

City debt paid in 'calfe'



Graca was symbolically transferred from New Rochelle to the Pell family in payment of a 1689 debt in a ceremony Sunday. ELIZABETH GANGA/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Ceremony marks 325th anniversary

By Elizabeth Ganga
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NEW ROCHELLE — The last time Hannah Pell came to a fatt calfe ceremony she was no more than preschool age and she remembers little.

But this time the 18-year-old was able to stand in front of the crowd that received the petite cow from representatives of New Rochelle in one of the more unusual historic ceremonies around. Unusual in that it can trace its roots back 325 years — but even more so in making a modern property payment in livestock.



Cyclists get ready to tackle a half-mile loop through downtown White Plains on Sunday during the second annual Key Bank White Plains Downtown Criterium. MARCELA ROJAS/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Race takes over White Plains

Hundreds of bicyclists put their pedals to the mettle on half-mile course

By Marcela Rojas
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WHITE PLAINS — Some 400 riders descended upon the city's downtown Sunday morning for a bike race fit for sprinters.

The second annual Key Bank White Plains Downtown Criterium almost doubled in size from last year's event, bringing out cyclists to test their mettle on a fast-paced, half-mile course that included sharp turns and hills.

"It's deceptively technical," said participant Joe Grgic of Manhattan, who placed second in his category. "You have two slow, tight turns and then two fast turns so your positioning is different throughout the course."

The criterium — which means a short course in an urban setting —

started and finished at Martine Avenue and Court Street. Riders turned on Mamaroneck Avenue, looping up Quarropas Street to Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard and then back around to Martine Avenue. Hay bales were set up along the sharp turn on the boulevard for rider safety.

During one race, cyclists went around the loop for 50 minutes tightly packed together as they maneuvered the roadway. That timed race equaled about 42 laps, officials said. There were six races Sunday broken up by category. Cyclists are placed in five race categories, with fifth being for beginners.

"It's like a sprint for 45 minutes," said race promoter Joe Markey of the criterium.

The White Plains Criterium benefits the Westchester chapter of the National

Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. Last year, the bike race raised \$10,000 for the NCADD, said Markey. This year, they expect to raise \$15,000, he said.

Rider Valerie Hopkins, of Stamford, Conn., said the race was fantastic. She placed fifth in the women's open field category and won a prize for finishing a lap first.

"I love the sharp turns, sweeping downhill, the uphill finish. The crowd," she said.

Spectators lined Martine Avenue to cheer on the riders as they whizzed by. "It's awesome. This is our first time," said Reginald Moore of Mamaroneck, who came out to watch his friend compete. "Seeing the strategies, how they pace themselves ... it's a very interesting sport."

Cyclists race in White Plains for drug awareness

By Colin Gustafson
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WHITE PLAINS — Nearly 300 cyclists sped through downtown streets Sunday in a series of races to raise money for alcohol and drug awareness.

The city's inaugural Downtown Criterium had contestants doing dozens of half-mile laps around two blocks of county government buildings on streets closed to traffic.

The four-corner course went from a start-finish line on Martin Avenue and around Mamaroneck Avenue, Quarropas Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The top 10 finishers in a half-dozen races split a \$2,000 pot.

The event was expected to raise as much as \$10,000 for the Westchester chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, which trains addiction counselors and fields calls from people seeking help. Proceeds from the event will support the White Plains-based chapter's awareness-raising programs, particularly its

outreach efforts in schools.

"I want people to know we exist, so if they need help, they won't hide," said Joan Bonsignore, executive director of the Westchester chapter. "What we can offer is hope."

Race organizers hope to host a second annual race on the same course in May.

The event was conceived by Joe Markey, a banker for Key Bank, the primary sponsor.

Markey said that after seeing his 18-year-old son become addicted to drugs, he wanted to organize an event that combined his love of cycling with his personal quest to help other families facing the same challenges. That starts with getting people to talk openly about addiction as a chronic disease, rather than a moral digression, he said.

"It's very hard as a parent," he said. "My goal is to raise awareness for families who are embarrassed to talk about it. There's hope."

U.S. Rep. Nita Lowey, D-Harrison, a spectator at



Cyclists participate in the inaugural White Plains Downtown Criterium to benefit the National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Westchester, on Sunday. PHOTOS BY RICKY FLORES/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Sunday's race, said it showcased hundreds of people making healthy lifestyle choices.

"It shows that you don't need drugs or alcohol for a kick," she said. "You can get out and ride your bike."

Cyclist James Rather of the Riverdale section of the Bronx said he has participated in similar events in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, Bethel, Conn., and Rockleigh, N.J.

To have a criterium "in the heart of Westchester County, that brings so many people out as spectators and racers is great," he said. "We're due for something like this here, as opposed to having to travel elsewhere."

Richard Gonzalez, a bicycle shop owner from Bayonne, N.J., said he enjoyed the wide turns and smooth ride of Sunday's course.

"Everybody was on their best behavior—no yelling, no pushing," he said. "It was the best race of the season. I hope they do it again next year."

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Ed Fertic, a race official for USA Cycling, monitors bike racers participating in the inaugural White Plains Downtown Criterium Sunday.

FACES PLACES

1. United Hebrew Geriatric Center (UHGC), a multiservice senior living facility in New Rochelle, recently hosted an educational seminar on the prevention, treatment and maintenance of healthy bones through exercise and nutrition. Pictured at the event (from left) are: Cecilia Moy, chief dietician, Sound Shore Medical Center; Nora O'Brien, UHGC director of rehabilitation; Rita Mabbli, UHGC executive vice president and chief executive officer; and Dr. David Bloomgarden, endocrinologist, attending physician, White Plains Hospital Center.

2. Janice and Ray Miranti of Riverdale, created a fund in memory of their daughter, Olivia, a former patient at Blytheville Children's Hospital in Valhalla. The fund made possible a renovation project for new infant and toddler therapeutic playrooms at the hospital. Pictured at the celebration of the new space (from left) are some of the contributors to the fund: Jeff Warner, Mack-Cali Corp.; Damian Finley, Mack-Cali; Armando Rodriguez, A&A Maintenance Enterprises; Paul Messer; Ray Miranti; Sylvia Leger, Corporate Express Business Interiors; Larry Levine, Blytheville president; and Vincent Cioffi, project architect.

3. Dr. Miláred García, Berkeley College president, confers the Honorary Doctorate of Pedagogy degree upon professor Howard L. Newhouse of the Department of Management in New York City, at the college's 2007 commencement ceremony. In business education for more than 75 years, Berkeley has several campuses in the metro area, including White Plains.

4. Westchester Community College dean Jianping Wang of Brainerd Manor, is pictured dancing with her dance partner Ying Zhang at the college's recent 67th anniversary dance, held at the Crowne Plaza, White Plains.

