The Hidden Ridge GEM July 2016 Issue 16-03



The President's Message

Dear Fellow Hidden Ridgers,

The summer of 2016 has gotten off to a wonderful start. Mother Nature has been more than cooperative and people who are here are enjoying the pool. Our Welcome Back Breakfast as well as our July 4th Celebrations – pool party, BBQ and show featuring Larry Chance and the Earls were all successful. Kudos to the group of volunteers for all of their work in making the events run smoothly.

We will be installing gates at both of our entrances to increase the level of security as well as the privacy of our community. Construction should begin within the next few weeks. One gate will be for residents only while the other one will have a call box for guests to call residents to give them access. Residents will receive remote controls and their own access code. As we get closer to the operation of these gates informational meetings will be held to familiarize everyone. As soon as the gates are in full operation, we will be saying goodbye to our safety patrol

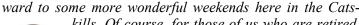
By this time you should have received the notice of the Annual Meeting and Elections on July 31, 2016. Bagels and coffee will be served. Elections for four directors will be held. As of this writing there are five candidates who were either nominated or filed letters of intent. They are featured in this edition of the GEM. Additional candidates may be nominated from the floor on July 17th at Meet the Candidates. It is important that each of you exercise your right to vote. If you cannot attend the meeting in person, you can send in an absentee ballot or appoint someone as your proxy. Details are included in the election packet that is in this mailing. It is important that each of you exercise your right to vote. This is your community! We need to hear from all of you!!!

I want to remind the community that the Board of Directors as well as those volunteers who serve on various committees work on **their** time servicing the community in a variety of ways. If you would like to help - contact one of the committee liaisons. While I know that volunteering is sometimes a thankless job, the occasional thank you makes it all worthwhile. Thank you to those who recognize our efforts.

Bonnie

From the Editor

Well, Hidden Ridgers, here we are at the brink of the dawn of the summer 2016. We have celebrated our July 4th weekend and now we look for-





kills. Of course, for those of us who are retired, EVERYDAY is the weekend! I can't express how often I forget the day of the week! If it wasn't for our "daily activities" up here on the Ridge, I would never know!!

Now for some serious contemplation. We are a community of 150 units, most of which are homes to the people who own or rent them. They are well maintained and those people take pride in their residences and the community in which we live. However, some homes are left unused and uncared for over the years. Why is this a concern to me? It is because if my neighbor doesn't take care of his/her home in the proper way, the value of my home is reduced. No matter how much our maintenance crew keeps up with the outside of all of our homes, those that are not lived in have that "look." For 70 years, I have been witness to the changes in

Monticello and its environs. Nothing has made me sadder than to see abandoned, neglected homes. The ramshackle look is not the equivalent of "shabby sheik."

We all groan in unison when we discuss the reduced value of our properties. It behooves every one of us to ensure that as the Catalills are redeveloped (note the

as the Catskills are redeveloped (note the fact that Orange and Ulster Counties seem to been having a rekindling of "life after the hotel culture") we see our dear Sullivan County, and especially, Thompson /Monticello get to share in the rebirth of the area. We can do our part by maintaining our property.

What has brought me to this message was a visit to my childhood home in Sackett Lake. Soon after buying our house here in Hidden Ridge, I took a trip to my home "shtetl" (little village) and discovered a woman there who owned my birth home. She still had some of the old furniture from my grandparents in the rooms and, while she was renovating, the house still had the same "feel" for me that it always did. It wasn't as beautiful as when my family owned it and maintained it; but, it still held a special charm for me. This summer when I went back, the house looks deserted, old and tired. The people who now live in the home next door do not keep that house properly either. So for me, the trip was so sad. In the rest of my life, I want to see only positive change around me. I want to feel joy when I come up here to Monticello. I want to relish in the beauty of the Spring and the splendor of the Fall. And the grandiosity of the Summer. Don't disappoint me, folks. Stay involved.

