



# The Greystone Connection

A Monthly Newsletter

**Building the Greystone Community Together!**

FEBRUARY

2



FEBRUARY 2023

Published by Susan Schweitzer and Bill Naedler

## A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

*Dear Neighbors and Friends,*

***“Unity is strength...when there is teamwork and collaboration, wonderful things can be achieved.”***

*Mattie Stepanek*



We certainly have had our community tested beyond its limits. Because of the crew working through the night on Christmas Eve and Day to restore our heat and hot water, we were spared the crisis of

having to vacate the building. We thank them for forgoing the holiday with their families and spending it in a cold boiler room so we could have heat and hot water. Yes, because the gas for the building was turned off, this certainly disrupted our daily lives in that we could not cook our favorite meals and have the convenience of drying our clothes in the laundry room for an undetermined amount of time, which could have been many months.

Despite rumors and misinformation swirling around, we still rose to the occasion and pulled together, getting us through this crisis and meeting the challenge to find ways of adjusting to temporary routines of living.

As we moved ahead, the Key committee was formed to go door to door for the time-consuming testing of keys to access apartments for plumbers to change stove valves and flex hoses bringing all up to code. Most residents were pleasant and very cooperative. Thank you! One positive outcome, besides our resilience, is that all stove valves and flex hoses will be up to code.

When the news was received that the dryers have been restored for use in both laundry rooms, you could almost hear a shout of joy throughout the building. This was a sign that we are on our way back to normal!

We are nearing completion of replacing all stove valves and hoses within a few days. Once this is done and ConEd approves the gas to be turned on for the building, we will be able to cook again. So, start getting menus ready!

*Bill*

## MONTHLY REPORTS TO THE COMMUNITY

### Maintenance Projects

The Greystone continues its ongoing maintenance including...

- The garage project is near completion. Due to the good weather this winter, the workers were able to continue working during December and January.
- Thanks to Joel Bloom for his hard work in organizing the moving of cars and parking spots.
- We are making great progress with the replacement of the flexible gas hose and gas valve behind the ovens. The men working have been quick, competent and respectful of our residents and property and everything has been proceeding smoothly. All our units should be complete by Monday, February 6<sup>th</sup>.
- All the efforts of Keith, Max and our “team” paid off with the restoration of our dryers on January 27<sup>th</sup>, as quickly as could have been expected.

### MONTHLY FINANCIAL REPORT

We started the new year with approximately \$1.5 million in our reserve funds. After making payments for both the garage and boiler projects, our balance is approximately \$1 million. A more accurate and detailed report will be available at our next meeting.

### A SPECIAL THANK YOU

The replacement of the flexible gas lines and gas valves has been going very well, not just due to the professional plumbing team but to the volunteers who have given their time to help when needed. A special thank you to Kathy Santangelo, Robin Bloom, Eddie Glass and Steve Kahn. Thank you, too to the board

members who teamed up to organize the keys for the safe, making sure that there is access to every apartment,

An extra special “Thanks” to “Mike” Simons who went above and beyond exercising her organizational and supervisory skills. We truly appreciate your dedication to The Greystone Community.

---

## **FEBRUARY: A MONTH FULL OF SPECIAL DAYS**

February, although the shortest month, is also a month packed with many celebrations. Besides being Black History Month, an annual celebration of achievements by African Americans and a time for recognizing their central role in U.S. history, February also has many other celebrations. February 2<sup>nd</sup> is Ground Hog Day. According to legend, if the groundhog comes out of his burrow at the end of his hibernation and does **not** see his shadow then, spring will come early. If the groundhog sees a shadow, then it goes back into its burrow and winter will last 6 more weeks. Let us hope that the groundhog does not see his shadow this year. We need a little spring! February is also the month of Abraham Lincoln’s birthday on February 12<sup>th</sup>, George Washington’s birthday on February 22<sup>nd</sup>, celebrated as Presidents’ Day on Monday, February 21, and Valentine’s Day on February 14<sup>th</sup>. February 22<sup>nd</sup> marks Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent for Christians. Then, of course, there is Super Bowl Sunday, which comes this year on Sunday, February 12<sup>th</sup>. With so many special days and celebrations, let’s enjoy Super February and find a way to celebrate and show those who are special to you some love.

## **GREYSTONE COMMITTEES, ACTIVITIES**

### **GREYSTONE GARDENING NEWS**

Submitted by Rita Walton

We're looking forward to getting the Greystone Garden up and running this year! We hope to purchase some raised beds and soil, and to have them ready to go by late March.

If you are interested in having a garden space in one of the raised beds, then please fill out an application and put it in a box we'll set up in the lobby. There are a limited number of raised bed garden spaces.