5. Dr. Adrienne Marcus (left), executive director of Lexington Center for Recovery (LCR) in Mount Kisco, a provider of alcohol and substance abuse treatment in the Hudson Valley, was honored recently at the annual luncheon of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester (NCADD). Pictured with her is New York state Sen. Suzi Oppenheim. From left (5q) are Joan Bonfigliore of Brewster, NCADD executive director; Barbara Stora of South Salem, LCR board member; and John Goldsmith of Pound Ridge, LCR board member.



from a grilled chop to a silky but very braise.

Indeed, comfort food is at hand. You can spoon into a rich bowl of pumpkin risotto, a big helping of mashed potatoes with gravy, or a hearty apple pie topped with ice cream.

It's no surprise, given the economy, that the new restaurants that opened this fall seem to fit that bill. They're not splashy or over-the-top. Instead, the trend this year is

understated, casual and laid-back. Here's a look at what's to come in your area, and what opened over the summer.

For more, go to LoHud.com/ food.

Contributors: Karen Croke, Liz Johnson, Linda Lombroso, Mary Lynn Mitcham, Mary Shustack, Chris Serico

SEE FLAVORS, 6D

which sent a mobile unit that helped arrange therapies for Jordan at home and provided everything from medical guidance to assistance building a chair so Jordan could sit up.

A case coordinator helped navigate various county and local serv-

SEE PORTRAIT, 2D

Putting 'a face to the recovery movement'

Bonsignore volunteers full time to raise addiction awareness

Ernie Garcia
elgarcia@lohud.com

Ask Joan Bonsignore about addiction and you'll get an earful.

As executive director of Westchester County's chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, the Eastchester resident works as a full-time volunteer bringing drug awareness workshops to private schools and guiding a program that trains addiction counselors.

Bonsignore talks fast and excitedly about her work, which includes

LOCAL HERO

fielding calls from the public seeking help. It is a labor of love informed by her own recovery from substance abuse 20 years ago.

"Sometimes people call for themselves saying they need an (Alcoholics Anonymous) meeting. I say congratulations and they ask why," said Bonsignore, who possesses an infectious optimism and enthusiasm. "If a person calls asking for that, that's a blessing."

Bonsignore revived the national council's Westchester branch in 2001, originally operating from an office in her home. It now operates out of an office at 5 Waller Ave. in downtown White Plains with two part-time interns and a full-time assistant.

Four years ago, the chapter launched the Credential Alcoholism & Substance Abuse Counselor Training Program, which this fall welcomes about 50 adults who will study the disease of addiction, psychopharmacology and counseling theories, among other courses.

Bonsignore approaches addiction-awareness outreach with a missionary's zeal inspired by her religious faith. She is a parishioner and eucharistic minister at Immaculate Heart of Mary in Scarsdale and she frequently mentions God when describing her work, which often extends beyond a 9-to-5 routine.

"The spiritual part of me gives me the energy," Bonsignore, a former White Plains High School teacher,

SEE HERO, 2D



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Seth Harrison
The Journal News

INSIDE




Kids get excited about books

Gabriela Cortes checks out a book as she and her classmates learn about using the



Coming Thursday in Express

Stephanie Bronzo of White Plains designed the wine cellar for the Showhouse of Westchester, which benefits Cerebral Palsy of Westchester.



Craft Show

Saturday, October 17
10:00am-5:00pm

GOOD COUNSEL ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

Actor and Author Malachy McCourt Speaks at NCADD Sixth Annual Luncheon

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester, Inc. (NCADD) recently held its Sixth Annual Luncheon at the Westchester Country Club in Rye to help support its programs of information, education, prevention and referrals. The organization's goal is to educate the public and fight the stigma surrounding the disease of alcoholism and other drug addictions.

"Substance abuse crosses all societal boundaries," says Joan Bonsignore, Executive Director of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester, Inc. (second from left) "It affects both genders, every ethnic group and people in every tax bracket. Alcoholism and drug dependence is a disease that has roots in both genetic susceptibility and personal behavior."



Raymond Griffin Ph.D., president of NCADD/Westchester Inc.; Joan Bonsignore, executive director of the NCADD/Westchester, Inc.; Malachy McCourt; and Harris Stratynner, Ph.D., honorary academic director, CASAC Training Program, NCADD/Westchester Inc.

Sonny Plateroti is honored by NCADD

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester, Inc. recently held its first annual luncheon at The Ridgeway Country Club in White Plains to help support its programs of information, education, prevention and referrals. The organization's goal is to educate the public and fight the stigma surrounding the disease of alcoholism and other drug addictions.

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Center, Sonny Plateroti of Port Chester, volunteer for Above and Beyond, was honored for his significant contribution in the field of alcoholism and drug dependence. Pictured with Plateroti is Joan Bonsignore, president of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester, Inc. and Tony Aiello, Westchester correspondent for WCBS-TV, Channel 2 News.

Senator clears the air after crisis

Most residents quiz Stewart-Cousins on issues, not impasse

Ernie Garcia

egarcia@lohud.com

GREENBURGH — Two days after a monthlong impasse in the state Senate ended, Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins met with her constituents yesterday to explain the crisis and answer questions.

The Yonkers Democrat greeted about 50 people in a meeting room at Theodore D. Young Community Center.

She took questions about re-entry programs for ex-convicts, next year's U.S. census, redistricting and the renewal of rent-regulation laws, among others.

She began her coffee chat with a long explanation about what happened in the state Senate last month when two Democratic senators joined forces with Republicans in a bid to wrest control of the body from Democrats.

Stewart-Cousins explained that she and her fellow Democratic senators began reforming the Senate's rules and introducing legislation that was controversial to some.

Just a few months after Democrats took the Senate majority, "the Republicans, who had never, ever, ever not been chairs of committee, not been in power, had never been able to share resources," she said, "took an opportunity ... and on June 8 they took a vote that said that they were the new leadership. We said, 'No, you're not.'"

After her explanation she took questions, few of which were about the impasse.

Eastchester resident Joan Bonsignore, the executive director of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence's Westchester branch in White Plains, asked Stewart-Cousins about funding for groups that want to do drug-awareness outreach in elementary schools.

Stewart-Cousins said the question was better posed to the state commissioner on

mental health, and she offered to facilitate setting up a meeting with that official.

Though Bonsignore didn't get an answer for her question, she said she was satisfied with Stewart-Cousins' explanations about what happened in Albany and her views on all the issues raised during the meeting.

"I think she clarified a lot," said Bonsignore, who praised Stewart-Cousins for her role during the Albany crisis. "You saw her leadership."

Greenburgh resident Chadwick Campbell, 18, a

student at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, asked Stewart-Cousins about the rising cost of public college tuition and how the state Senate could help with that problem.

Stewart-Cousins said she didn't have any finds at her disposal to help young people with college tuition, but she said that education is a priority for the new Democratic majority.

"This is a very difficult time for everybody financially, but there is also a commitment to look at education in the state," she said. "Not from K to 12,

but K through 16, so we expect to be able to help you to get a college education."

After the meeting, Campbell said he asked his question because college-assistance programs often exclude the middle class.

"I think there is a misconception that because you're from the middle class you can afford it, and that's not always the case," said Campbell.