Linda

2015-2016 Board of Directors

Bonnie Siegel President 791-6056 917-969-9646 Lenny Kirschenbaum V. Pres 794-3395

Fred Hirsh Secretary 516-639-0238 Chuck Greenberg Treasurer 516-445-3845 Jerry Bassik Director 791-4273

Ed Hertz Director 791-7209 561-706-3301 Karen Seltzer Director 794-2752 917-861-6291

> Hidden Ridge H.O.A. PO Box 976 Monticello, NY 12701

Patrol/Safety number: 845-794-8180

Hidden Ridge H.O.A. Committee Liaisons

Advertising Chuck
Audit Chuck
Beautification Ed
Clubhouse Karen
Cul-de-Sac Liaisons Jerry

GEM/Website Bonnie/Jerry

Grievance Fred

Insurance Certifications
Insurance Matters
Legal
Liaison to Veria
Bonnie/Jerry
Fred/Bonnie
Bonnie

Long Range Planning Committee Fred

Maintenance Bonnie/Lenny/Ed

Pool and Pool Pavilion

Safety

Lenny
Sales and Rentals

Sanitation and Recycling
Snow Removal
Social Committee

Lenny
Karen

Upcoming Events



Next Board Meeting: Sunday, July 10 Meet the Candidates: Sunday, July 17

Please see the bulletin boards or website.



Want to announce something to our community? Call Linda and place an ad in the GEM.

Please call 917-747-8660 or email: bonsdiva@aol.com

DEADLINE for AUGUST ISSUE - July 20th

Important Reminder



President Bonnie Siegel reminds all homeowners that a current copy of your insurance certification is required to be on file with the HOA. This form should include the unit number as well as the effective dates of coverage. A copy of the Declarations page is acceptable and preferred. Handwritten details on these documents as well as premium notices are not acceptable. Send your certification forms directly to the Hidden Ridge Office, PO Box 976, Monticello, NY 12701.



Classifieds

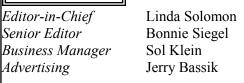
Wanted: Ads to defray costs of printing the GEM, such as, business cards, etc.

Prices for ad space in newsletter:

full page \$25/issue \$125/year
 1/2 page \$15/issue \$75/year
 1/4 page \$10/issue \$50/year
 business card \$5/issue \$25/year

Call Linda: 845-791-6056 (May-Oct.) 561-498-9338 (Oct.-May)

GEM Staff



Contributing Writers: Chuck Greenberg Janet Lieberman

Allan Meyers Peter Morello
Karen Seltzer Robbie Schecter
Terry Steinberg Fred Hirsh
Warren Berkowitz

If you would like to contribute to the July issue or consider writing a regular byline, please notify the Editor-in-Chief Please send your information to:

Linda Solomon at bonsdiva@aol.com

Liberty Pest Control

Liberty Pest Control will address interior concerns. Please call them at the following number to make arrangements and be sure to let them know you are part of Hidden Ridge Homeowners Association.

845-361-3100

If you have any questions, speak to Bonnie Siegel. Thank you.

Life Cycle Events





Independence Day July 4





Emma Lazarus' Birthday July 22, 1849

Bastille Day July 14

Cancer (June 21 - July 22)

Leo (July 23 August 20)







Happy Birthday

•			
07-01	David Muirhead	07-19	Arnold Plotsky
07-02	Vera Zablozki	07-20	Sylvia Singer
07-04	Brian Kudler	07-25	Theo Goldstein
07-07	Gloria Glick	07-27	Mark Rachleff
07-09	Ilya Glaz		Jerry Sullivan
07-15	Jennifer Mitgang	07-28	Linda Solomon
	Rachel Schatten	07-29	Alice Chiappetta
		07-31	Iris Lynn

Happy Anniversary

- Clocks and Watches
- China
- Crystal and Glass
- Electrical Appliances
- Silverware
- ĥ. Mnnd
- Desk Sets -Pens and Pencil Sets
- Linens and Laces
- Leather
- Diamond Watches and Jewelry
- Fashion Jewelry and Accessories
- Pearl or Colored Gems

- 15. Watches
- 16. Silver Hollowware
- 17. Furniture
- 18. Porcelain
- 19. Bronze
- 20. Platinum Watches and Jewelry
- 25. Sterling Silver Jubilee
- 30. Diamond Watches and Jewelry
- 35. Jade
- 40. Ruby
- 45. Sapphire
- 50. Golden Jubilee
- Gloria & Michael Cserhalmi 7-02
- 7-05 Florence & Jack Sachs
- 7-06 Joyce & Sam Glaser