Applications for a space will be accepted from early Feb to Feb 28, and we'll contact those who are accepted in early March. Those without a raised bed assignment can do container gardening, if they choose. There are several containers available, or residents can bring their own. We also will work to have a “Pick Your Own” garden area that will be available for all Greystone

residents. An Open Garden session is planned for every Saturday from 10 am to 11 am, starting in April or May. Residents who are interested can come to the garden at this time and get an orientation. Gardeners can come together to discuss planting, crops, watering, and other issues or problems. All residents are welcome to come help in the garden.

***Happy Gardening!***

---

## **GREYSTONE HELPING HANDS COMMITTEE**



If you need a helping hand during these difficult times, someone to talk to, a friendly "check-in" to see if you are O.K., or to get help with a service such as filling out forms, grocery shopping, etc. do not hesitate to let us know.

***Volunteers:*** If you have a talent or skill you would like to share in assisting someone, please send an email to Bill at [president1085@gmail.com](mailto:president1085@gmail.com). All requests are confidential and will be matched up with any services needed.

---

## **THE GREYSTONE READERS’ CIRCLE**



The Greystone Readers’ Circle will meet on:

DATE: Tuesday, February 7<sup>th</sup>

TIME: 7:30 – 8:30 PM

WHERE: VIA ZOOM

Can be accessed at <https://greystoneconnections.com>

BOOK: ***The Midnight Library- A Novel***

AUTHOR: Matt Haig

The Midnight Library is about Nora, a thirty-something woman who is regretful about her life and feels alienated and unneeded in this world. In the depths of her wallowing, she comes across the Midnight Library. In it, each book represents a portal into another variation of what her life could have been. As she reads the volumes, they allow her to access different versions of her life -- relationships she could have stuck with, careers she could have pursued and so on. As she jumps in and out of these alternate realities, Nora's journey of self-discovery results in a life-affirming and reflective story about the choices we make, the paths we've chosen and each of our places in this world.

*ALL ARE WELCOME!*



## ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

### Talking TRASH

By the Greystone Environmental Concerns Committee

*Our committee will be discussing the following issues. Please join us at monthly meetings, or sign up for our emails please contact Sue McAnanama, Apt. 105 at*

[suemcananama@gmail.com](mailto:suemcananama@gmail.com)

### ***What can we do as good citizens to help our planet?***

Our first goal will be addressing how to reduce the amount of garbage produced at the Greystone. There are recycling and composting solutions for just about everything we purchase or use.

Our building staff work hard to collect the paper, cans, glass, cardboard, and plastic for recycling. Recycling works and keeps these materials out of the incinerator and out of landfills and waterways. We could all learn to be better at recycling, and we'll be talking about best practices for recycling at environmental meetings and will also look into touring the County recycling and composting facilities.

*Here's the Yonkers Recycling Guide:*

<https://www.yonkersny.gov/home/showpublisheddocument/12537/635871508723530000>

***About 95% of food scraps are thrown away*** and end up in landfills, where they emit methane, a potent greenhouse gas. Composting food scraps instead of throwing them away is not hard. It's easy, once it becomes a habit. Yonkers is joining many other communities in Westchester and around the country in promoting ***FOOD SCRAP RECYCLING*** by composting. By composting food scraps, you are helping to create a useful product that gives back to our life cycle - and also helps local gardens thrive!

### **Food scraps accepted at local composting centers.**

#### **ALL FOOD, including:**

- **Fruits and Vegetables (Remove stickers, bands & ties)**
- **Meat and Poultry (Boned permitted)**
- **Fish and Shellfish (Shells permitted)**
- **Dairy Products**
- **Bread and Pasta**
- **Rice and Grains**
- **Egg Shells**
- **Chips and Snacks**
- **Nuts and Seeds**
- **Leftover, Spoiled and Expired Food (Cooked)**
- **Coffee Grounds (Paper filters are ok)**

- **Tea Bags (No staples)**
- **Paper towels and Napkins**
- **Cut Flowers**
- **Compostable bags (NO plastic bags)**

Wouldn't you agree that all the items on this list are items we use almost daily? Imagine how much less trash would be accumulated if we could ALL do this! One resident who is already recycling food scraps estimates it is about 70% of all her trash. Currently there are about 15 people at the Greystone who recycle food scraps voluntarily and bring to the Recycling facility on Saw Mill River Road, 735 Saw Mill River Road, Yonkers, Mon-Sat, 7:30 am-4:15 pm. Hopefully, the City of Yonkers will soon provide curbside pick-up for food scraps!

*To learn more about composting in Yonkers visit:*

**[www.yonkersny.gov/foodscraps](http://www.yonkersny.gov/foodscraps)**.

If you want to start in composting, the Environmental Committee can help you! Contact a committee member or come to a meeting to learn about composting at the Greystone.