Campbell said he was satisfied with Stewart-Cousins' answers to the morning's questions.

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A beacon of hope for Westchester residents battling addiction

Joan Bonsignore is committed to helping families and saving lives

The scourge of alcohol dependence and drug addiction is not relegated to the prototypical "Skid Row burn" or the down-and-out drifter panhandling for spare change to support an addiction to cheap wine. Nor is it confined to the underclass or inner-city dwellers battling economic hardship that invariably leads to unbridled drinking or to a heroin habit. Alcohol abuse and drug addiction are insidious in their collective guise of "normalcy," where the respected community leader who is a powerhouse in public becomes a slave to intoxicants after hours, or where the promising student drops a full grade point average not due to over-scheduling but because of a raging addiction to a controlled substance.

In short, addiction is wrenching not only in the pain it causes its victims and their families, but in its seeming ubiquity. Sometimes obvious but often obscured or 'blamed' on other factors, addiction cunningly wends its way into the lives of its victims, wreaking havoc along the way. It is, after all, a disease, and like cancer or hypertension, it demands active treatment in order to save lives and keep families together.

Bronxville resident, Joan Bonsignore is committed to helping individuals and families to understand and overcome the powerful disease of substance abuse and addiction. As Executive Director of the Westchester chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence in White Plains, Bonsignore presides over an organization that is profoundly dedicated to its mission of education and prevention, while making important referrals to treatment programs across the region. Over the years the Council has reached out literally to thousands of individuals in the Westchester County com-

munity struggling with drug or alcohol dependence. It has done so with a warmth and compassion that only comes with first-hand knowledge of and experience with the disease, and the importance of intervention and embracing action and programs that save lives.

"This is not a moral issue," Bonsignore says of substance addiction. "It's a disease. No one 'wants' to have it. And these people need help."

This "founding mother" of the NCADD/Westchester, Bonsignore is credited with resurrecting the local chapter in 2001. Her passion for wanting to see the program revived emanated from a very personal place. "The Council saved my life," she states deliberately.

It was in 1988 when Bonsignore experienced both personal catastrophe, and resulting epiphany. That year, she relates, brought the depths of addiction, and redemption. Years of alcohol abuse and addiction to prescription pills finally caught up with her. "I bottomed out," she explains. "I was almost dead in a psych ward." Nearly every aspect of her life seemed in upheaval. "I was desperate and lost; I had no idea how to survive," she recalls. "I couldn't live, and I couldn't die. No doctor could help me. But I was able to rebuild myself through the grace of God."

Also in that year Bonsignore was awakened by the message promulgated by Betty Ford, the former First Lady who struggled for years with alcoholism and whose recovery prompted countless alcoholic Americans to seek help and attain sobriety, many at the respected Betty Ford Clinic. "Betty Ford's story lead me to seek an evaluation at the National Council on Alcoholism/Westchester," she says. "Her story opened my eyes to the fact that we

had the same problem.

"My life, I feel, was saved through this evaluation," Bonsignore shares. "I am here today, and I am supposed to do this work."

The "work" at the NCADD/Westchester is multifold: focusing on educating the community and affected families; providing information on determining who is at risk for addiction; recognizing the signs of addiction; making referrals to medical and therapeutic professionals; and helping to remove the stigma attached to substance abuse. Prevention is key, as is accurate detection and evaluation of the symptoms of alcoholism and drug addiction.

Education plays a major role at the NCADD/Westchester as well. The CASAC (Credentialed Alcohol Substance Abuse Counselor) program is a 350-hour course that enables students to graduate and become licensed substance abuse counselors. The second class graduated in mid-July. "It's the best program," Bonsignore states. "It's quite a feat in itself." The course is held at Mercy College in White Plains.

Bonsignore explains that NCADD/Westchester visits private and parochial schools throughout the county to provide education on substance abuse to both students and parents. Reaching out to young people is an important part of the group's overall mission. "With substance abuse, the soul of the family is destroyed," she says. It's her ardent contention that educational programs enlighten the young and old alike, and serve as a powerful deterrent to addiction.

NCADD/Westchester casts a wider net as well in its multi-tiered mission. The organization provides leadership through crafting public policy issues related to

alcoholism and drug abuse, and works with politicians, educators, community leaders and members of the media to disseminate information, corral support, raise funds, and spread the message of help, and hope.

"It's a very strange illness," Bonsignore explains. "It drives you, you don't drive it." And like many diseases, early detection is a huge first step toward healing. "Early-stage addiction is the best time to catch it. And because this is such a pernicious and insidious disease, it's crucial that people not wait until they're at a stage where they can't hear us."

NCADD/Westchester is a not-for-profit organization that relies on the support of individuals and corporations for much of its funding. According to Bonsignore, the impetus for her dedication to prevention, intervention and support is a simple one: "We're helping people to get their lives back," she states. "My journey is to be here, and to do this work." When it comes to addiction and finding a pathway toward healing, one tenet is particularly accurate. "The truth," she declares, "is what sets people free."

NCADD/ Westchester

Founded in 1944, NCADD works at the national level on policy issues related to barriers in education, prevention and treatment for alcoholics and other drug dependent persons and their families. With a nationwide network of Affiliates, NCADD provides education, information, help and hope to the public and operates a toll-free Hope Line (800-NCA-CALL) for information and referral and a National Intervention Network (800-654-HOPE) to educate and assist the families and friends of addicted persons. For more information, visit: www.ncadd.org.

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Journal News

LOCAL HERO



Seth Harrison/The Journal News
Joan Bonsignore revived the local National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence chapter in 2001.

Substance abuse? Sit right down

Eastchester woman beat demons, now cheerfully helps others with theirs

Ernie Garcia
elgarcia@lohud.com

Ask Joan Bonsignore about addiction and you'll get an earful.

As executive director of Westchester County's chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, the Eastchester resident works as a full-time volunteer, bringing drug awareness workshops to private schools and guiding a program that trains addiction counselors.

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NCADD announces 2 new appointments

WHITE PLAINS — Lowes Moore, executive director of the Mount Vernon Boys and Girls Club, and Rabbi Shira Milgrom of Congregation Kol Ami in White Plains have been appointed to the board of directors of the National Council for Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester.

NCADD/Westchester Executive Director Joan Bonsignore welcomed them to the board.

"I am very proud to have been selected to the board of directors of NCADD," Moore said.

"NCADD has been in the forefront of education, prevention and treatment of drug-addicted persons and their families, and I hope to be able to contribute my skills together with the other board members and staff to reduce the incidence of drug use throughout Westchester County," he said.

Virginia University in 1980. He played three years in the NBA with the Nets, Cleveland Cavaliers and San Diego (Los Angeles) Clippers. He also spent five years in the Continental Basketball Association on two championship teams with the Albany Patroons and has coached basketball on the high school, college and professional level.

Milgrom has traveled throughout North America bringing Jews closer to the words of Torah and Jewish self-expression. She is a graduate of Hebrew Union College-Jewish Institute of Religion, has academic training in a wide range of learning and is the author of articles on Jewish spirituality, education and healing.