Cul-de-Sac Liaisons

Cul-de-Sac	Numbers	Liaison
Azaleas	15-23D	Karen Seltzer
Birch	29-43D	Helen Klein
Camellias	59-73D	Betty Fuchs
D affodils	89-103D	Fran Zatz
Elms	107-125D	Julia Glaz
Firs	149-171D	Lenny Kirschenbaum
Gardenias	173-187D	Jerry Bassik
Hemlocks	193-205D	Michael Valcin
Iris	196-214D	Harriet Kopelman
Juniper	126-148D	Jeff Lynn
Kerrias	74-96D	Rhoda Hertz
Laurels	44-58D	Robbie Schecter
M agnolias	29-43T	Sheila Cole
Narcissus	45-58T	Joe Gluck
Oaks	28-46T	Jill Friedman
Petunias	6-26T	Bonnie Siegel
Roses	8-14D	Helene Schulman

HOLD THE DATE! *

- Sunday, July 10 Board of Directors Meeting
- Sunday, July 17 Meet the Candidates
- Sunday, July 31 Annual Meeting and Elections
- Sunday, August 7 Board of Directors Meeting
- Sunday, August 21 Board of Directors Meeting
- Sunday, August 28 Association General Meeting
- Sunday, Sept. 11 Board of Directors Meeting
- Dates are subject to change, please check bulletin board and web site.

Hidden Ridge Directory

The **Directory** is being prepared for **2016-17**. If there are any changes to your listing from last year, please complete the form on the back cover of this newsletter and submit it to Bonnie Siegel immediately. The new directory will be distributed very soon.



Celebrating a birthday, anniversary or other special event?

Have any other reason to celebrate? Have nothing special in your life but want to just day hello or share your good fortune with your Hidden Ridge friends and neighbors? Sponsor the collation after the Saturday evening entertainment.

Do you remember the weekly weekend parties at the pool? We would like to bring them back! You can make it happen by sponsoring a Saturday or Sunday event at the pool. We also need volunteers to buy the food, set it up and clean up after the Saturday or Sunday events at the pool.

Speak with Karen Seltzer or Bonnie Siegel about the cost and available dates.

Dining and Entertainment

Robbie's Recipes

submitted by Robbie Schecter



EASY CHICKEN FRANCESE

Ingredients:

1/2 cup all-purpose flour

4 eggs, beaten

1 lb boneless, skinless chicken breasts, halved

1/2 cup white wine

2 cups chicken broth

1 tsp chopped, fresh parsley

Salt & pepper to taste

1/4 cup butter

2 lemons, juiced

2 tsp cornstarch

Directions:

- 1. Coat chicken with flour, then beaten egg, then sauté in skillet until almost cooked through; drain on paper towel
- 2. Preheat oven to 300 degrees
- 3. In a medium saucepan combine the wine, broth, parsley, salt & pepper to taste, butter & lemon juice over medium low heat. Stir together while heating slowly. When butter has melted, slowly stir in cornstarch until sauce thickens slightly. Place chicken in a 9x13" baking dish and pour sauce over all.
- 4. Bake at 300 degrees for about 10 15 minutes, or until chicken is cooked through.

Try it with steamed broccoli, and brown rice, with some of the lemon butter sauce poured over.



"Optimism is the fuel of heroes, the enemy of despair and the architect of the future."

Max More (born 1964 -)

Philosopher and Futurist.

A MESSAGE FROM THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Board is made up of a group of dedicated volunteers who have agreed to serve our community. Some of us live here full time, while others of us are seasonal residents. We like to enjoy our community and lives just the way everyone else does. WE WILL TAKE PHONE CALLS *DURING NORMAL BUSI-NESS HOURS ONLY* UNLESS YOU HAVE A TRUE EMERGENCY. Calls after 6 PM to get someone's phone number or to ask a question can usually wait for the next day. Think about how you would feel if you were out to dinner or having a night out and received calls like these.

Thank you for your cooperation.

