

# WESTCHESTER HERALD

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## Latimer's 3rd Inaugural



**Port Chester, NY** -- Over 100 Sound Shore residents were in attendance at Port Chester's Senior Center on Thursday, January 15th as George Latimer took the oath of office as Assemblyman for the 91st Assembly District for his

*see Latimer Pg. 5*



## Senator Jeff Klein Bets on Our Children's Future

There are currently more than 13,000 VLTs at horse racing tracks across the state. 52 percent of revenue throughout the state is generated at Empire City at Yonkers Raceway.

The proposal comes as lawmakers are looking for new sources of revenue and Gov. David Paterson's executive budget includes a \$698 million cut in education funding to help close a projected \$12 billion deficit over the next two years.

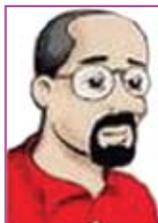
State Sen. Jeffrey Klein's bill would dedicate \$145

million to education by adding new machines with different games. Altogether, officials estimate the new games could generate \$276 million.

"These are more interactive games, more exciting games, which could generate more revenue," said Senator Klein.

The current video slot machines have electronic versions of instant scratch off lottery games. The new games would include things

*see Senator Pg.5*



By Hezi Aris

## The Hezitorial Promise Requires Getting Back to Basics

Whether one is from Yonkers, Mount Vernon, White Plains, or New Rochelle the promise of economic development is wanting. In Yonkers, the imprint promised to insinuate every neighborhood has been heard for so long, that there exist today merchants who arrived to blaze a trail that was part of then Yonkers

Mayor Angelo Martinelli's vision. His vision evaporated. It would soon metamorphose; cocoon like, never to emerge from its chrysalis. Some twenty odd years later, former Mayor John Spencer would mount an assault against the stagnation of talk only to be defeated by time and the imposition of term limits. His time had passed. Even another four years would not have permitted his exuberance of purpose *see The Hezitorial Pg.2*



By  
Barbara Barton Sloane

With New York City's countless offerings, it would take more time than most visitors have to see all this city has to offer. From attractions such as the Statue of Liberty and the Empire State Building, New York is brimming with sights to see. The question

is, where to start?

Why not start at the top – that is to say, at three heavenly-inspired sites:

St. Patrick's Cathedral, The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine and Temple Emanu-El. Each of these iconic houses of worship is architecturally grand, awe-inspiring, and steeped in history. So, come all ye faithful – or anyone seeking a deep and moving experience. Here are The Big Three religious places of worship in New York City. On your next

*see Get Ready Pg. 9*

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## The Hezitorial Promise Requires Getting Back to Basics *From Page 1*

from being railroaded by the burgeoning public scrutiny and its resultant skepticism wrought of a lack of results.

Present Mayor Phil Amicone reluctantly accepted the baton handed him by Spencer's tardy endorsement. So uncertain was Mayor Amicone of his having acceded to office, that Mayor Amicone lost two years immersed in denial of his holding it. Bequeathed with the beginning embers that could conceivably light the promise of economic development he believed was indelibly etched into Yonkers psyche, Amicone's not acting the part of mayor, despite having won the election to office of Mayor of Yonkers over then challenger Assemblyman Mike Spano, would cause two years of potential to atrophy and eventually to dissipate into acrimony

on almost every possible political facet imaginable.

Mayor Amicone's personal demons would in time take a back seat to his rising to a more polished demeanor, despite his monotonal delivery. Even so, the mantle of office granted him in his quest for a second term, would come crashing; collapsing after thirteen years under his aegis as both Deputy Mayor and Mayor of Yonkers. The collapse of Wall Street, the ailing banking system, the resultant lack of credit, the smoldering demands of a disenchanting populace would cause many to ponder how City Hall would wring life out of its present check mated circumstance.

Economic development failed to deliver the promise of self exalted native sons and blinded oracles. The opaque conduct of government became well entrenched, defended by

those believing in hope and expectant of the promise of the visions sold them.

Rather than trust in promise, Yonkers must trust in the elixir of planning its future in order to breathe life into our being able to collectively endure the trying days, weeks, months, and possible years before us. Planning will demand transparency of conduct. It will be tough; Yonkers has come together before, and it must do so again. Phil Amicone will not be Yonkers' deliverer. The thought of it, once recognized by him, will not let go his mind, crippling any chance he thought he had to complete a legacy of promise, in spite of the three years left to his "mandate."

Yonkers will be saved when the "family and friends network" will no longer be tethered to the City teats, when City Hall is

demanding to be responsible as it is asked to individually and collectively reach for goals of productivity, and excellence, and when Yonkers learns that it must adhere to the ethical conduct it believes is demanded of each of us on the days we call our Sabbath.