"Alcoholism and addictions affect the Jewish community as every other community," Milgrom said. "I am also inspired by the courage and spiritual openness that marks much of the recovering community. I am honored and comforted that Congregation Kol Ami is now host to a regular AA meeting — and honored to

Ongoing vigilance needed to prevent DWI

Joan Bonsignore

OUR VIEWS

On the anniversary today of Diane Schuler's drunken-driving crash on the Taconic State Parkway, the Westchester chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Inc. wishes to express our deepest sympathy to all the victims of the tragedy caused by drunken driving.

Since the Schuler crash, which claimed eight lives, public attention and awareness have been increased. The problem, however, does not go away; to think that one horrific accident would motivate everyone to change their behavior is unrealistic. Ongoing vigilance is required, and the public must become more involved in prevention.

Among adults, conversations at social events have increased regarding drinking and driving and the potential consequences of their actions. It is also obvious that not only women have driven drunk with their children, men have also been arrested.

Drunken driving is not gender specific; both men and women have been caught drinking and driving with children in their car.

No parent would intentionally harm his or her child. This proves how insidious alcohol and drug abuse can be. Most people who have been interviewed post-DWI have "felt" that they were not impaired, and that they were "OK" to drive. We cannot rely on how we feel when we take any drugs, including alcohol. What we must come to accept is, if we drink anything or take any medication that alters us, we should not get behind the wheel.

A \$40 to \$60 cab ride is much less expensive than a \$3,500 retainer for an attorney and the risk of harming others, self and destroying your future.

Our youth, however, still think they are immune and continue to use drugs and alcohol, and proceed to drive.



File photo submitted by Craig Ruttle
Flowers and a wooden cross rest July 28, 2009, near the place on the Taconic State Parkway where Diane Schuler collided with two vehicles while traveling in the wrong direction.

Their peers must be willing to intervene by taking their keys and being the "safe ride," and not allow their friends to jeopardize their life and the lives of others. The problem starts with our children. We must continue to focus on them.

Education must begin as early as the third grade about the dangers of drug and alcohol use.

More PSAs are needed as well as signs in communities, to increase the education and understanding of drug and al-

Editorial Spotlight

A year after Diane Schuler's drunken, wrong-way crash on the Taconic Parkway claimed eight lives, including her own, the Editorial Board revisits the issue of drunken driving. An Editorial Spotlight interview at 1 p.m. Tuesday focuses on what's changed on our roadways since the crash. Panelists include Joan Bonsignore, executive director of the Westchester chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug

Dependence; Sheila Abrams of Mothers Against Drunk Driving/Westchester chapter; and Rockland County Judge Charles Apotheker, who presides over Rockland County Drug Court, which includes DWI offenders.

To view the LIVE discussion, go to LoHud.com/editorialspotlight; if you have a question, engage the CoveritLive blogging feature on the right side of your screen. To watch the interview later, visit LoHud.com/editorialspotlight and click "On Demand."

cohol use and abuse. Please consider becoming a sponsor. The NCADD/Westchester and many treatment facilities are holding a Recovery Rally for Hope on Sept. 19 — more details to come — to celebrate lives that have changed, and to offer hope to all who are affected by this problem.

We also sponsor an ongoing informational series — a two-part program designed to support and educate the com-

munity about drugs and alcohol, and the effect they have on both the person and everyone whose life they touch. For information regarding our informational series, or to answer your questions or concerns, please call the council at 914-949-8500.

The writer is executive director of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester Inc.

Student animation; broadcasters dinner; ribbon cut



Animation celebration. The Jacob Burns Film Center and the Ossining Children's Center held a premiere of student animation films at a reception Sept. 23 at the Film Center in Pleasantville.



Special guest Chris Wedge, left, of Katonah, director; and Joseph Summerhays of Stamford, Conn., animation program designer and Emily Keating of Pleasantville, education administrator, Jacob Burns Film Center, Wedge presented awards to the student animators.

Left, Filmmaker Amaris Smith of Yonkers, a fifth-grade student, accepts an award.



Anne Marie Santoro of Manhattan, education program consultant at the Jacob Burns Film Center and Howard Milbert of Ossining, executive director of the Ossining Children's Center.

Teatown raises \$206,000. "A Night in the Woods" was the theme of the Teatown Lake Reservation gala held Sept. 20 at Olde Orchard Hill Farm in Katonah. The dinner dance and auction is the largest fund-raising event for Teatown, which spans Yorktown, Ossining and Croton-on-Hudson.



From left, Gail Abrams of Ossining, executive director, Teatown Lake Reservation; Rosemary Plunkett of Tarrytown, and her husband, Kevin, chairman of the Hudson River Greenway Conservancy; Geoff Thompson, president, Teatown Lake Reservation board of directors; and Elizabeth Bracken-Thompson, volunteer and partner, Thompson & Bender, both of Croton-on-Hudson.

Fighting alcohol and drugs. The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence of Westchester honored Westchester County District Attorney Jeanine Pirro Sept. 18 at the Dorset Arrowwood in Rye Brook. Pirro was recognized for her leadership and work in education, prevention and information on the harm of drugs and alcohol.



From left, Juan Bonisignore, president, National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence Westchester; Westchester County District Attorney Jeanine Pirro of Harrison; and Vince Vesce, former Mayor of Peekskill.

Founders dinner. New York Medical College held its annual Founders Dinner Sept. 20 at the Hilton Rye Town, Rye Brook. More than 500 guests attended.

Right, Gaye and Dr. John Savino of Braircliff Manor. Savino is chairman of the Department of Medicine at the college.



John Vecchiola Photography

From left, Ronald F. Poe of Armonk; Kenneth E. Raske of New Rochelle, president, Greater New York Hospital Association and Sheila M. Smythe, executive vice president, New York Medical College and dean of its School of Public Health. Raske was awarded the William Cullen Bryant medal, the highest honor bestowed by New York Medical College.