PHOTOS FROM THE WELCOME BACK BRUNCH June 12, 2016



Renter's Corner



Larry & Shelly Strickler 33 HR Drive

Edward & Phyllis Ball 74 HR Drive

Max & Lena Rubin 90 HR Drive

Harriet Estes 96 HR Drive

Joe & Mitzi Schonfeld 140 HR Drive

Seymour & Sheila Speigel 181 HR Drive

Taylor Winston 196 HR Drive

ELECTIONS 2016

Election packets were mailed to all homeowners recently. The letter explains that the annual meeting will be held on Sunday July 31, 2016 in the Clubhouse at 10:30 AM. There will be an election for four members of the Board of Directors. Currently there are five candidates running. They are: Jerry Bassik, Chuck Greenberg, Ben Lorick, Robbie Schecter and Bonnie Siegel. They have each written something about themselves that appears on the special insert and they will be available for questions on July 17, 2016 at 10:30 AM at "Meet the Candidates."

If you cannot attend the meeting in person, we encourage you to either send in an absentee ballot that was enclosed in your envelope or designate someone to vote on your behalf (proxy).

It is extremely important that everyone participates in the Annual meeting in one of the three ways listed (in person, by absentee ballot, or by proxy). At times in the past we have literally had to pull people out of bed to make a quorum.

This is your community- everyone has a say in how it operates.

Slow Down and STOP

As more owners, tenants and guests come to enjoy our community, it is time to remind everyone that:

LIMIT 15

The speed limit on Hidden Ridge Drive and Terrace is 15 miles per hour.

Stop at all Stop signs.

Let us ensure that everyone at Hidden Ridge is safe and has a wonderful summer.



MAINTENANCE REQUEST FORMS

ALL requests for exterior maintenance must be written on Maintenance Service Request Forms. Use one form per request. Copies may be picked up in the pocket envelope on the bulletin board. All requests should be placed in the maintenance mailbox on the right side of the main bulletin board.



If you have any questions regarding maintenance, please contact Lenny Kirschenbaum or Bonnie Siegel. Enclosed is a copy for your convenience. Thank you.

Reminders from the Board of Directors

Barbeques: Barbeques may not be used on any front lawn and emptying coal on any common area is prohibited. (A fire extinguisher is recommended nearby.) You may use the barbeque away from your unit in the rear of your house. Never leave a barbeque unattended.



<u>Outdoor Furniture</u>: May be left on the grass areas. However, please move it to allow for lawn care from our maintenance crew/landscapers. Please do not leave outdoor furniture outside during the winter months.



<u>Wood</u>: Stacking of wood for your fireplace is permitted. **Do not stack the wood against your house or vinyl siding.** A distance of 3 feet is recommended. A wood holder is recommended.



Antennas: Any and all TV and radio antennae are prohibited from being erected on the roof or within 2 ½ feet of the home. Satellite dishes are not allowed on any exterior surface. Any violation voids HOA responsibilities. A release will be available through the HOA to hold harmless the



HOA for any damage caused by a satellite dish to your unit or any other unit or personal property.

Landscaping: Each homeowner is responsible for the landscaping within the 3 ½ feet of their unit in the front, back and sides (if an end unit). The common grounds of our community will be maintained by the maintenance crew. If a homeowner wants to exceed the 3 ½ feet, they need approval from the Board.



Flushing: Do not flush anything but toilet paper down your toilets. Cottenelle or other freshening wipes will clog the sewer system and will disrupt the flow of sewerage from the community. We recently had an incident where feminine sanitary items and paper towels caused a problem in our clubhouse. SEE LETTER



FROM OUR SEWER COMPANY ON PAGE 7.

<u>Hidden Ridge Parking Stickers</u>: A Hidden Ridge sticker will be distributed to each homeowner or renter in the com-

munity to insure that the proper cars are in our community. Please stop by the safety booth if your car does not have one or it is lost. Place the sticker in the lower left side of the front windshield. Please do not block your field of vision with this sticker.





Calorie Control...in the "Palm of Your Hand" By Terry Steinberg

As a fitness professional I always agreed with nutritionists, physicians and dietitians that calories COUNT! You know this, too. Fundamentally, human body weight is controlled by energy balance. Calories in vs. calories out. While we all really understand this, it has become clear that counting them won't help most people over the long term because it often becomes tedious, inexact and involves books, charts (stating carbs vs. fats vs. sugar), websites and math, and people revert to their poor overeating habits. But there is a better, simpler way (and you can't trick yourself into eating more, if you use your eyes and are HONEST).

