

The Greystone Connection

A Monthly Newsletter

Building the Greystone Community Together!

A Publication for the Community by the Community

JANUARY 2025

PUBLISHED BY SUSAN SCHWEITZER AND BILL NAEDLER

A MESSAGE FROM THE PUBLISHERS

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

Winter's Lessons

Winter, with its cold winds and snowy days, teaches us a lot about life. Even though it may seem harsh, it's full of lessons about being strong, taking time to rest, and being patient. If we pay attention, we can learn how to grow during this quiet season.

One important lesson winter teaches is strength. During this season, trees lose their leaves and stand bare in the cold. They face icy winds and heavy snow but don't fall. Their roots stay strong under the frozen ground, holding them steady. This reminds us that we can handle hard times too. Even when things are tough, we have the strength inside to keep going. Challenges can make us stronger, just like trees stand tall through the storms.

Winter also teaches us the value of rest. In nature, everything slows down. Animals hibernate, and plants stop growing. The world becomes quieter and calmer. This shows us that it's okay to take a break. We don't always need to be busy. Rest is important because it helps us recover and get ready for the energy we'll need later. Winter gives us time to pause, think, and prepare for what's ahead.

Another lesson from winter is about adjusting to challenges. The snow and cold can make life harder, but people find ways to adapt. We wear warm clothes, light fires, and drink hot tea. Families come together to share warmth and comfort. Winter teaches us how to find joy even when life feels difficult. It shows us how to make the best of hard situations and find happiness in simple things.

Winter also helps us see beauty in quiet and simple moments. Without the bright flowers and green leaves

of summer, we notice other things. We see the sparkle of frost on windows, the softness of falling snow, and the patterns of bare branches. This teaches us to appreciate what's around us, even when life feels simple or bare. Winter shows us that beauty can be found in unexpected places.

Lastly, winter teaches us patience. During this season, seeds lie under the snow, waiting for the warmth of spring. They don't grow right away, but they're getting ready. This reminds us that some things in life take time. We can't rush everything. Whether it's waiting for a dream to come true or healing from a tough time, patience is part of the process. Winter shows us that growth happens even when we can't see it right away.

Winter may seem like a season of cold and darkness, but it's much more than that. It's a time for rest, growth, and preparation. By learning from winter, we can find strength in hard times, take breaks when we need them, and trust that better days are coming. Winter reminds us that every season has a purpose, and with patience, spring will always arrive.

Susan and Bill



HAPPY NEW YEAR!

GREYSTONE COMMITTEES, ACTIVITIES, EVENTS

THE GREYSTONE ANNUAL FOOD AND TOY DRIVES

Once again, the residents of our wonderful community have come together to support those in need during these challenging times. We launched our annual Thanksgiving food drive to help local families struggling to put a holiday meal on the table. Within no time, the collection boxes in the lobby were brimming with non-perishable food items, ensuring a memorable Thanksgiving for many in our community. In collaboration with Meg Bussert, the collection was donated to the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry. Here is a note of thank you:

Dear Residents of the Greystone,

Thank you all so much for uniting, with generous hearts, to support the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry with your generous donations! And thank you for contributing your recyclable bags to us each year! We couldn't do what we do without these efforts and the generosity of people like you. Your contributions will help us serve our families. If you are not already receiving our monthly newsletter please sign up [here](#) to stay up to date on how your generous donation is making an impact.

We appreciate you very much!

Sincerely,

Vera Halpenny and Donna Assumma

Co-Directors of the Dobbs Ferry Food Pantry

But the giving didn't stop there. Knowing that toys are often a luxury for many families, we began our annual holiday toy drive to spread holiday cheer. Once again, beautifully wrapped boxes were placed in the lobby, this time for toy contributions. The response was nothing short of extraordinary. The boxes quickly filled with toys for children of all ages, ensuring that "Santa" could bring joy to as many little ones as possible.

Councilwoman Diaz was thrilled and astounded by the sheer volume of toys collected, a testament to the compassion and holiday spirit of our community.

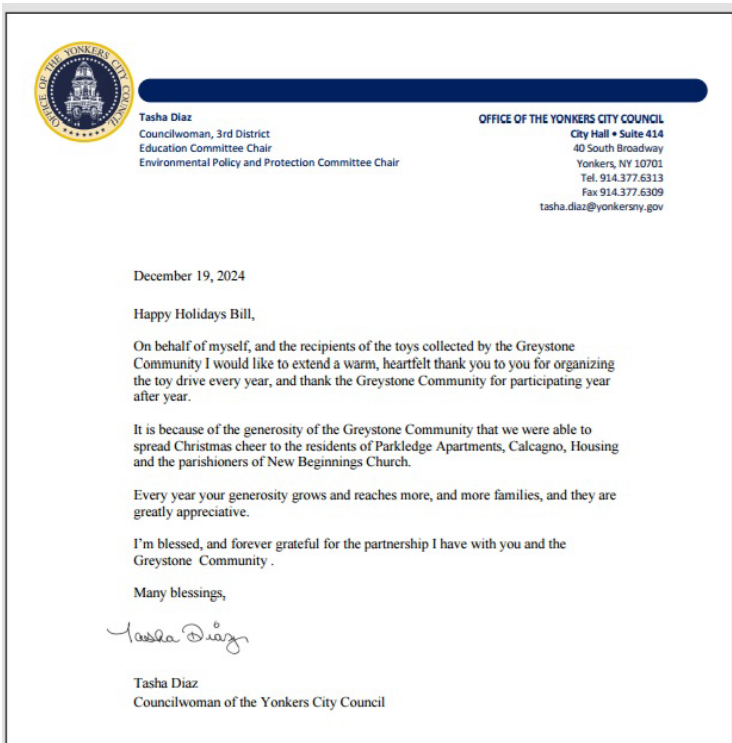
A special thank-you goes out to Frank Caliendo and his wife, Helena, for their expert wrapping of the donation boxes. Their care and attention to detail truly made the displays stand out, and we are so grateful for their hard work.