Masked ball benefits art center

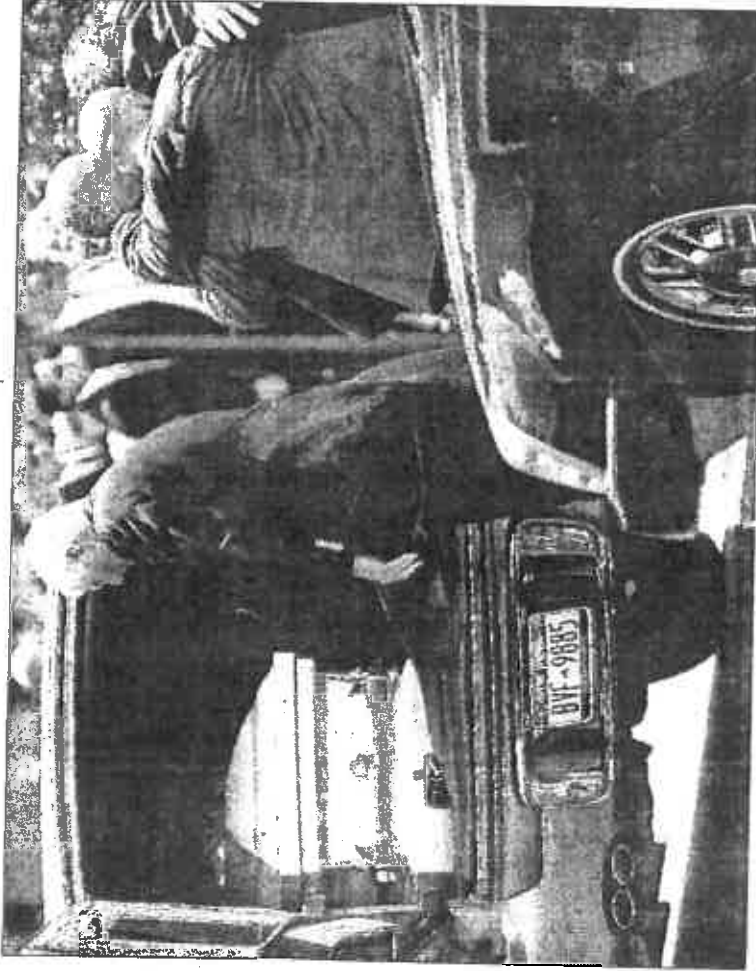
"Light Up Philadelphia" Per-

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to restore

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n alcohol use and tolerance



AP Photo/Seth Wenig



Joe LaRosa/The Journal News

Above: A group of men hug as caskets are loaded into hearses at Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church in Floral Park July 30. The funeral Mass was for Diane Schuler, Erin Schuler, Kate Hance, Alyson Hance and Emma Hance, all killed in the July 26 crash on the Taconic Parkway.

Right: Joan Bonsignore, executive director of the Westchester County Chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, participates in an Editorial Spotlight on drinking and driving at the Journal News Aug. 6.

It's not always about frequency or volume, but about consequences, said William Knack, a Chappaqua psychologist who specializes in families with alcohol issues. Is the person spending money she doesn't have on alcohol or drugs? Are there problems functioning day-to-day, personality changes, a lack of care and concern about things that had been very important before? "You know by the consequences of the person's drinking—lots of us go through difficult circumstances and don't drink," Knack said. "That a person's life is hard is not an excuse to drink."

Knack dismisses the idea of respecting someone's privacy. "If you really love and care about someone, you do not respect their feelings, you do not worry about offending them. You create as big a problem as possible," he said. It's called "making a bottom," Knack said. "You want to heighten the negative consequences of their use so it becomes clear to

them that they need help." That, though, assumes there are signs to see before it is too late.

Was Diane Schuler an alcoholic, an addict? Her family says no. Her husband, Daniel, contends that she had myriad medical problems—a history of diabetes, an abscessed tooth, a lump on her leg—and wasn't much of a drinker at all. "She did not drink. She's not an alcoholic," he said. Is that denial talking? Or was the apparent Sunday morning consumption of enough vodka to cause a BAC more than double the legal limit and enough marijuana smoking to laden her bloodstream with THC an aberration? We may never know. "It's not about how much or how often, but about why," Bonsignore said. "It's not about once a month or once a week. In the end, it will be all the time."

A 'new normal'

What helps? Knack warns against a "culture of accept-

ability" that allows too much leeway in alcohol use. He and others say we need a "new normal" drinking tolerance. That means a different kind of social norming, resetting people's view of what's normal. It's not normal to head out to drink with the sole goal of getting as drunk as possible. All celebrations do not have to end in drunkenness. The first time someone has an alcohol-induced blackout—she can't remember events from the evening before—signals real trouble and must be addressed.

Bonsignore encourages understanding, including for the likes of Daniel Schuler. "The pain he must be in," she said. But she does not advocate tolerance for a minute. By looking at the Schuler case, by continuing to talk about alcohol and substance abuse, "people will see it in their own families and their own lives."

The writer is Rockland Opinion editor.

ousing settlement

Let us

hear from you

National Council On Alcoholism And Drug Dependence/Westchester, Inc. First Annual Luncheon

The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester, Inc., recently held its first annual luncheon at The Ridgeway Country Club in White Plains to help support its programs of information, education, prevention and referrals. The organization's goal is to educate the public and fight the stigma surrounding the disease of alcoholism and other drug addictions. "substance abuse crosses all societal boundaries," says Joan Bonsignore, President of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester, Inc. "It affects both genders, every ethnic group, and people in every tax bracket. Alcoholism and drug dependence is a disease that has roots in both genetic susceptibility and personal behavior."



(Right) Jack Keegan, Esq., Fellow of the American College of Trial lawyers, was honored for his significant contribution in the field of alcoholism and drug dependence. Pictured with Mr. Keegan is Joan Bonsignore (center), President of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester, Inc. and Tony Aiello (left), Westchester Correspondent for WCBS TV, Channel 2 News.



Pictured center) Kitty Molloy, CASAC, Member of The Spiritual Directors' International Addiction/Co-Dependency, was honored for her significant contribution in the field of Alcoholism and drug dependence. Pictured with Ms. Molloy is Joan Bonsignore (left), President of the National Council on Alcoholism and drug Dependence/Westchester, Inc. and Tony Aiello (center), Westchester Correspondent for WCBS TV, Channel 2 News.



Hoping for a 'new normal' on alcohol use and to

Nancy Cutler

Joan Bonsignore was a pill-popping drunk. Her physician husband didn't know. Her friends didn't know. For a long time, she didn't know, either. How could that be? She was in control, she thought, but when it all came crashing down, when she had what she describes as a psychotic break at age 48, when she was hospitalized, went through cold-turkey withdrawal, there could be no more denial.

"I could have been a Schuler," said Bonsignore, now executive director of the Westchester County chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence. Diane Schuler drove her minivan with five kids on board the wrong way on the Taconic State Parkway July 26. She barreled into a vehicle carrying three Yonkers men on their way to a family dinner. Schuler, her 2-year-old daughter, her three nieces, all three men in the other vehicle, were killed. Schuler's 5-year-old son was injured. Toxicology tests show the 36-year-old had a blood-alcohol content of .19 and a significant amount of THC, the active ingredient in marijuana, in her bloodstream.

The takeaway from our panel last week on alcohol abuse? It's an insidious disease that can be hidden, even from those closest to the substance abuser, said members of the panel, who work with the therapeutic or law-enforcement setting. Who needs to hear the message? Everyone, from the abuser to the family to the general public, mostly because it's hard to know who fits in the first two categories. What do they need to know? "Respect the power of the disease and you never have to be in the headlines," said Bonsignore.

Hallmark symptoms of the illness of addiction include manipulation and cunning. Everyone is fooled, even, for a time, the addict. Rockland County Court Judge Charles Apotheker runs the county's

Hear the experts

To view the discussion about the July 26 wrong-way crash on the Taconic Parkway and drunken driving, go to www.lohud.com/editorials/spotlight and click "On Demand."