All you need is your own hand and the ability to count. Here is how it works, and over time it becomes automatic as you recognize your intake of food. Your palm determines your protein. Your **fist** determines your veggie/fruit portions. Your **cupped hand** determines your carb portions. Your **thumb** determines your fat portions. As a side note, usually hand size correlates pretty closely with general body size, so with this "fun system" most people's meals and portions will scale to their body size. Below is a general outline, but always check with your doctor before any change in your diet plan! Spread out these servings thru the day/meals or snacks you select This plan is similar to Weight Watchers (in calorie and setup).

Men 6-8 palmed size protein servings daily

Women 6 palmed size servings daily

Men 6-8 fist sized portions of veggies/ fruits

Women 5-6 fist sized servings daily (extra veggies may always be added) but only 3 fruits daily is suggested

Men 3-4 cupped hand portions of carbs grains, starch or (slice of bread)

Women 2-3 cupped hand portions of carbs, slice of bread = 1 cupped hand portion

Men 3-4 thumb length of fat (i.e.) like a tablespoon Women 2-3 thumb length of fats

This easy" nutrition by the handful," might just help with your difficult task of calorie counting and help you to a more healthy eating plan and a leaner body.

HIDDEN RIDGE ATTIRE

Wear your Hidden Ridge wardrobe around town and show your pride in our community!

Hidden Ridge T-Shirts (new this year!): Navy blue cotton tee shirt in sizes Small - 3X All sizes: \$10

Hidden Ridge Polo Shirts:

White piquot with HR logo in sizes Small -3X (Most sizes left) S-XL \$16; 1X-3X \$18

Hidden Ridge Sweatshirts (new this year!): Navy blue zippered hoodie with 2 pockets sizes S-3X All sizes: \$20

Submit your order to Bonnie Siegel, 6 HR Terrace







GOING GREEN - GOING PAPERLESS

The GEM is available online at our website www.hiddenrigehoa.org after it is published (September, December, April, June, July and August)

If you no longer want to receive a paper copy sent to you (or put in your door) please contact Bonnie R. Siegel at Siegelmath@aol.com. If you do not contact her, you will automatically receive a paper copy. Thank you for your cooperation.



SPECIAL THANK YOU

- To all the residents who donated and/or planted flowers at the entrances of their
- cul de sacs
- To the volunteers who made our July 4th weekend-long celebration successful, especially Karen Seltzer and Robbie Schecter
- To Brenda Nickerson for donating the new pool toys

An important letter from our Sewer Company

Dear Hidden Ridge Resident,

This letter is for all residents that are connected to the Sullivan Infra West sewer system. This letter is intended to educate you the homeowner and anyone living in your home as to what should not be flushed down the toilets. We recently have been experiencing an alarming number of clogged sewer lines, because of foreign material being flushed down the toilets or poured down drains. The sewer lines are designed to handle water, human waste and tissue paper only.

Examples of what **should not** be flushed down toilets or poured down drains are as follows:

- Baby wipes, Toilet wipes, Towelettes, Disinfecting wipes, or cloth wipes of any kind (even if the container indicates that they are "flushable")
- Paper (other than toilet paper/tissue)
- *Medications (Prescription, or over-the-counter)*
- Feminine hygiene products of any kind
- Beauty products, Q-Tips, dental floss
- Plastics of any kind
- Grease of any kind especially cooking grease
- Garden supplies (such as pesticides, fertilizers)
- Paint, varnish, paint remover
- Motor oil, gasoline, or any explosive material

All of the above items mentioned should be thrown out with the trash or disposed of properly. Remember... only water, human waste and tissue paper should be flushed down toilets. Clogged sewer lines to sewer backups into homes, which are expensive to clean and repair. This cost is ultimately borne by you – the sewer rate payer.

Please share this information with all members of your household. If you have an outside contractor come in to clean your home, please be sure to pass this information on to them as well.

Thank you for your cooperation. Sullivan Infra West Inc

The Poet's Corner



Flickering Snapshot

Little girl, blends in pea green pasture Ambles amongst wildflowers... Golden rainbow flowers, flanked by green trees

Slender little girl, glitters in pale sun light Tufts of long grasses move back and forth... Sings lullaby, grasslands vibrate

Little girl, gathers bouquet Stretches, tips toward light Longs to catch rays of sun

Tender little girl Awakens from lullaby Revitalized reassured!