To our generous residents: Thank you, thank you, THANK YOU for stepping up and making a difference when it was needed most. Your kindness and community spirit are truly inspiring.



One day closer to
SPRING!

Below is a heartfelt letter from Councilwoman Diaz expressing her gratitude for your incredible contributions.



HANUKKAH AND CHRISTMAS TREE LIGHTINGS



The Greystone Community once again showcased the true spirit of togetherness and joy during our holiday celebrations. Thanks to the dedication, creativity, and warmth of so many, we upheld our cherished traditions and made the season truly memorable for all.

Heartfelt gratitude goes to "Mike" Simons, Gary Weinberg, whose talents transformed our lobby into a magical holiday setting with beautiful decorations and a stunning Christmas tree. A special thank you to Gary Weinberg and Howard Schatz for officiating the Christmas tree lighting ceremony, a centerpiece of our celebrations. The joyous Christmas carols that followed, brought to life by Kathryn Maughan, Frank Caliendo, George Heimberger, Howard Schatz, Monique Avakian and Tom our guitarist filled our hearts with holiday cheer.

Our Hanukkah candle lighting ceremony was equally inspiring. We are deeply thankful to Steve Kahn for officiating and sharing the story of Hanukkah, adding meaning and tradition to the event. Adrian Strizhak brought the ceremony to life by lighting the Hanukkah candle.

Of course, none of this would have been possible without the support and enthusiasm of our incredible residents. Your participation, whether in decorating, performing, or attending, is what truly made these events so special. Your energy and dedication remind us all of the wonderful community we share.

We extend our deepest thanks to everyone who contributed to the success of this year's holiday festivities. Your efforts

and enthusiasm are deeply appreciated, and we eagerly look forward to celebrating events together during the 2025 new year.

THE KWANZAA KINARA has been placed in the lobby. Kwanzaa is an annual holiday celebrated primarily in the United States from December 26 to January 1. It emphasizes the importance of the African family and corresponding social values. To all those who celebrate, the Greystone Community sends warm wishes for a joyful Kwanzaa.

GREYSTONE COMMUNITY GARDEN

Info provided by Rita Walton



Gardeners can still keep busy, even in winter. We can **plan** for spring and order seeds or plants. Gardeners need to always adapt and keep learning, as well, so we can keep up with the natural world. There are many online gardening

workshops to help out - the Ardsley **Pollinator Pathway** organization offers many free online workshops. **The Westchester Native Plant Center** and the **New York Botanical Garden** are also great resources.

In our Greystone Garden, we still need to cover up some of the beds, so we don't leave bare soil exposed to the elements. We **will cover some beds with straw. But leaves are also an excellent cover.**

Instead of bagging fallen leaves and having a truck take them to a landfill, it's much better to use them as a cover for vegetable beds - or to even leave them in place. "Leaves are natural compost," says Meredith McGraw Bishop, founder of [Bloom and Bounty](#). "Leaves will break down over winter and feed the soil life beneath. Additionally leaves give shelter to beneficial insects which virtually eliminate the need to use pesticides, ever."

In the Rivertowns area, the disappearance of leaf cover and the techniques used to achieve a bland, green suburban lawn have meant the end of the beautiful luna moth, which used to be a native in our area. Now that there is no habitat for the moth, there have been few sightings of the moth in the last few years. Who knows? Maybe if we leave our leaves, we'll be treated to the sight of a luna moth in a few years!

If you're interested in a garden bed, please contact Rita Walton at ritajejanwalton@gmail.com

THE GREYSTONE READERS' CIRCLE

Info provided by Diane Rosen



The Overstory is "... a sweeping, impassioned work of activism and resistance that is also a stunning evocation of- and paean to - the natural world...This is the story of a handful of people who learn how to see the vast, interconnected, magnificently inventive, and almost invisible" world that exists alongside the world we know.

Welcome the New Year by participating in the Greystone Readers' Circle. All are welcome.

The Greystone Readers' Circle will meet on

DATE: Tuesday, January 14, 2025

TIME: 7:30 – 8:30 PM

PLACE: Community Room

BOOK: The Overstory

AUTHOR: Richard Powers

All are WELCOME!!

