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News From Chuck Lesnick

April 28, 2008

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Broadway Comes to Yonkers - TONIGHT!!!!

Youth Theatre Interactions

Music/Arts - Performance Place Date: Monday, April 28, 2008

Time: 7:00pm - 9:00pm

Location: Riverfront Library, Yonkers, NY

Contact Phone: 914-963-3040 or Email: info@youth-theatre.org or visit the website.

It's Monday night, and with most of the Broadway theaters dark - actors, singers and dancers come up to Yonkers to support Youth Theatre Interactions. It's a performance you will not soon forget. A full cast of seasoned artists share the stage with talented young people from the local area.

Past performers have included: Ann Reinking (Chicago, Dancin'), Maurice Hines (Sophisticated Ladies, Eubie), Alex de Castro (The Lion King and former YTI Student), James Harkness (The Color Purple), Lynn Sterling (The Life, Cats),

Susie Bigelow (Working, Oklahoma, South Pacific, Footloose), Jimmy Tate (The Tap Dance Kid, Bring in the Noise, Jelly's Last Jam), Don Johanson (Cats, Jelly's Last Jam), Marty Thomas (Xanadu, Wicked, The Secret Garden), Michael-Demby Cain (Ragtime, Smokey Joe's Cafe, Beauty and the Beast, Victor/Victoria) and YTI's own Executive / Artistic Director, Mamie Duncan-Gibbs (Cats, Kiss Me Kate, Chicago, Jelly's Last Jam.)

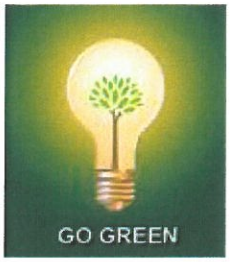
This Year's Honorees are Liz Frankel - Marshall Frankel Foundation
Marlene E. Furtick, Executive Director - Westchester County Youth Bureau
Joanne M. Robinson - YTI Supporter

Tickets: Adults: $75. Students and Seniors (65 & older): $50

Reception follows at Zuppa's, 59 Main Street, Yonkers

BUY TICKETS ONLINE - CLICK HERE! Youth Theatre Interactions. Inc. | PO Box 1187 | Yonkers, NY 10701-1187
Phone: (914) 963-3040 | E-mail: info@youth- theatre.org

Yonkers FIRST Green Trade Show/Conference



The Yonkers Green Policy Task Force will host its first **Yonkers Green Conference and Trade Fair** at the Riverfront Library in downtown Yonkers on May 2 and 3, 2008. Designed for builders, municipal leaders, conservation organizations, students and the public, the conference will feature guest speakers on topics ranging from strategies for effectively greening our communities to workshops on the practical and most effective ways to locate funding for environmental initiatives. The event is free of charge.

The agenda is as follows:

Friday, May 2

8:30 - 9:00 **Registration**
9:00 - 9:15 **Introduction** Mayor Philip Amicone, and City Council President, Chuck Lesnick and Salvatore Lagon President, Westchester County Bar Association to introduce Keynote Speaker.
9:15 - 11:00 **Keynote Address** Kit Kennedy, Special Deputy Attorney General for Environmental Protection, New York State.
11:15 - 1:00 **Strategies for Effectively Greening our Communities.**
1. **Global Warming** Perspectives for the New York Area - Kristen Marcell, Special Projects Coordinator, New York State Dept. of Environmental Conservation, Hudson River Estuary Program.
2. **Blueprint for Sustainability - Green Architecture and Design Works for New York** - Russell Unger, Executive Director, NY Chapter, U.S. Green Building Council, New York Chapter.
3. **Successful Energy Alternatives and NY State Incentives** - Charle-Pan Dawson, Project Manager, New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA).
4. **Where's the Money to Go Green? Systems that Work Now.** Stanley Fishbein, President, Capquest Michael Scorrano, VP, Pareto Energy.
5. **Local Change Impacts the World** - Melissa Stults, Regional Program Director, ICLEI.

6. **Environmental Laws Sustain Our Progress** - Tara Fappiano, Co-Chair, Environmental Committee, Westchester County Bar Association.

1:00 - 2:00 **Lunch**: local restaurants

BREAK OUT SESSIONS (Two Running Simultaneously)

2:00 - 5:00
Environmental Policy and Law Review - CLE credit Program, prepared by American Land Services and monitored by Tara Fappiano, Co-chair for the Environmental Law Committee of the Westchester County Bar Association. Attendance and Materials are provided free. This program is repeated on Saturday for those who cannot attend on Friday.
2:00 - 5:00 **NYSERDA Grant Workshop** - Learn how to successfully apply for financing you need to go green. For municipalities, businesses, organizations, homeowners. Step-by-step guidance with experts.
5:30 - 7:00 **FILM AN INCONVENIENT TRUTH** - Academy Award Winning film on the environmental challenges we face today.

