carlos or a plumber or electrician.

Con Edison offers the discounts for these smart thermostats at:

Save \$135+ With Your Smart Thermostat

[https://www.coned.com/en/save-money/rebates-incentives-tax-credits/rebates-incentives-tax-credits-for-residential-customers/bring-your-thermostat-and-get-\\$85](https://www.coned.com/en/save-money/rebates-incentives-tax-credits/rebates-incentives-tax-credits-for-residential-customers/bring-your-thermostat-and-get-$85)  
*Thank you, Rich, for the useful information which may help Greystone residents save some money on their Con Ed bills. Your research and report is greatly appreciated.*



**PLEASE EMPTY YOUR MAILBOX**

### **DECEMBER HOLIDAYS**

Another long and difficult year is coming to an end. December brings us many holidays to celebrate.



- Hannukah – from Sunday December 18<sup>th</sup> through Monday, December 26<sup>th</sup>.
- Christmas Eve, Saturday December 24<sup>th</sup>, Christmas Day, Sunday December 25<sup>th</sup>
- Kwanzaa, Sunday, December 25<sup>th</sup> through Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>
- New Year's Eve, Saturday, December 31<sup>st</sup>
- New Year's Day, Sunday, January 1<sup>st</sup>

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### A THANK YOU NOTE...

It was so nice to get the following email from Michael Carmen, 504, and she allowed us to share it with you....  
Appreciation for our community  
*"Reading the last two newsletters, I've realized my pride in the Greystone has expanded many-fold. I'm so grateful for the important work the Greystone is doing to maintain our physical building, replace 50-year-old boilers, and repair and improve the garage. I value how we reach out to the surrounding community with food and gifts for people in need, work for social justice, and continue to create an ever-more welcoming, inclusive community here at home. I so appreciate our great staff, and all my neighbors, including those who established and maintain a library, run reading and walking groups, planted a new garden (hurray!), and make sure we stay connected to each other through our newsletter and online. I've lived in the building for 21 years, and the Greystone has always been a good place to be. Now, it's the best it's ever been."*

Thank you, Michael Carmen, for such a lovely letter. It really makes a difference to get such wonderful feedback from the community.

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### EVENTS AT THE GREYSTONE

*This year we are opening the ceremonies for those who would like to attend in person or via zoom as we have done during the last several years of Covid.*

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### THANKSGIVING FOOD COLLECTION A SUCCESS



The Greystone was given a special "Thank-you" for providing the trimmings to make Thanksgiving dinner complete. Thank you to all who cared and shared with the Yonkers community. Your efforts were appreciated. We are "Greystone Strong!"



## GREYSTONE HOLIDAY TOY DRIVE



We are beginning our annual Holiday Toy Drive from **December 1<sup>st</sup> – December 18<sup>th</sup>**. There are decorated boxes in the lobby – thanks to Frank and Helena Caliendo - waiting for your toy contributions. Please contribute an unwrapped toy for a child from Birth – 12 years old so that all can have some joy on Christmas this year. We

are sure that you will get great pleasure from spreading joy to those less fortunate.

*Thank you in advance for your continued generosity!*



## HANUKKAH AND CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTINGS



December is always a busy month, and, in addition, there are many activities planned for all to enjoy. Please make a note of the following special days

and plan to attend in person or via Zoom. The Greystone Elves have been busy to arrange events of celebrations for our community. .

- **The Greystone Holiday Door Decorating Contest has begun!** Those who decorate every year or who may want to join us to let the holiday spirit flow through our hallways this year, sign up until **December 4<sup>th</sup>** at the doorman station or mailrooms to officially participate. **Doors must be completed by December 11<sup>th</sup>** to be photographed.
- **Sunday, December 4<sup>th</sup>**, the **Christmas Tree Decorating** with Gary and Howard on the keyboard with the Greystone “Choir” scheduled for 6:00 PM.

- On Sunday, December 18<sup>th</sup> at 6:00 PM the lighting of the First Candle of Hannukah
- Thanks to Mike Simons and George Heimberger for decorating and setting up for the Celebration, Gary Weinberg for cinematography, Howard Schatz and the Greystone choir providing the music and to the leaders of the service Steve Kahn and Adrian Strizhak.

For events go to [www.Greystoneconnections.com](http://www.Greystoneconnections.com) to log in.

***ALL ARE WELCOME TO JOIN US IN THE ABOVE CELEBRATIONS!  
WE HOPE THAT NEW RESIDENTS WILL JOIN US  
ENJOY WHAT THE GREYSTONE HAS TO OFFER!***



## ARE YOU GETTING GREYSTONE EMAILS?

This message is going out to all new shareholders and anyone not receiving Greystone emails, please email [president1085@gmail.com](mailto:president1085@gmail.com) with your name and apartment number. Keep in the loop!