The ethical compass will demand transparency of governance. It will demand freedom of thought and discourse, devoid of retribution and trust in the "law" we profess to abide. Clear in thought, Yonkers may find it can view the reflection in the mirror before us. And why not? We are quite a charming lot; self-deprecating, quick witted, hardened, yet approachable and willing to be part of the solution. Who will rise to lead Yonkers to a higher plateau?

## Epiphany Park - a comic by Zuri A. Stanback



## Greenville Community Church Recital Series

Scarsdale, NY -- The Greenville Community Church announces the third recital in its 2008-2009 Recital Series, innovative performances of great music held in the sanctuary of Greenville Community Church, located at 270 Ardsley Road, Scarsdale, New York. Dr. Corazon Bisda, music and choir director of the church, is the Artistic Director of the Recital Series.

On Sunday, February 8, 2009 at 3:30 p.m., the Recital Series will present Jeanai Ratcliffe. She is a graduate of Manhattan School of Music.

Ms. Ratcliffe's program includes Exultate jubilate and Alleluja by Mozart, Romance, Regret and

Apparition by Debussy, Drei Ophelia Lieder by Strauss, Bachianas Brasiliera #5 by Villa Lobos, as well as songs by Handel, Brahms and Lauridsen.

Ms. Ratcliffe will be accompanied on the piano by Corazon Bisda and on the guitar by Giacomo La Vita. There is no required charge for admission; however, a good will offering of \$20 or any amount in support of the church's Recital Series would be gratefully accepted.

For further information regarding the recital or directions, please call Greenville Community Church at 914-723-1266.

## Maisano, Trangucci, and Cox Address The South End Civic League



By Peggy Godfrey

County Legislator Jim Maisano brought "bad news" about the federal mandates to remove the nitrogen from two sewage plants in New Rochelle and Mamaroneck. He characterized the upgrading necessary as the "largest capital project" in Westchester's history and felt the costs were unfair to the taxpayers on the Sound Shore. There is no funding coming from New York State to reduce the taxpayers' costs. Federal funding is being sought. The New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, he felt, needs to look at these necessary changes which must be paid for by the four Long Island Sound Sewer districts. In answer to questions from members of the South End Civic League meeting on January 12, 2008, Maisano said that technology for nitrogen removal was changing and in the near future we "may get better technology." He felt "forced" to vote for the 30 year bonds to finance this project which could translate to an increase of more than \$250 per year for homeowners' taxes.

According to New

Rochelle City Councilman Lou Trangucci the City Council should not have raised taxes 5.6 percent. 2009's budget will be even more difficult. He was critical of the granting of the downtown density bonus because it will likely increase the number of children in the schools. New Rochelle IDA (Industrial Development Agency) tax benefits had been granted without direction from council. One problem he cited was the fire department which currently has 27 men on duty at any one time because a consultant has stated that because of the size of our buildings, two sets of 36 firefighters are needed for protection. He asked, "Who is going to pay for more fire fighters?" Expressing great concern for the safety of the men in the Department of Public Works he did not feel the City Yard should be moved to Beechwood Avenue because the streets are too narrow to allow safe passage of trucks and the street can't be widened. The issue of overtime for police officers working for private establishments and the contribution to their pensions from the overtime was discussed.

The new blog, [New Rochelle Talk of the Sound](#), was introduced to the members by Robert Cox, the founder. "Anyone can contribute articles to this site." The categories within

the site included titles such as School District, Ward Acres and Purchase/Snow Plow. Anyone who wants a voice can contribute an article and there is no charge. A while back he had a discussion with former City Councilmember Chris Selin about the need for this site. "No one should have to rely on cable" for information. He suggested information about a recent inspection at New Rochelle High School was being clarified especially since the building has had two major fires in the last few years. He feels "public pressure works" and that his Website can force the schools to change their views. He is a conservative writer whose main concern is transparency in government. Elaine Waltz, President of the South End Civic League stated this Website will be "an eye opener." She mentioned Senator Jeff Klein, whose representative Yasmin attended the meeting, will be introducing a bill that will force the school district to abide by local city rules, especially on construction operation times.

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## Cappelli's Concord Resort Funded for \$250M by ULLIC



**Yonkers, NY** -- Assemblyman Mike Spano (D-C-WF, Yonkers), as a member of the New York State Assembly Racing and Wagering Committee, applauds the Union Labor Life Insurance Company's decision, through "J for Jobs," to commit \$250 million to the \$1 billion redevelopment project of the historic Concord Resort. Their generous support of the project makes a significant contribution to the completion of Phase I in this Renaissance Project.