Angela Gaud/The Journal News

Lisa Hopkins of Patterson puts her arms around her daughter Ashley, 8, as they view a memorial wall outside Seven Stars School of Performing Arts in Brewster July 8. Lori Donohue and her 8-year-old daughter, Kayla, were struck and killed by a drunk driver one month earlier.

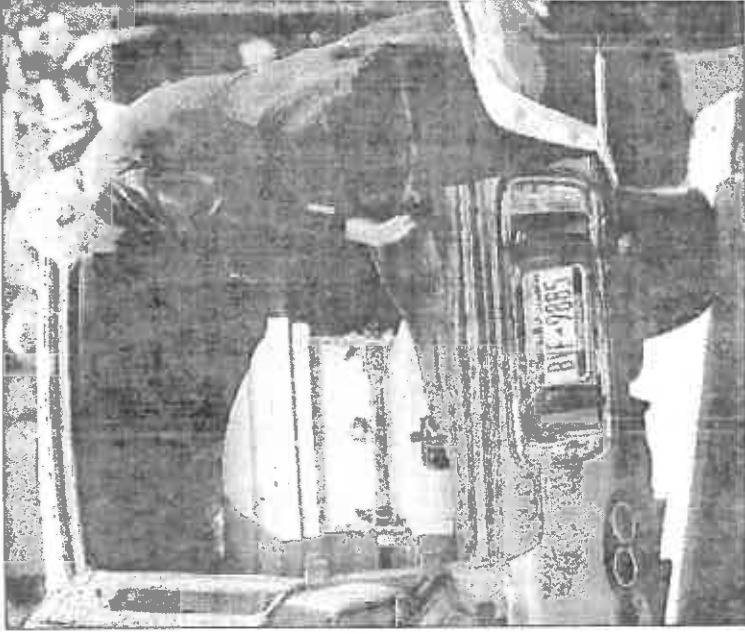
Drug Court, which has included felony DWI perpetrators for the last year and a half. Those in the program receive therapy as well as strict monitoring as they work to graduate from the program and avoid jail time. Lying is a quick road to ending the Drug Court deal for defendants. "They're not terminated for the relapse, but for dishonesty," Apotheker said. "You cannot have recovery without honesty."

Getting past denial

We've put together three panels in the last two years on various alcohol-abuse issues. In September 2008, we hosted a forum on the Amethyst Initiative, which calls for a re-examination of the legal drinking age of 21. Its goal? To curb binge drinking among college students by bringing drinking out in the open, and circumventing the dangerous trend of secretive and rushed alcohol consumption associated with an illegal behavior. In June, we convened a community

conversation to discuss the tragic DWI crash in Brewster that killed mom Lori and 8-year-old Kayla Donohue as they left the little girl's dance class. That case was wrapped around the issue of illegal immigration; police said the accused driver was unlicensed in the country illegally, and was almost twice the legal limit for DWI. Different circumstances, to be sure, but each revolved around alcohol abuse and its perils.

Problems with alcohol use are shockingly common: More than 30 percent of adults meet the criteria of "alcohol abuser" at some point in their lives, according to a study by the National Institute on Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism. The same study found that only 24 percent of alcoholics receive treatment, and there is, on average, an eight-year lag between developing an alcohol dependence and receiving treatment. The question becomes: How do we know when alcohol has become a problem for someone?



Above: A group of men hug as caskets are loaded into hearse: Our Lady of Victory Roman Catholic Church in Floral Park July 3. The funeral Mass was for Diane Schuler, Erin Schuler, Kate Hance, Alyson Hance and Emma Hance, all killed in the July 26 crash on the Taconic Parkway. Right: Joan Bonsignore, executive director of the Westchester County Chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, participates in an Editorial Spotlight on drinking & driving at the Journal News Aug. 6.

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A 'new normal'

What helps? Knack war against a "culture of acceptance"

On Westchester's affordable housing settlement

Senator clears the air after crisis

Most residents quiz Stewart-Cousins on issues, not impasse

Ernie Garcia
egarcia@lohud.com

GREENBURGH — Two days after a monthlong impasse in the state Senate ended, Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins met with her constituents yesterday to explain the crisis and answer questions.

The Yonkers Democrat greeted about 50 people in a meeting room at Theodore D. Young Community Center.

She took questions about re-entry programs for ex-convicts, next year's U.S. census, redistricting and the renewal of rent-regulation laws, among others.

She began her coffee chat with a long explanation about what happened in the state Senate last month when two Democratic senators joined forces with Republicans in a bid to wrest control of the body from Democrats.

Stewart-Cousins explained that she and her fellow Democratic senators began reforming the Senate's rules and introducing legislation that was controversial to some.

Just a few months after Democrats took the Senate majority, "the Republicans, who had never, ever, ever not been chairs of committee, not been in power, had never been able to share resources," she said, "took an opportunity... and on June 8 they took a vote that said that they were the new leadership. We said, 'No, you're not.'"

After her explanation she took questions, few of which were about the impasse.

Eastchester resident Joan Bonsignore, the executive director of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence's Westchester branch in White Plains, asked Stewart-Cousins about funding for groups that want to do drug-awareness outreach in elementary schools.

Stewart-Cousins said the question was better posed to the state commissioner on

mental health, and she offered to facilitate serving up a meeting with that official.

Though Bonsignore didn't get an answer for her question, she said she was satisfied with Stewart-Cousins' explanations about what happened in Albany and her views on all the issues raised during the meeting.

"I think she clarified a lot," said Bonsignore, who praised Stewart-Cousins for her role during the Albany crisis. "You saw her leadership."

Greenburgh resident Chatwick Campbell, 18, a

student at John Jay College of Criminal Justice, asked Stewart-Cousins about the rising cost of public college tuition and how the state Senate could help with that problem.

Stewart-Cousins said she didn't have any funds at her disposal to help young people with college tuition, but she said that education is a priority for the new Democratic majority.

"This is a very difficult time for everybody financially, but there is also a commitment to look at education in the state," she said. "Not from K to 12,

but K through 16, so we expect to be able to help you to get a college education."

After the meeting, Campbell said he asked his question because college-assistance programs often exclude the middle class.

"I think there is a misconception that because you're from the middle class you can afford it, and that's not always the case," said Campbell.

Campbell said he was satisfied with Stewart-Cousins' answers to the morning's questions.

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'cagey' grip on mothers

Candice Ferrette
and Theresa Juva
cferrett@lohud.com

Before her hidden addiction came to light, Joan Bonsignore always seemed to hold it together. As a mother and wife, she headed school events and ran her husband's medical practice.

But at the height of her alcohol and pill addiction, the Eastchester mother of four wrote goodbye letters to her children, and at one point, thought about killing herself by driving her car into a pole.