> Janet Lieberman April 7, 2016

WINNERS CIRCLE

Monday/Wednesday Night Canasta Tournament Weekly Winners

<u>June 13</u>	<u>June 15</u>	<u>June 20</u>
Joe Schoenfeld	Gloria Plotsky	Helene Schulman
Gloria Plotsky	Espi Turetsky	Shelly Strickler
Arnie Plotsky	Lena Rubin	Gloria Plotsky
	Mitzi Schoenfeld	

<u>June 27</u>	July 4
Iris Lynn	Shari List
Seymour Spiegel	Phyllis Ball
Mitzi Schoenfeld	Carol Baken
Arnie Plotsky	Iris Lynn
Izzy Streisand	Helen Klein
Gloria Plotsky	Corinne Needleman

Espi Turetsky

50-50 Winners July 3 - Peter Morello

The Treasurer's Report

Submitted by Chuck Greenberg



As of May 31, 2016

Cash in Bank:

 NBCD:
 \$ 85,664

 Money Market:
 \$ 3,020

 Reserve:
 \$151,000

 Total Cash:
 \$239,684

*This is \$7,432 less than last year.

Income and Expenses:

- Our income is \$ 1,990 less than last year, due to a \$3,000 decrease in rental fee income.
- Many of our bills were not received or paid by the end of May. If we include last year's bills for these (club maintenance, heating & gas, Insurance, roof repairs, vehicle maintenance, office expense, water, and general maintenance) totaling \$28,899,then we would have an operating loss of app \$7,000.
- General maintenance was down \$4,338.
- Office expense was down \$618.
- Payroll expenses were down \$6,030.
- Payroll tax was down \$461.
- Pool maintenance was up \$6,324.

We have app. \$109,747 due in maintenance fees of which \$100,122 is due from 5 residents.

Our audit is still underway and should be completed prior to our annual meeting.

COME JOIN US FOR THE CASINO NIGHT AT HIDDEN RIDGE ON JULY 16TH.

LET US EXPLAIN......

- 1. NO CHARGE FOR HOME OWNERS AND RENTERS.
- 2. FUN GAMBLING FOR GAMBLERS AND NON GAMBLERS. ENJOY BLACK JACK, ROULETTE, WHEEL OF FORTUNE (BORSCHT BELT STYLE) AND HUMAN HORSE RACING.
- 3. DANCING MUSIC AND REFRESHMENTS WILL BE INCLUDED.
 - 4. LOTS OF OPPORTUNITY TO WIN PRIZES.
- 5. LIMITED SPACE FOR GUESTS, PLEASE

ADVISE IN ADVANCE.

FUN FOR ALL, SEE YOU THERE. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS OR WOULD LIKE TO HELP, SPEAK TO WARREN BERKOWITZ.

SOCIAL COMMITTEE, Karen Seltzer, Chair

The 2016 season started with a July 2nd pool party, Thank you to Erica Sadowsky, Robbie Schecter, and Ben Lorick, and their spouses for hosting it. Lots of fun, and lots of people enjoyed it. The July 3rd BBQ was a huge success. Larry Chance and the Earls were great, and the food was delicious and plentiful. So much leftover that the Sunday night dinner guests had a delicious lunch Monday afternoon.

Our seasonal Bingo, and movies programs began the very next day after July 4th and will continue throughout the summer. Always check the GEM, the website, and the two bulletin boards (one at the pool and the other by the security booth) for updates, and schedules of upcoming events. Enjoy your time here at Hidden Ridge, stay safe, and stay well.

Karen

Social Events at Hidden Ridge:

Saturday July 9 – Show Time - An Evening with a Magician and a Mentalist

Saturday July 16 – Casino Night

Saturday July 23 – Show time with Comedian Steven Scott and Vocal Stylist Johnny Petillo

Saturday July 30 – The Music of Tre Bella

Saturday August 6 – Party the night away with The Midnight Image Band

Saturday August 13 – TBA

Saturday August 20 – Annual Chinese Auction

Saturday August 27 – Showtime -The Just 60's Show

Saturday September 3 – Labor Day Dinner (details to follow) – Showtime with Tommy Mara and the Crests

Sunday September 4 – Pool Party with Music by Caribbean Steel Beat

Be sure to check our website, bulletin boards and emails for updates.