SNACK N' SKETCH ART GROUP

Info provided by Rita Walton



The Sketch and Snack group got off to a great start on December 4. About 15 residents met in the community room and worked on various art projects and also sampled some delicious food and drink brought by residents! Some folks worked on sketching portraits with pencils, some painted with watercolors, some used pastels - but everyone agreed that the eggplant dish and wine were wonderful!

On December 19, we met in the community room again. A few new residents joined us - one who is a trained artist and some who had never really sketched before.

Four well-known paintings were projected onto the TV screen so that people could sketch or try to copy those paintings if they wanted. As an alternative, some folks brought down their own objects to sketch as still lifes.

We again had a nice variety of food and drink to choose from while we sketched; the atmosphere was positive and festive, and we were all surprised to find how quickly the time went by!

We are open to ideas and are projects - maybe at some point we'll have an exhibition of our best works! We're hoping to host a session on the fundamentals of drawing from one of our in-house artists!

Our next session is scheduled for January 9, Thursday, at 7 PM. Please join us - all are welcome.

For more information contact Minda at minda.chipurnoi@gmail.com



January Open Board Meeting
Monday, January 13th at 7:00 PM
In person and Zoom
The link will be emailed to you.

GREYSTONE LECTURE SERIES

We are excited to announce the return of our Lecture Series in the new year! Stay tuned for updates, which will be shared on the community bulletin boards.

ENVIRONMENTAL CONCERNS COMMITTEE

Info by Sue McAnanama



We live in a community at the Greystone. So, in consideration of each other *PLEASE* do the following so we do not attract rodents, roaches or other critters when disposing of our garbage. Your

participation will be most appreciated.

- ✓ All garbage ***MUST*** be bagged and tied before putting into the chute. Make sure bagged garbage is ***pushed*** down the chute before closing the door.
- ✓ Please break down cereal boxes (Costco size) and put in the recycle paper bin,
- ✓ Pizza boxes must be broken down and thrown down the chute.
- ✓ Do not leave large items and large bags of plastic bottles in the compactor room, bring them to the basement level and leave in the halls near the laundry rooms.
- ✓ Cooking oil should **never be poured down the sink or the toilet**. It should be poured into container (a can or glass jar) and frozen or just left to congeal, and then disposed of in the regular trash or food scraps.
- ✓ Cat litter must be tied securely in small bags that fit down the chute.

Send suggestions to suemcananama@gmail.com

THE ASTROLOGICAL CHART OF THE GREYSTONE

Info provided by Sharon Deep

The Astrological Chart of The Greystone: January 2025!

Looking at the astrological chart of The Greystone, which was constructed based on the working assumption that The Greystone was as if "born" on the day that the doors opened for an open house on 4 September 1971 (53 years ago).

In January, we will have Jupiter (big and broad and beneficent and loving (good things come from Jupiter)) aspecting the Greystone's natal Sun, Mars, and Uranus.

So very auspicious!

In January, we will be inclined to plan for the future on an individual and on a cooperative level in ways that we had not thought of before in order for each and all of us to rise above circumstances that unfold before us.

The energies are as if trying to let us know that there is a lot of promise and potential and possibility between and among and within us. The energies might serve in inclining us to think about new ways and means of tapping into the resources available to us, yet unseen or unrealized.

Pondering the energies: new ways and means ... new ways and means ... new ways and means ... AND the thought came to mind of a silent meditation being held in the library every night at 7:00pm for those of us who are interested.

In any case, let's look forward to what unfolds in January for the Greystone.

Remember: Jupiter is big and broad and bountiful and loving,

May it be so.

THE GREYSTONE WALKERS

Info provided by Minda Finklestein

We usually walk MWF and occasionally Saturday at 8:30.AM

Usually our walk is into Hastings & back, sometimes on the aqueduct. About a 3.5-mile trek.

We walk all year round, except in rain or if it's icy.

Contact minda.chipurnoi@gmail.com for more information.

All are welcome!

REMINDERS...

✓ ***Railroad Elevator***

The RR elevator does not automatically return to G5. Please remember to send it back after using it. This small action can make a big difference for someone trying to catch or missing a train, and it's the most considerate thing to do. Thank you for being a good neighbor!

✓ ***Notice to Residents***

It has come to our attention that unbagged food is being placed in the compactor rooms. Please be reminded of the following:

- ✓ **All food waste must be securely tied in bags** before being disposed of down the compactor chute.
- ✓ Food waste should **not** be left in the recycling bins located in the compactor rooms.
- ✓ Your cooperation ensures a clean and hygienic environment for everyone. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

If you want to share your unity and appreciation of the community that is "the

Greystone"...you can order a T-shirt with the motto "***Building the Greystone Community Together!***":

The shirts are all short sleeves, crew neck, and range from Small - 5X.

Your choice of shirt color.

The cost is \$17.40, which includes tax and shipping.

It takes several weeks to arrive.

Please find order forms at the front desk, or feel free to email Rachel at RachelLevine55@gmail.com