"You have a twisted mind. It is a disease of attitudes. It is 90 percent thinking, and 10 percent drinking or drugging," says Bonsignore, now sober 20 years and the executive di-

SEE DWI, 10A



■ Bald column, 1B
■ Editorial, 7B

Emergency workers look for debris in the Hudson River off Manhattan yesterday after a helicopter and small plane collided in midair.

Robert Mecca/The Associated Press

Thousands see debris scatter into Hudson; Italian tourists on craft

Verena Dobnick
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — A small plane collided with a sightseeing helicopter carrying Italian tourists over the Hudson River yesterday, scattering debris in the water and forcing people on the New Jersey waterfront to scamper for cover. Authorities believe all nine people aboard the two aircraft were killed.

The collision, which New York City Mayor Michael Bloomberg said was "not survivable," happened just after noon and was seen by thousands of people enjoying a clear summer day on both sides of the Hudson River.

"First I saw a piece of something flying through the air. Then I saw



Fox News Channel

The plane and helicopter are seen in this image rendered from video and released by Fox News Channel.

the helicopter going down into the water," said Kelly Owen, a Florida tourist at a Manhattan park. "I thought it was my imagination."

The two aircraft went down just south of the stretch of river where

a US Airways jet landed safely seven months ago. But this time, there was no miracle.

"This is not going to have a happy ending," Bloomberg said. Hours after the collision, he said

he thought it fair to say that "this has changed from a rescue to a recovery mission."

Three bodies were recovered in the water, one floating free and one in the wreckage, and other bodies were spotted in the debris in the river. The crash victims were five Italian tourists and a pilot on the Liberty Tours helicopter and the three people on the plane, including a child, Bloomberg said.

The identities of the victims were not immediately released. Italian Foreign Ministry spokesman Maurizio Massari confirmed there were Italians aboard the helicopter and said the ministry was working to learn further details.

A Liberty Tours helicopter pilot on the ground saw the plane approaching the helicopter and tried to radio an alert to the pilots, New York City Police Commissioner Raymond Kelly said. The warning

SEE CRASH, 8A

Salesians will pay 3 men who claim sex abuse by seminary chief

McCormick became Marian Shrine director, order's east U.S. leader

Gary Stern
gstern@lohud.com

The Salesians of Don Bosco have agreed to pay a financial settlement to three men who say they were sex-

ually abused by the Rev. Richard McCormick, a former head of the religious order for the eastern United States and a former director of the Marian Shrine in Stony Point.

Three other men also have come forward in recent weeks to accuse McCormick of abuse, according to a prominent Boston lawyer who negotiated the settlement with the Salesians.

The Salesians' Eastern Province,

which includes all Salesian activities and personnel east of the Mississippi River and throughout Canada, is based in New Rochelle. The Salesians would not say whether McCormick, 68, is currently residing in New Rochelle or elsewhere.

In a statement released yesterday, the Rev. Thomas A. Dunne, the provincial, or head, of the Eastern Province, said: "The Salesians are saddened by the allegations of inap-

propriate behavior by Fr. McCormick. In accordance with our policy, the Salesian Society has suspended Fr. McCormick from public ministry and unsupervised contact with minors pending review of the matter by our Provincial Review Board."

The statement did not say when that review might take place.

About the financial settlements, Dunne wrote: "The Salesians settled

claims brought against Fr. McCormick, neither admitting nor denying liability, in order to avoid the uncertainties and costs of litigation."

The Salesians chose not to answer additional questions.

Mitchell Garabedian, the Boston lawyer who has represented more than 600 alleged victims of clergy

SEE SALESIANS, 8A

INSIDE



Sotomayor's oath

Sonia Sotomayor is sworn in as a U.S.



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OUR VIEWS



Stuart Bayer/The Journal News

Westchester County Police Officer Christopher Grasso watches vehicles along the Saw Mill River Parkway in Hawthorne Jan. 8.

After the crash

Here's hoping that today's talk on the Taconic tragedy gets beyond anger

Incredulity, sadness and heartbreak were in ample supply after a minivan traveling in the wrong direction on the Taconic State Parkway July 28 collided with an SUV, killing eight people, including four children. A new response — anger — took center stage following revelations this week that Diane Schuler, the wrong-way driver, had been drunk and high on drugs.

Schuler was the architect of another wholly preventable tragedy, loss of life that included Schuler, from Long Island, and passengers Erin, 2, her daughter; and nieces Emma Hance, 8, Alyson Hance, 7, and Kate Hance, 5. Killed in the SUV were Guy Bastardi of Yonkers; his father, Michael Bastardi, and family friend Daniel Longo.

Of course, grief over drunken driving does not begin or end with them; wounds persist in Putnam, where a mother and child — Lori Donohue, 37, and her daughter, Kayla Donohue, 8 — were struck and killed by a motorist police allege was drunk. And, every single day, some 36 people in the United States are killed in motor vehicle crashes that involve an alcohol-impaired driver, according to the federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Drugs other than alcohol are involved in about 18 percent of motor vehicle driver deaths, the CDC reports, and the other drugs are generally used in combination with alcohol. Collectively, those numbers add up to incalculable anguish, even if the region and the nation have shown gains against drunk-driving deaths in the years since the nation moved to the 21 drinking age in 1985.

Tune in today at 1 p.m. as the Editorial Board continues the conversation about drunk driving — with a special Editorial Spotlight roundtable discussion with experts on the issue. You can watch it LIVE online by going to lohud.com/editorialspotlight. Scheduled guests include:

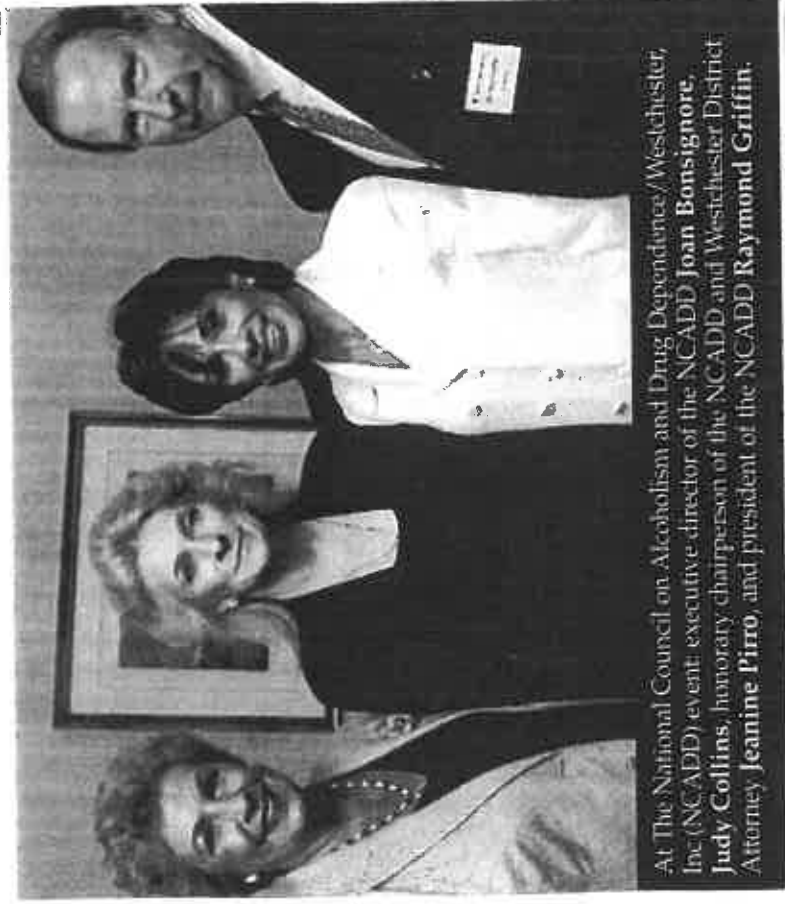
- Sheila Abrams of Westchester Mothers Against Drunk Driving.
- Joan Bonsignore, executive director of the Westchester County chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence.
- William Knack, a psychologist in Chappaqua who specializes in families and alcoholism.
- Rockland County Court Judge Charles Apotheker, who presides over Rockland County Drug Court, which recently added DWI offenders.