"J for Jobs" was created by Union Labor Life Insurance Company in 1977 with the intention of generating favorable risk-adjusted returns for investors and establishing work for unionized

workers. It is responsible for partnering with Labor in tough economic times to create initiatives.

The Concord-Empire Resorts Hotel and Casino will be built on the historic 150-acre site where the Concord Hotel once stood in Kiamesha Lake, New York, located in Sullivan County. Phase I, made possible in part to the Union Labor Life Insurance Company's funding, and will include the relocation and rebuilding on the Monticello Harness Racing Facility within the 150-acre site.

When all phases are completed, the Concord Resort reconstruction will prove to be the largest project, outside of Manhattan, ever in The State of New York. The project is not just historic due to its magnitude, but also its timing in this unprecedented economic downturn and its job creation potential.



*New Concord Development will manage the planning, development, construction, accounting and finance of the proposed Hotel - Spa facility, which will be approximately 300,000 square feet. The 5 star hotel will feature 200 rooms, a world class restaurant and lounge, as well as ballrooms and convention space, a full service spa, indoor pool, outdoor pool and locker facilities.*

Managing Member of the Concord Associates, LP, Cappelli Enterprises, expect to employ 2,000 union construction workers and over 1,900 permanent union hotel and restaurant workers by the time

construction concludes. "In these tough economic times, this project will not only help to revive a county, but provide an undoubted boost to New York State's economy. Union Labor Life Insurance Company

along with Cappelli Enterprises should be proud of the labor movement and positive impact that their involvement with the project is making in New York," Assemblyman Mike Spano stated.

## Sound Shore "Shovel-Ready" for Federal Stimulus

**White Plains, NY** -- County Legislators Martin Rogowsky (D-IN-WF-C, Harrison), Judy Myers (D-WF, Larchmont), Vito Pinto (D-IN-WF, Eastchester) and Jim Maisano (R-IN-C-WF, New Rochelle) have sent a letter to New York Senator Charles Schumer to request stimulus package funding to help pay for the \$235 million mandated upgrade to the Sound Shore sewage treatment plants.

Under a newly negotiated Consent Order with the state Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC), the county will upgrade two of its four Sound Shore sewage treatment plants in New Rochelle and Mamaroneck to reduce nitrogen in wastewater being discharged into Long Island Sound. Homeowners and businesses in the four affected sewer districts (New Rochelle, Mamaroneck Valley, Blind

Brook and Port Chester) are shouldering the full cost of the upgrades' costs. It's estimated that property owners could see an increase in their sewer taxes of up to \$450 annually to finance the projects.

County Legislator Judy Myers (D-WF, Larchmont) noted that a clean Long Island Sound is not just an environmental issue.

"Long Island Sound supports many industries that contribute some \$6 billion a year to the economy. Ten percent of the United States population lives within 50 miles of the Sound," said Myers. "Clearly, any federal funding used for the sewer upgrades will serve dual economic purposes --- it will produce jobs and heat up the economy and it will clean up the Sound and give new life to one of the region's most important economic engines."

County Legislator

Vito Pinto (D-IN-WF, Eastchester) said, "It is important to secure federal funding to relieve the burden on the taxpayers for this environmental issue. I am hopeful it will be in the form of a grant and not a loan."

By approving the consent order by the end of 2008, the county avoided incurring DEC penalties that would have included daily fines of \$150,000.

Environmental groups including Save the Sound, Citizens Campaign for the Environment, Federated Conservationists of Westchester and the Audubon Society actively supported the project which will help shrink the "dead zone," the oxygen depleted section of Long Island Sound. Nitrogen discharges in wastewater deplete oxygen which kills marine life.

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## Ball Celebrates Saving of Reynolds Game Farm

**Paterson, NY --** At the annual conference of the National Shooting Sports Foundation held Friday, January 16, 2009, New York State Assemblyman Greg Ball (R, C, I – Patterson) proudly announced that the Reynolds Game Farm and Pheasant Restocking

programs would be spared from cuts previously proposed by Governor Paterson.

Earlier that day, Tom King, President of the New York State Rifle & Pistol Association, received a call from Alexander Peter Grannis, Commissioner of the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation.

Grannis stated that Governor Paterson was not

going to close the game farm, and that both he and the Governor want to work with the sportsmen of New York to find ways to alleviate any Conservation Fund deficits.