Saturday, May 3
11:00 - 12:45 **Preserving Historic Buildings the Green Way** Stephen Tilly, Architect. Homeowners may learn methods to upgrade their older homes for energy efficiency while preserving historic charm and value.
12:45 - 1:30 **Lunch** - local restaurants.

BREAK OUT SESSIONS Two running simultaneously.
1:30 to 4:30 **Environmental Policy and Law Review** - CLE credit Program, prepared by American Land Services and monitored by Tara Fappiano, Co-Chair for the Environmental Law Committee for the Westchester County Bar Association. Attendance and Materials are provided free.
1:30 to 4:30 **What Contractors Need To Know To Go Green**: Learn from the experts about "green" standards, technologies, resources, and Certification Training programs. Contractors may increase their earning opportunities. Representation from Building Certification organizations and companies will be present to answer contractors questions, and give guidance. Workshops for certification will be scheduled for attendees.

Green Week Wrap Up

Our first Green Week was an exhilarating experience. It was great to know that so many volunteers are doing so many wonderful things in Yonkers.

Our kick-off was at Riverside High School with a band, a choir and 100 students in Green tee- shirts cutting vines and planting flowers. We also held a Mass to Save the Earth at Annunciation Church (thank you Taffy Williams); planted trees at Sarah Lawrence

College; worked on community gardens with Greyston and Groundworks; and cleared a portion of the South County TrailWay with the Yonkers Bike Club; blessed the Hudson River on Earth Day (photo above); held the grand opening of a new boat house at the JFK Marina for the Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club (thanks to Jerry Blackstone); took a narrated Hudson River Cruise (given by Bob Walters) on the New York Water Taxi (thanks to Tom Fox); and so much more.

Great strides are being made by the Council's new Environmental Protection & Policy (EPP) Committee under the leadership of Chairperson Liam McLaughlin who convened a joint meeting with the Green Policy Task Force where we discussed LEED legislation and supported the efforts for Yonkers to join the Hudson River Valley Greenway Compact.

Thanks to Samantha Wapnick and the Green Policy Task Force for all of their coordinating activities.

Speak Out on SFC!

The Yonkers City Council recently accepted as complete the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for developer Struever, Fidelco, Cappelli's (SFC) proposal to build River Park Center, Cacace Center, and Palisades Point. The proposed project would include a shopping complex topped by a ballpark, two 50-story apartment towers, two 25-story waterfront residential buildings, as well as the "daylighting" of portions of the Saw Mill River.

The City Clerk has published the Notice of Completion for the DEIS and has announced that the public hearing will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 29 in the Council Chambers.

Following the public hearing there will be a two-week period, ending on Tuesday May 13, for the public to send written comments. At that time, there will be an additional opportunity for the public to speak on Tuesday, May 13 at 7:00 p.m. at Roosevelt High School.

Those who wish to speak can sign up right at the meeting. Written comments on the DEIS will be accepted by the City Council until May 13, 2008. Such comments must be directed to Rocky Richard, Chief of Staff, Office of the Council President, 40 S. Broadway, Room 403, Yonkers, NY 10701 or by emailing her at rocky.rich ard@yonkersNY.gov

Panel Discussion

It's May-- time for the City's 9th annual Yonker s Business Week, a week-long series of business seminars, topical forums and networking opportunities, running May 5 to 9. This year's platform is "Building for the Future."

I was asked to give the introduction to "Saving Energy is Smart Money for Everyone" from 8- 10 a.m. on Thursday, May 8 at Ristorante Spiritoso on 811 McLean Ave. Please come and enjoy breakfast with representatives from the New York Power Authority who will discuss achieving New York's '15 by '15 plan to cut energy use by 15 percent by 2015, as well as the Ne w York State Energy Research and Development Authority to learn about energy-smart ideas and energy loan programs, among other topics.

Panelists include Patrice Courtney Strong, Coordinator, Mid-Hudson Energy $mart/NYSERDA; David D. Meade, Business Economic Development Project Manager, Anchin Block & Anchin's Business Economic Development Services Group; and Stanley S. Fishbein,

President, CapQuest Group, LLC. Speakers include Angelo S. Esposito, Senior Vice President Energy Services & Technology, New York Power Authority; and Richard Rathvon, Vice President, Reliant Energy.

Having just hosted Yonkers first Green Week, a free city-wide event offering educational opportunities to residents about preserving and sustaining our natural environment, I am excited about this opportunity. Here in Yonkers and across the country, we see "green business" as good business in terms of recycling, energy efficiency and conservation. By creating and applying such smart growth and sustainable development plans into our existing buildings and residences, in addition to all the proposed development in Yonkers, we hope to see higher returns, both financially and environmentally.