## ANNOUNCEMENTS IN NEWSLETTER

If you have an event, happening, milestone, celebration, etc. that you would like to share with your friends and neighbors please feel free to contact us at [greystoneconnections@yahoo.com](mailto:greystoneconnections@yahoo.com) and you will be published.

## GREYSTONE COMMITTEES, ACTIVITIES

### THE GREYSTONE READERS' CIRCLE



The Greystone Readers' Circle will meet on:

**Date:** TBA

**Time:** 7:30 – 8:30 PM

**Where:** Via Zoom

on [www.GreystoneConnections.com](http://www.GreystoneConnections.com)

**Book:** "Horse: A Novel"

**Author:** Geraldine Brooks

*Horse* by Geraldine Brooks, winner of the 2006 Pulitzer Prize, is a sprawling roman à clef covering nearly 170 years

of American history, stretching from antebellum Kentucky to present-day Washington, DC. Thoroughbreds provide the unifying element for this far-reaching narrative, but horses and the complex culture surrounding them are only devices for Brooks to explore her fundamental subject: race and its corrosive influence on our nation's foundation and cancerous impact on society today.

Told from the perspective of six characters, *Horse* interweaves the story of the Black equestrians who made their white masters fabulously wealthy with those of contemporary young professionals struggling to form relationships despite racial micro-aggressions and misunderstandings.

*A date for the discussion has not yet been set at the printing of this newsletter. Watch for flyers posted on bulletin boards, but you can start reading the book prior to the discussion, which will be a late Tuesday in December.*

**ALL ARE WELCOME to Participate or Just Listen!!**

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### ENVIRONMENTAL COMMITTEE

*The compost project is currently on hold waiting further information from the City of Yonkers.*

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### END OF YEAR WINDFALL

It has come to the editors' attention that there may be residents who are not aware that they have money/funds that they can claim. These monies are with the New York State Comptroller's Office. This money may come from unused gift certificates, refunds for returned items in retail stores or more significant amounts of money coming from unclaimed tax refunds, dividend funds, etc. In order to claim what is yours and get a check in the mail, you must Google – "New York State Comptroller – Unclaimed Funds". Enter your last and first name and any money in your name will be listed. You have to verify your address, checking to see if you have ever lived at the address listed, as there may be others with your same name, put in your info and you will get a check in the mail for the funds that have been unclaimed. There have already been residents at The Greystone who received their money in as little as a week or two, so don't hesitate to check this out. Hoping that you find a pleasant end of the year surprise waiting for you.

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### REMINDERS

- Covid, RSV, and the flu are on the rise and filling up the emergency rooms, with the young and the older citizens whom are most vulnerable. Think about masking, keeping social distance and being careful so that you don't get sick during the holiday season.
- Wrapped boxes are in the lobby waiting for unwrapped toys for our local children whose families are struggling during these difficult

times. Please help put a smile on the face of the young child. Buy a toy for a boy or a girl, ages up to 12. Your generosity is greatly appreciated.

- If you notice something that needs repair or attention by the staff, please make a note in the work-order book located at the doorman's station.
- Now is the time when even more boxes than usual will be delivered to The Greystone. Please break down and flatten the boxes before leaving them in the basement for the staff to collect and recycle. Your cooperation is appreciated.

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### Compactor Room Cleanliness

We all want our building to be clean, free of insects and rodents, and be kept in the best condition possible. We have a maintenance committee that walks the building monthly to make sure that nothing is missed and to catch the little things that may have been overlooked, They work with the board and staff to bring to our attention things that can be improved. One of the constant issues involve the compactor rooms, The staff does their best to keep them clean, but is important that all residents do their part as well. We can all help if we do the following things.

- ✓ All garbage **MUST** be bagged and tied before putting into the chute. **Push** bagged garbage down the chute before closing the door.
- ✓ Put only CLEAN recyclables in the appropriate bins.
- ✓ Please break down cereal boxes (Costco size) and to put in the bin,
- ✓ Pizza boxes must be broken down and thrown down the chute.
- ✓ Do not leave large boxes, items, or large bags of plastic bottles in compactor room, place them in the halls near the laundry rooms.
- ✓ Wipe updates any accidental spills, pick up anything you drop.
- ✓ NEVER put GLASS down the chute! If something is brokenness put it aside in a paper bag and label it as "broken glass" to keep our staff safe.

Remember, the Greystone is home to all of us. Let's work together to keep it clean and to make it a happy, healthy place to live.