Ball had previously written a letter to Paterson on behalf of Hudson Valley sportsmen asking if the present \$750k annual cost of the program truly outweighed its benefits. The letter emphasized the

fact that the state pheasant program is not funded with taxpayer dollars, as funding to operate the Reynolds Game Farm comes exclusively from the Conservation Fund which is funded through license fees paid by hunters.

“It’s good to see that the sportsmen of New York State have been recognized as a force to listen to, and to consult with,” King said.

“Almost 600,000

hunters spend over \$700 million annually on hunting and hunting related activities,” Ball said. “The alternative for many of these hunters who enjoy pheasant hunting would have been to spend their money in another state. I’m overjoyed that the Governor had chosen to respect the rights of sportsmen here in New York and preserve this important part of our upstate economy.”

## Do Spirits Still Stalk The Hudson River Valley?

**Dobbs Ferry, NY --** The Westchester County Genealogical Society welcomes back Vincent Dacquino with a program titled “*Hauntings of The Hudson River Valley*” on Saturday, February 14, 2009 at 10am. This meeting will take place at the Aldersgate Methodist Church, 600 Broadway in Dobbs Ferry which is across from Mercy College on route 9.

Vincent Dacquino is the author of several books on Hudson Valley. Mr. Dacquino has been a teacher in Westchester County for over 30 years and is recently retired as the director of the BEPT Teacher Center. He is the founder of the Peanut Butter and Jelly Writing Academy and has made numerous appearances at schools

and historical sites based on his adult biography, Sybil Ludington: The Call to Arms. A “classroom-ready version” of this book for fourth and fifth grade students was released in May 2008. Dacquino is now dedicating his time to his writing and lecturing.

WCGS regularly presents speakers on genealogical topics at its monthly meeting on the 2nd Saturday each month. WCGS welcomes all interested in searching their family roots. Guests are warmly welcome. There will be refreshments and genealogical networking starting at 9:30am.

For further information, visit <http://www.rootsweb.com/~nywcgs/> or call Philomena Dunn at (914) 953-9173 or (914) 345-7163.

## Senator Jeff Klein Bets on Our Children’s Future

*From Page 1*

like roulette, baccarat, twenty-one and craps in a setting that permits the feel and look of any casino found in New Jersey,

Monte Carlo, or Las Vegas. Klein said New York needs to remain competitive with other states that have the latest lottery technology.

## Latimer’s 3rd Inaugural *From Page 1*

third term. Latimer, 55, a resident of Rye, was re-elected last November with a 71%-29% margin over his challenger, carrying all areas of the L.I. Sound coastal district that reaches from New Rochelle, through Larchmont, Mamaroneck, Rye, Port Chester and Rye Brook.

The oath of office was administered by Rye Town Justice John Colangelo, a Republican who, in the spirit of post-election bipartisanship, presided over the swearing-in for Latimer, a Democrat. Westchester County Legislator Martin Rogowsky (D-Harrison) served as Masters of Ceremony for the event, which also included remarks by the Mayor of Port Chester, Dennis Pilla; the Mayor of Rye Brook, Joan Feinstein, and Rye Town Supervisor Joe Carvin. Members of the local clergy were in attendance to offer an invocation and a benediction prayer; also participating in the ceremony were Port Chester and Rye Brook residents Peter Brancucci, Sonny Mangini, and Bea Connetta.

Latimer outlined his priorities for the new term in a 15-minute inaugural

address, in which he highlighted the severe financial crisis facing the state, and his readiness to make tough decisions to deal with that crisis: “Today’s truth - the economic picture we face in Albany - is grim”, Latimer stated. “To balance our budgets, we must cut spending - and in some areas that will hurt you, me and others. To tell you otherwise would be, on the day of my oath, to lie to you and myself, at the very outset”. Latimer did, however, offer a hopeful attitude for the long-term health of New York State: “we are in this state, in this economy, being tested again. And I believe we will again prove that Americans, and especially New Yorkers, always rise to meet every test”.

The room included contingents of senior citizens from Port Chester, Rye Brook and Rye City programs along with other individuals from across the district. Latimer, a corporate marketing executive by profession, is beginning his fifth year in the State Assembly; his prior public service includes four years on the Rye City Council, seven terms on the Westchester County Board of Legislators - including two terms as the first Democrat to Chair that legislative body. He serves, in Albany, as a member of six legislative committees, and was just appointed to chair a subcommittee of the Assembly Insurance Committee on Catastrophic Natural Disasters

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## Mayor's Column



**By Mary C. Marvin  
Mayor of the Village  
of Bronxville**

Even though our Village government year does not begin until April, the advent of the new calendar year causes us to focus on our goals and objectives.