To that end, the City Council is setting standards for green development throughout the city, including Energy Star code changes and other initiatives outlined below in our Green Conference and Trade Fair.

School Fundraiser

The Yonkers Council of PTA/ PTSA is holding their annual Scholarship Fundraiser Dinner at 6:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 1st at Dunwoodie Golf Course on Yonkers Avenue for $40.00 per person including buffet dinner, entertainment, cash bar, in addition to honoring outgoing YCPTA President Norma Grohowski.

Back by popular demand- Silent Auction of gift baskets & gift certificates. Please RSVP by emailing kellychoc@aol.com. All proceeds go to Yonkers Council of PTA's Scholarship fund. The PTA annually honors students from the entire district on different grade levels.

Sherwood House Reopens

The Yonkers Historical Society invites you to attend their 50th anniversary celebration, "Home is Where the Heart Is" with the reopening of the Historic Sherwood House, 340 Tuckahoe Rd., Yonkers on May 1st, starting with a ribbon cutting ceremony at 3 p.m. Please RSVP no later than April 29 by calling 914-961- 8940 or emailing yhsociety@aol.com

My daughter, Emily, produced a video about the Sherwood House that will be running on Channel 78 this week. You can catch the video today at 5 p.m. and tomorrow at noon and at 5 p.m.

Career Day Volunteers Needed

Lincoln High School is hosting Career Day on May 20 and needs 25 more volunteers to speak to two groups of students for 40-minutes per session about their careers. If you are interested, please email sbgooljar@excite .com or call Dr. Gooljar at 914-207- 8904. Or email mcfadden4@yahoo.com.

The objectives of Career Day are to not only introduce students to a variety of jobs available to them, but to impress upon them the importance of further education, early career planning, and building a network of professional contacts. As professional presenters, you will be expected to share "your typical work day" with students and entertain questions.

Historic Preservation and Affordable Housing

With the recent Council vote to landmark Philipse Manor Historic District while at the same time working toward allowing the Greyston Foundation to build workforce housing on the site that they own, it was appropriate that the NYS Association of Affordable Housing invited me to join a panel on **Strengthening Communities: A Focus on Historic Preservation and Affordable Housing** from 3:15-4:30 p.m. on Thursday, May 8, at the Marriott Marquis Hotel, 1535 Broadway in New York City .

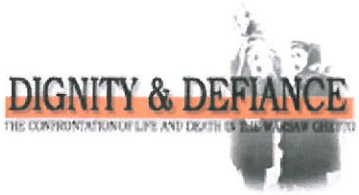
This is part of a full-day conference which will be attended by Governor David A. Paterson, NYS DHCR Commissioner Deborah VanAmerongen, NYS HFA/SONYMA President and CEO Priscilla Almodovar, NYC HPD Commissioner Shaun Donovan, NYC Housing Development Corporation President Marc Jahr and close to 1,000 others.

The panel will explore the challenges and opportunities associated with the rehabilitation of historic properties for affordable housing. We will showcase successful projects, explore the financial incentives available, and discuss other tools that encourage the development of affordable housing as part of historic renovations and strengthening communities.

Moderator: Lorrie Pizzola, Deputy Commissioner, NYS DHCR. Panelists: Hon. Chuck Lesnick, President, Yonkers City Council President; Richard Libbey, Atlantic Beach Associates & PKRML and Associates; Ruth Pierpont, Director of the Field Services Bureau, NYS Office of Parks Recreation and Historic Preservation.

If anyone would like to attend, please call 718-432- 2100.

Holocaust Remembered



The 2008 Holocaust Remembrance Program will present an opportunity for the community and students to learn about and discuss the Holocaust on April 28-30, between 9:30-11:30 a.m. at Greenburgh Hebrew Center in Dobbs Ferry and May 5-9, 9:30am- 1:30pm at Lincoln Park Jewish Center in Yonkers.

Visitors will see "Courage to Care," the Simon Wiesenthal collection of 40 large panels tracing the history of Anti-Semitism and the Holocaust. They will also listen to a survivor or liberator "witnesses" who will share their experiences.

This event is made possible by the Jewish Council of Yonkers, The Holocaust and Human Rights Education Center Speakers Bureau, Yonkers Public Schools, Lincoln Park Synagogue, and Greenburgh Hebrew Center. Admission is free, but reservations for groups are required. There is an essay contest open to students who attend. Free bus transportation available for Yonkers Public Schools.

For more information, please contact Helene Alalouf at 917-941-7577 or email her at halalouf@j ewishcouncil.com

Written by: Laura Fahrenthold

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