Don't throw out that gift that your distant cousin sent you - save it for our annual Chinese Auction!

This year all proceeds will be donated to the Sullivan SPCA, a no kill animal shelter:

Saturday August 20, 2016 ~ 8:00 PM ~ Clubhouse.

The following is a description of a Chinese Auction:

A **Chinese auction** is a combination of a raffle and an auction. The difference between a raffle and a Chinese auction is that in a raffle with multiple prizes, there is one "hat" from which names are drawn, but in a Chinese auction each prize has its own "hat."

In a Chinese auction, people buy tickets, which are chances to win items. Bidders buy as many tickets as they like, and bid them on any item(s) they want by placing one or more ticket in the "hat" beside the item(s) they are trying to win. At the conclusion of bidding, one winning ticket is drawn from the "hat" beside each item, and the item is given to the owner of that ticket.

A bidder may increase the chance of winning by buying and bidding more tickets on a specific item. Although there is generally no limit to the number of tickets a given individual may bid on a specific item, the chance of winning depends on the total number of tickets bid by all individuals.

We are asking you to donate one (or more) brand new or "slightly" used, or "registing" items that we can put up for auction.

Please bring these items to the Clubhouse on Saturday August 20, 2016 at 10:00 AM

♥ 🌣 ♦ July 16, 2016 - 8:00 PM ♥ 🜣 ♦

FREE for homeowners and renters.

No real money used.

Lots of prizes.

ALLAN'S ALLEY

submitted by Allan Meyers



DOG GONE IT

When I was a kid, I begged, pleaded and cried to my parents for a dog. My folks said they wouldn't get one for my brother nor can I have one.

Now every family has relatives that are a little off the wall. They are not mean, usually friendly and fun to be with. One day my father's cousin Hymmie called to say that he got a job out of town and would we take his two year old German Shepherd, who was gentle and house broken. For some strange reason my folks said they would take the dog.

Cousin Hymmie (the *mishugenah*) said he would walk the dog right over to our apartment house. This was a little weird since he lived in the East Side and we lived in Bensonhurst. In those days a call from Manhattan to Brooklyn was a long distance call. Before my dad could tell him that he'd pay for a cab, Hymmie ran out of coins and *Ma Bell* cut him off.

So we waited for our dog to come, and we waited and waited. In those days not everyone had a phone so we couldn't get in touch with him. A few days later cousin Sally called to say that as Hymmie was crossing the Williamsburg Bridge, someone admired the dog so Hymmie gave him the dog. My parents never again consented to getting a dog.

When my sons and daughter wanted a pet, I immediately reverted to becoming my parents and wouldn't let them have one. My law firm represented an animal rescue organization and Glenn would take rescued dogs and find a family for them.

One day one of our secretaries said she was leaving because her husband was going into the Marine Corps and they didn't know what to do with their puppy. And that was how Glenn adopted Winnie. She was the sweetest and most lovable dog. Adrienne who was afraid of dogs, because she was bitten when she was three years old, not only loved Winnie but became a lover of all dogs.

If Glenn couldn't make it up to Hidden Ridge on weekends we would take her up. In fact, if we would visit Glenn, Winnie would leap through the car window, sit by the driver's seat, put her paws on the steering wheel and bark, "Lets go to Hidden Ridge!"

While handling an estate, the family did not know what to do with the decedent's dog. That is how Sophie became part of our family. Glenn bought a house in Hidden Ridge across the road from our house. When Sophie became very sick and Glenn had to take her to the vet, Sophie started to limp towards our house as if to say goodbye to Adrienne. A little later Winnie also passed away. Many years have passed and Glenn says he cries only two or three times a day when he thinks of them.

This spring we learned of the passing of Bonnie and Linda's Shayna. Nothing we could write can soothe their

feeling of loss. Here is something I got off the internet. My only regret is that I did not write it.

"Dogs come into our lives to teach us about love, they depart to teach us about loss. A new dog never replaces an old dog, it merely expands the heart. If you have loved many dogs your heart is very big."

MORE ALLAN'S ALLEY

submitted by Allan Meyers



...OF MICE AND MEN

When cases were tried out of town, the State of New York paid \$8.25 per day for breakfast, lunch, dinner, tips and carfare to and from the airport. My main job, when I was an Assistant Attorney General, was to prevent monies from going behind the Iron Curtain.