Uppermost will be our review of all Village expenditures, outstanding obligations and future spending. Given the current economic climate, we can no longer just review line items and adjust accordingly. We need to address program and approach each item asking if this is something the Village should be funding in 2009 or is there a more

efficient way of reaching the same objective.

It was very clear when speaking to residents as they came to Village Hall to pay their 2008 taxes that they had reached the tipping point. Simply put, many residents are simply tapped out on local taxes. Though the Village government accounts for only 13% of this bill, it is incumbent upon us to make do with less, just as we are doing in most of our homes.

Given the constraints, we still anticipate some very positive initiatives for the Village in 2009.

First on our agenda will be to find the best possible use for the Kensington Road property and return it to the tax roll with a project that will enhance the entire neighborhood.

Equally important will be to partner with our business district and local merchants to help promote their economic stability and the vitality of our business

district. Their success has a direct relationship to the character and property value of our Village and we need to be productive partners in this economic downturn.

We will also continue our green initiatives adding recycling receptacles in the business district thanks to the generosity of our Rotary Club and continue efforts to make the Village more pedestrian friendly. In that vein, we will be enforcing our current code requiring residents to properly maintain and repair their sidewalks.

Partnering with the School, we will pursue additional State and County flood mitigation monies and expand our local initiative to clean and repair our pipe/drainage system badly in need of attention.

Another goal is to finalize a contract with our Public Works employees and hire a new Library Director to replace Jane Marino, who

has taken a position as head of the entire Great Neck, NY system.

Of great importance will be a concentrated effort to continue to seek noise and vibration mitigation measures from Metro North along our entire rail corridor.

We will also enact local legislation to address the shoddy and untimely repairs of our Village streets after utilities excavate. Of particular concern have been the sub par repairs of late by Con Edison and United Water.

We will also address Village Code revisions reflecting the realities of 2009. For example, we need to set standards for generators, solar panels and the recent spate of "tear downs". It is also time to review our building structure to open space property ratio ensuring that sites are not over built going forward. We will also review the effects of major landscaping projects on neighboring topography and drainage areas.

We continue to improve the professionalism and technological capabilities of Village Hall and anticipate having a Village wide e-mail notice capability as well as a separate "Police Alert" e-mail.

We have increased parking for customers and merchants on the east side by relocating our commuters to the Avalon lot and we anticipate the addition of 45+ spaces on the BAMS gas station property. Concurrently, we plan to reconfigure the intersection at Cedar and Kraft, long a source of confusion and potential danger.

It will be a year of challenge, but with challenge comes opportunity. We are in this together. We ask for your help and advice and promise to be vigilant stewards of your hard earned tax dollars.



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## Ed Koch Movie Reviews

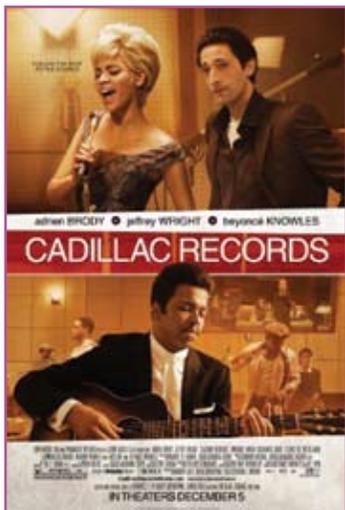


By Edward I. Koch

### “Cadillac Records” (+)

This docudrama about the beginning and early period of rock ‘n’ roll music in America is a real gem and not to be missed.

We attribute much of rock ‘n’ roll’s success to Elvis Presley. He was certainly



a talented musician and entertainer, but he simply added his voice to the rhythm and blues beat created much earlier by black musicians in the South.

The earliest creator of the blues genre introduced to us in the film is Muddy Waters (Jeffrey Wright) who began his music career in Mississippi. He later traveled to Chicago with thousands of other blacks looking for work. Muddy Waters hooks up with Chicago music producer, Leonard Chess (Adrien Brody), who enhanced the careers of a number of black musicians. Those who stood out for me in the movie were Little Walter (Columbus Short),

who plays the harmonica called a harp, Etta James (Beyoncé Knowles), an extraordinary singer whose songs sounded very much like jazz to me, and Chuck Berry (Mos Def). I gather from the film that Berry is the true father of rock ‘n’ roll. His music, voice and lyrics are a delight to listen to as are his brilliant commentaries on life wonderfully expressed by Mr. Def.

Every actor is exceptional in creating the mood of the country at that time. I learned a lot and shed tears that these talented musicians had to suffer so much before they were recognized. Leonard Chess would close his deals by giving his new artists a Caddy, the car of choice in those days. An extraordinary scene is depicted involving Little Walter, his car, and police brutality.