The Yonkers Department of Public Works can also help you get started composting! The Yonkers DPW offers food scrap kits for purchase for \$20 at the Yonkers Recycling Center on 735 Saw Mill River Road, Yonkers. Kits include one 1.9-gallon countertop pail, one six-gallon home storage and transportation bin and a roll of 25 compostable bags. Filled bags can be dropped off at the Recycling Center, and the County Department of Environmental Facilities (DEF) then will later compost the scraps.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer stated, "This program has far reaching benefits for our County, our local municipalities – but more importantly the environment. With Yonkers joining the County's Residential Food Scrap Transportation & Disposal (RFSTAD) program, our largest City with our highest population is now helping Westchester lead the charge for a more sustainable future. Congratulations to the City, Mayor Spano and our Department of Environmental Facilities for their efforts."

***Let's join with these city-wide and county-wide efforts and do our part!***



## BEAUTY AS FUEL FOR CHANGE

Submitted by Susan Rutman

For the next 2 ½ weeks there is an art exhibit that you may be interested in attending if looking for something different and interesting to do. This info was provided by Susan Rutman, who helped organize it. It opened Jan 15 and will be available until Feb 17. This local exhibit is at the Fonseca Center, 3rd Floor Gallery, at the Masters School, which is on Clinton Ave, Dobbs Ferry. The exhibit is open to the public on Mondays-Fridays from 8:30am-4pm. with wheelchair accessibility and on-site parking.

The Art exhibit is called “Beauty As Fuel For Change”, stemming from an ongoing project, initiated by Susan’s Peace and Justice group *Concerned Families of Westchester*. This exhibit is a collaboration of area artists and poets and high school art students from the Masters School. She is one of the participating artists, inspired by the theme of creating beauty and sharing that beauty to effect positive change.

The exhibit statement is.....

“Welcome to the 1st “Beauty As Fuel For Change” exhibit! A wonderful collaboration of Artists, Activists, Poets, Students & Creators who heeded the open call from Concerned Families of Westchester, to represent beauty to help ignite new ideas, manifesting positive change in our society. Our hope is that by unleashing the power of creativity and shared beauty in our communities, we can boost our resilience in the face of negative obstacles and together create a better world.” Susan says... “We have had great response so far with a nice article in the Rivertowns’ Enterprise last week and the exhibit has inspired students in thought provoking ways as they interact with the artwork and form new expressions via film and writings, as well as building bridges across a wide age range. I think residents at the Greystone would love to see this, as several have already, before it closes Feb 17.”

Just 10 minutes away, you will find this an interesting and positive way to spend an afternoon. Remember that it closes in less than two weeks, so make plans to visit and enjoy an interesting experience.

### EMAIL BLASTS

If you have not been receiving email blasts from Hudson North Management or from [President1085@gmail.com](mailto:President1085@gmail.com) or do not have an email address, please let me know.

- ✓ Send an email to [President1085@gmail.com](mailto:President1085@gmail.com) with your correct email address.
- ✓ If you do not have an email address, please write your name and apartment # and place it in one of the suggestion boxes located in the mail rooms.

ASH WEDNESDAY  
First Day of Lent



## REMINDERS:

### Laundry Room



Maybe you have had the experience of hauling your laundry down to the laundry room only to find all the machines taken, some still in the wash cycle and some finished washing and just lying in the machine. The same thing happens when you come back to put your laundry in the dryer, clothes just left there, sometimes for a long time. This is so frustrating. Please be considerate and pick up your laundry on time so others can do their laundry.

### Compactor Rooms

Once again, we ask all residents to take care when throwing away garbage. All garbage must be thrown down the chute. Pizza boxes must be folded and thrown down the chute. Please make sure that garbage goes down and is not left in the compactor door. Please **wash out all jars and food from any containers**. Wipe up spills and dropped garbage so that unwanted pests do not have a reason to visit. Please make sure large items are not left in the room but brought down to the basement for disposal.

### 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 your submission will be published.

### OPEN MEETING DATES

The Open Meetings for 2022 will take place at 7:00PM Via Zoom as follows....

- March 13th
- May 8th
- July 10th
- September 11th
- November 13th

In addition, there will be “Meet the Candidates” night in April and the Annual Meeting in May. There will be postings of dates and agendas in advance of all meetings.

### \*\*\* 2023 BOARD ELECTIONS \*\*\*

Before you know it, the time to elect 3 new Directors to sit on the Board will be here.

**PLEASE CONSIDER** serving our community as a member of the Board of Directors. Any shareholder is eligible to run for a position on the Board for a term of 2 years. Dates of when resumes and annual meeting of elections to be held will be emailed by AKAM in March.