Apotheker called the Schuler case a "tragic teachable moment" for people involved in the Drug Court, where certain offenders are offered the opportunity to avoid jail time by pleading guilty; partaking in a treatment program; attending self-help meetings; and undergoing random drug tests. "It's sad, but I use (such tragedies) to teach them," Apotheker said. "I use anything I can."

According to the authorities, Schuler had a .19 blood-

WAF

November 2005



At The National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester, Inc. (NCADD) event: executive director of the NCADD **Joan Borsignore**, **Judy Collins**, honorary chairperson of the NCADD and Westchester District Attorney **Jeanine Pirro**, and president of the NCADD **Raymond Griffin**.



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Cyclists race in White Plains for drug awareness

By Collin Gustafson
cgustafson@ohud.com

WHITE PLAINS — Nearly 300 cyclists sped through downtown streets Sunday in a series of races to raise money for alcohol and drug awareness.

The city's inaugural Downtown Criterium had contestants doing dozens of half-mile laps around two blocks of county government buildings on streets closed to traffic.

The four-corner course went from a start-finish line on Martin Avenue and around Mamaroneck Avenue, Quarropas Street and Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard. The top 10 finishers in a half-dozen races split a \$2,000 pot.

The event was expected to raise as much as \$10,000 for the Westchester chapter of the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, which trains addiction counselors and fields calls from people seeking help. Proceeds from the event will support the White Plains-based chapter's awareness-raising programs, particularly its

outreach efforts in schools.

"I want people to know we exist, so if they need help, they won't hide," said Joan Bonsignore, executive director of the Westchester chapter. "What we can offer is hope."

Race organizers hope to host a second annual race on the same course in May.

The event was conceived by Joe Markey, a banker for Key Bank, the primary sponsor.

Markey said that after seeing his 18-year-old son become addicted to drugs, he wanted to organize an event that combined his love of cycling with his personal quest to help other families facing the same challenges. That starts with getting people to talk openly about addiction as a chronic disease, rather than a moral digression, he said.

"It's very hard as a parent," he said. "My goal is to raise awareness for families who are embarrassed to talk about it. There's hope."

U.S. Rep. Nita Lowey, D-Harrison, a spectator at



Cyclists participate in the inaugural White Plains Downtown Criterium to benefit the National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Westchester, on Sunday. PHOTOS BY RICKY FLORES/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Sunday's race, said it showcased hundreds of people making healthy lifestyle choices.

"It shows that you don't need drugs or alcohol for a kick," she said. "You can get out and ride your bike."

Cyclist James Rather of the Riverdale section of the Bronx said he has participated in similar events

in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, Bethel, Conn., and Rockleigh, N.J.

To have a criterium "in the heart of Westchester County that brings so many people out as spectators and racers is great," he said. "We're due for something like this here, as opposed to having to travel elsewhere."

Richard Gonzalez, a bicycle shop owner from Bayonne, N.J., said he enjoyed the wide turns and smooth ride of Sunday's course.

"Everybody was on their best behavior — no yelling, no pushing," he said. "It was the best race of the season. I hope they do it again next year."



Ed Fertic, a race official for USA Cycling, monitors bike racers participating in the inaugural White Plains Downtown Criterium Sunday.

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Markey said that after seeing his 18-year-old son become addicted to drugs, he wanted to organize an event that combined his love of cycling with his personal quest to help other families facing the same challenges. That starts with getting people to talk openly about addiction as a chronic disease, rather than a moral digression, he said.

"It's very hard as a parent," he said. "My goal is to raise awareness for families who are embarrassed to talk about it. There's hope."

U.S. Rep. Nita Lowey, D-Harrison, a spectator at



Cyclists participate in the inaugural White Plains Downtown Criterium to benefit the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Westchester, on Sunday. PHOTOS BY RICKY FLORES/THE JOURNAL NEWS

Sunday's race, said it showcased hundreds of people making healthy lifestyle choices.

"It shows that you don't need drugs or alcohol for a kick," she said. "You can get out and ride your bike."

Cyclist James Rather of the Riverdale section of the Bronx said he has participated in similar events

in Brooklyn's Prospect Park, Bethel, Conn., and Rockleigh, N.J.

To have a criterium "in the heart of Westchester County that brings so many people out as spectators and racers is great," he said. "We're due for something like this here, as opposed to having to travel elsewhere."

Richard Gonzalez, a bicycle shop owner from Bayonne, N.J., said he enjoyed the wide turns and smooth ride of Sunday's course.

"Everybody was on their best behavior — no yelling, no pushing," he said. "It was the best race of the season. I hope they do it again next year."

certified in child-safety seats to install the seat in their vehicle. A rear-facing seat should be installed at least one month before the due date, Kopy said.

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Ed Fertik, a race official for USA Cycling, monitors bike racers participating in the inaugural White Plains Downtown Criterium Sunday.

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Somers and New York State Senator Suzi Oppenheimer of Mamaroneck



Rye, Chinese pianist Lang Lang, and Walter Shmerler of Rye; 2) Lucille Werlinich of Purchase and Ruth Wheat of White Plains



Keynote speaker Darryl Strawberry, former New York Met and Yankee, of Tampa, Florida; Brig. Gen. Donald Lee Singer of Cortlandt Manor; Joan Bonsignore of Bronxville; Harris Stratyner, PhD, of Scarsdale; and WABC-TV Sports Director/Sports Anchor Scott Clark of Rye at the National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence/Westchester, Inc. Marty Mann benefit awards dinner held at Lake Isle Country Club in Eastchester



Jeannie and Michael Cunison of Bronxville at Pregnancy Care Center's 24th annual Snow Ball held at the Ritz-Carlton, Westchester, in White Plains



Yogi Berra of Montclair, New Jersey, with Thomas Leghorn of New Rochelle at Family Services of Westchester's 2010 Star Gala kick-off event held at Steiner Sports Marketing and Memorabilia in New Rochelle



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