The horror of the Jim Crow era and the demeaning and brutal acts directed at America’s black citizens are laid out for all to see and feel outraged about for having allowed the abuse to continue as long as it did.

PT said: “This movie was an eye-opener for me. I never realized that rock ‘n’ roll started as what was called “race music” – the music written and played by the black performers portrayed in the film and others. Chess recorded their music and got it played on the radio – no TV in those early days – and disc jockeys all over the country helped create hit songs by playing those records. Sadly, white musicians moved in on the territory and even stole

some of the tunes.”

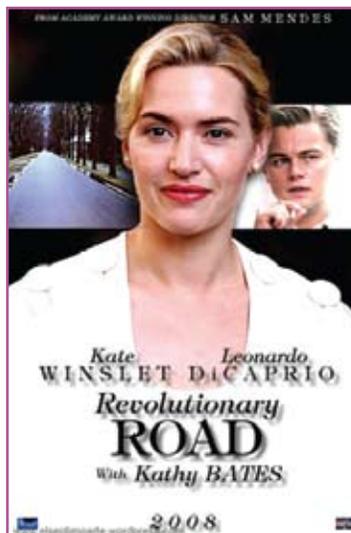
AS said: “I thought this movie was very good with an excellent soundtrack that brought back many fond memories. Cadillac Records reminds the audience that black artists had to accept being exploited to gain any success outside of their communities. The movie did conclude by demonstrating the overwhelming respect by the European community, in particular England, for the black artists who were not properly credited in the U.S. as the creators of rock ‘n’ roll. I give this movie a thumbs up.

### Movie Review: “Revolutionary Road” (-)

Some reviewers believe this is one of the best films ever made. In my opinion, it fails in all aspects: script, acting and directing. If Kate Winslet and Leonardo DiCaprio were not starring in the movie, I believe it would have come and gone with little notice.

Frank (DiCaprio) and April (Winslet) meet in New York City in the 50’s. The young couple soon marries, moves to a sterile community in Connecticut, and within a few years has two children. Several scenes in the picture depict the monotony of Frank’s daily commute via train to his boring job in Manhattan. He stares sadly and silently out the train window at the falling rain, and when he arrives at Grand Central Station, hundreds of men carrying briefcases and dressed in identical hats and suits rush by like robots.

Frank’s boredom with his job and his life leads to an affair with Maureen (Zoe Kazan), a secretary in his office, and April has a one-time fling with a neighbor, Shep (David Harbour).



The pair decide that a move to Paris would put an end to the trapped and boring lives they are leading. April believes that she can secure a well-paying secretarial position and support the family until Frank finds employment. I found that idea of escape coming from two seemingly responsible, well-educated people, to be unrealistic and extreme.

The press made much ado of an intimate scene between Winslet and DiCaprio, particularly because the film was directed by Winslet’s husband, Sam Mendes. I personally did not find the encounter, which took place on a kitchen counter,

to be very erotic. To me it was an act of frustration between the couple rather than an intimate, romantic moment.

When I ran for governor in 1982, my comments about living in the sterile suburbs, which I later suggested had been made in jest, had reached Albany. I met a woman in an Albany hotel elevator who said to me, “Mayor,

you should not have said what you said about Albany.” I asked, “What do you have reference to?” She replied, “That Albany is a fate worse than death.” I said, “Well, isn’t it?” She said, “Yes, but you should not have said it.”

I believe “Revolutionary Road” received favorable comments from other reviewers because of its cast and the extraordinary hype that preceded its release. My guess is that many people won’t agree with my review. If you decide to see the film, let me know your take on it.

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## Weir Only Human: "Chutzpah" is Putting it Mildly

If it's true that the best defense is a good offense, Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich has an offense worthy of a Super Bowl contender. The state's chief executive, whose photo should be in the dictionary next to the word, "chutzpah," has his legal team urging a federal judge to remove Chicago's top federal prosecutor and all of his assistants from the fraud and bribery case against him. According to his defense counsel, the news conference held by U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald, announcing the charges against Blago, was prejudicial to his client. Can someone tell me what part of the announcement concerning the arrest of a sitting governor could be anything but prejudicial? Should Fitzgerald have put a positive spin on the fact that the governor had just been taken away in handcuffs and booked for bribery, based on a lengthy, detailed investigation and several recorded conversations in which he was trying to sell a senate seat?

Perhaps the following

scenario would have been a better way to explain to the public why they just witnessed the governor doing the perp-walk:

Fitzgerald: "I've called this news conference to make an announcement and I will not be taking any questions. Governor Blagojevich has been temporarily detained in order to question him about some improper activities we believe he was engaged in during the course of his elective office responsibilities. Although, to some, it may seem harsh to handcuff him, it is merely proper arrest procedure and should not in any way insinuate that he's being charged with anything serious. The charges against him will not be revealed until the governor and his attorneys have had a chance to prepare a defense. Keep in mind, being charged is not the same as being guilty. Lots of people get arrested and go to trial, only to be found not guilty. O. J. Simpson is just one example of how a person can be wrongfully



accused, but exonerated by a justice system that sometimes appears sluggish and ineffective.

"The reason I mention this is because I don't want anyone to think that just because the governor has been fingerprinted and photographed with a number on his chest, that he has done anything wrong. We lock up governors, senators and congressmen on a regular basis, without a scintilla of hard evidence. You see, evidence is something to be presented during the trial, not something to be discussed at a news conference. If I were to tell you that the prisoner was trying to put a U. S. Senate seat up for auction to the highest bidder, I would be making him look like a crook. I assure you, that is not my intention. The governor is entitled

to the presumption of innocence, regardless of how many taped conversations we have of him contacting EBAY to make a deal. The fact that he may have been trying to get a sack of hundreds

in exchange for one of the most powerful lawmaking seats in the country should in no way indicate that he has a mercenary view of his office; it could simply mean that he is a strong advocate of the free market system.

"Moreover, the fact that he tried using his influence to have some Chicago Tribune editors fired for their opinions of him should not be construed to mean that he wants to repeal the First Amendment. After all, if you were using your high office for personal gain, would you want the whole world to know about it? Incidentally, we want to thank the governor for a recent interview on a Chicago television station in which he stated, and I quote: 'By the way, I should say if anyone wants to tape my conversations, go right ahead, feel free to do it. I

appreciate anybody who wants to tape me openly,' unquote.

"Now I ask you, how many people in high elective office would be so willing to share their innermost thoughts with federal investigators about the way government should work? Yes, it's true that we had been probing the governor's, shall I say, alleged ethical lapses, long before he made that statement. However, to be fair to the governor, he probably didn't know that at the time he gave us permission. In the final analysis, I want to reiterate that my office routinely makes arrests of high profile figures in the government, just to keep them on their toes. Therefore, everything you've seen and heard so far should not prejudice your opinion toward this upstanding public servant. That ends this news conference."

*Bob Weir is a contributing columnist to the Yonkers Tribune and Westchester Herald. BobWeir777@aol.com.*

## Free Rabies Vaccinations

**Peekskill, NY** -- The Westchester County Department of Health, in conjunction with the Peekskill Animal Hospital, is sponsoring a free rabies vaccination clinic for the cats, dogs and ferrets of Westchester residents on Saturday, January 24.

The clinic will run from 2 p.m. to 6 p.m. at the Peekskill Animal Hospital, located at 1966 Crompond Road in Peekskill. Appointments are necessary. To make an appointment, or for more information, call the hospital directly at (914) 737-2620.

All county residents

are eligible to bring their dogs, cats and ferrets in for rabies vaccinations, which will be free of charge if no examination is given. Examinations and other types of vaccinations will also be available at low cost during the clinic. Cats and ferrets must be brought in carriers and dogs must be on leashes. Aggressive dogs must be muzzled.

Owners who fail to get their pets vaccinated and keep the vaccinations up-to-date may be fined up to \$1,000.

All animal bites or contacts with animals suspected of having rabies must be

reported to the Westchester County Health Department at (914) 813-5000. Outside of business hours, callers should follow instructions in the recorded message for reporting public health emergencies 24 hours a day.

To learn more about rabies and its prevention, residents can also call the Rabies Hotline at (914) 813-5010 to hear a taped message or visit the Health Department website at [www.westchestergov.com/health](http://www.westchestergov.com/health).

## DiFiore and Idoni Endorsed

**Yonkers, NY** -- Yonkers Democratic Committee Chairman Ken Jenkins said, "District Attorney Janet DiFiore has done an outstanding job balancing the work of the District Attorney as the chief law enforcement officer and community outreach to improve the safety and security for the people of Westchester. County Clerk Tim Idoni has made dramatic improvements to the office of the County

Clerk which has improved and streamlined the activities of the clerk's office while reducing costs."

For scheduling purposes County Executive Andy Spano was invited to present at the next Executive Committee meeting.

There will be a convention of the Yonkers Democratic Committee in April.

## Get Ready to be Inspired *From Page 1*

visit to The Big Apple, you may just want to check them out for yourself.

**St. Patrick's Cathedral** (Fifth Avenue @ 50th St.) is the seat of the Catholic Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Egan. It was begun

New York are buried under the high altar, and the hats of the first four cardinals hang from the ceiling over their tombs. Visiting this site, one is moved by the Stations of the Cross, works of art that won

among the finest examples of the style in America. Eight gigantic granite columns, each weighing 130 tons, are the crowning glory of the sanctuary. More than 150 stained glass windows depict not only religious scenes but also the inauguration of George Washington, St. George and the Dragon, and Michelangelo's carving of the David. The Rose Window in the West Façade contains more than 10,000 pieces of glass.

The Cathedral, like its medieval predecessors, serves as a center of inspiration, education and outreach for the people of New York City. On the same day, politicians and public figures will preach from the pulpit, expert tour guides lead visitors up winding stairs and through vaults, textile conservators restore historical tapestries, and major artists rehearse their evening performances. With its 11 acres of gardens and grounds, the Cathedral is a green oasis with peacocks, cherry trees and a recently restored Biblical Garden. St. John the

and religious landmark. The building's expansive dimensions and superb craftsmanship combine to create an imposing edifice that reinterprets the great historical synagogues of earlier eras. Eclectic

constructed over a layer of plaster applied over structured steel, has since been painted and gilded. The Sanctuary ceiling is now, after restoration, truly breathtaking. The distinctive glass and marble



*Inside St. Patrick's Cathedral*

in 1858 by Archbishop John Hughes and, after a suspension of work during the years of the Civil War, John Cardinal McCloskey, the first American Cardinal, resumed work in 1865, opening the doors in May of 1879. Throughout the years, extensive additions, installations and renovations have been made, and the present Cardinal Egan has continued to enhance the beauty of the cathedral, repairing the interior and exterior of the church.

This famed Cathedral has been host to the visits of many popes, including John Paul II. Royalty, heads of state and other prominent figures, as well, have made a visit to St. Patrick's.

The Cathedral's statistics are amazing to ponder. Its spires rise 330 feet from street level and its beautiful bronze doors on the West Front weigh 20,000 pounds. Seating 2,400 people, there are 18 alters and 19 bells made in Savoy, France, installed in 1897. In the crypt, the archbishops of

first prize at the Chicago World's Fair of 1893, and if one is lucky enough to be there at just the right time, the great organ with over 7,000 pipes will pierce the solitude and will enthrall one and all.

**The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine**, (1047 Amsterdam Ave. @ 112th St.), the mother church of the Episcopal Diocese of New York and the Seat of its Bishop, is chartered as a house of prayer for all people and a unifying center of intellectual light and leadership. This cathedral is the largest Gothic cathedral in the world. It is larger than Chartres and Notre Dame combined, and the Statue of Liberty could fit beneath its central crossing. This magnificent house of worship is a monument to the diversity and energy of New York City. Its Gothic nave and Romanesque choir are



*Temple Emanu-El*

Divine is a living cathedral, bringing harmony out of the incredible diversity of New York City.

**Temple Emanu-El** (1 E. 65th St.), stands along New York's storied Fifth Avenue as an architectural, cultural



*The Cathedral Church of St. John the Divine*

architectural features of Romanesque, Byzantine, Moorish, Gothic, Nouveau and Deco styles are blended artistically through the use of vibrant colors. Captivating mosaics, warm stone and tiles, and dazzling stained glass are all designed to create the inspirational ambience of this sacred space.

Begun in 1927 and completed two years later, the new Temple building was the crowning achievement of the descendants of German-Jewish immigrants. During the ensuing decades, this small community of worshippers transformed itself into a great Reform Jewish congregation, confident of itself and in the promise of this city and nation.

The Temple's multihued ceiling, originally

mosaic arch that frames the Sanctuary, using a mixture of gold and vibrant colors, was inspired by the palette of Gustav Klimt. Temple Emanu-El's organ, with its thousands of pipes ranging from more than the size of a pencil, fills the vast chambers behind the Sanctuary. The Temple and Chapel contain 62 stained-glass windows, and their design is rooted in ancient Jewish artistic traditions, tribal symbols and biblical images.

Today, more than seventy-five years after its doors first opened to welcome worshippers, Temple Emanu-El continues to occupy a very special place physically in the heart of New York City and emotionally and spiritually in the hearts of its members.

[www.stpatrickscathedral.org](http://www.stpatrickscathedral.org)  
[www.stjohndivine.org](http://www.stjohndivine.org)  
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