While flying around the State and even to a few European countries, I, of course, with my large expense account, ate at the best exclusive and exotic restaurants.

Mike Mondschein used to write a great restaurant review article for the GEM, and I am now going to try to emulate him. The editorial board warned me to neither be politically incorrect nor to write anything negative.

It always snows in Buffalo, so our plane was delayed until 10:00 PM. We had to kill 3 hours so my associate and I went to the Howard Johnson's located outside of the airport. It was all you can eat chicken night.

So for 3 hours we sat and ate chicken. As the waiter came by he would ask, "More chickens, sirs?" Would you men like more chicken? Do you guys actually want chicken?"

When we left the restaurant the manager told us he hoped that we enjoyed our meal, since we were forever barred from ever eating in a Howard Johnson again.

Two weeks later we had to be in Buffalo for a three day trial. Before going to a movie we decided to eat at the Howard Johnson's located on Delaware Avenue. After all it was all you can eat fried clams night. I made sure that my picture was not on the wall, and then I sat down and ate my first order.

We were waiting for our third order when the man at the next table got up and ran out of the restaurant without paying. Then one by one the tables began to empty. I knew something was wrong when a woman jumped on a chair stomping her feet and screamed dirty words.

Out came our waitress wearing her jacket. She screamed at us," There are mice running all over the place. What are you going to do?"

'We're going to keep our feet off the floor and wait for our order."

THE REVIEW: To this day I do not understand why all of the Howard Johnson's restaurants are out of business.

FROM THE PEN OF....

Peter Morello



 \mathcal{J}

ennifer and Robert McManus were doing what they always did at 8 AM on Saturday mornings, having a leisurely breakfast that Robert took pride in preparing. This was their one weekly indulgence in an otherwise busy life filled with work and friends. Having been married only eighteen months, children were not yet

part of their life but a plan that they were sure to fulfill in the near future.

"Hey, Jen, how 'bout more eggs? Robert asked while standing by the griddle on the stove as several strips of bacon were sizzling to perfection.

"No, that's more than enough for me. Too much fat, honey."

"Too much fat? All week you eat twigs and bark and other unappetizing stuff and this is your one day to eat whatever you want. I really don't think you're going to need Lipitor, Jen.?

Jennifer had a wide grin on her face but also seemed somewhat annoyed. "Just because I like to eat healthy doesn't mean I'm a health nut or something. I just prefer to do things in moderation, that's all, Mr. Cholesterol.

Jennifer and Robert spontaneously started laughing at the repartee they so much loved to indulge in. They hugged and gave each other a peck on the lips and smiled as they looked deeply into each other's eyes.

"Oh, by the way, Rob. I forgot to tell you that I invited my friend Jim over this evening to hang out with us. I'm sorry to tell you at the last minute, but I was forgetting to..."

"It's fine with me Jen - no big deal, but I don't remember who Jim is."

"He works in purchasing with me and he's been there for seven years, two years before me."

"Oh, right. Now I remember, you mentioned him. Okay, fine. I'd like to meet him."

At about seven o'clock that evening Jim arrived. Robert answered the door and before him stood Jim – a strapping six foot two and some two-hundred twenty pounds with thick dark brown hair parted on the left side. He was forty-eight years old and looked like he could play football in the NFL

"You must be Jim," Robert said as he extended his right hand.

"And you're Robert, right," Jim eagerly replied.

"You got it."

"Hey, Jim, how are you," greeted Jennifer while welcoming him with a light kiss on his cheek.

"I'm great. Nice apartment you guys got here. Thanks for inviting me."

"You're quite welcome. Take a seat, Jim," Jennifer replied with a friendly smile.

Jim sat his large frame in a wing chair while Jennifer and Robert sat opposite him on the sofa.

"So, I understand you work with my wife. I told Jen that I fully welcome any friends she has."

"Thanks a million, Robert, I heard good things about you and I'm happy to be here. Jennifer and I have been working together now for some five years. We sit just a cubicle away from each other and are united against our supervisor. Pain in the butt, you know."

"You're telling it like it is," Jennifer chimed in. "Our supervisor is a real backstabber and several times Jim has very

diplomatically spoken to him about his behavior. I just can't do that although I've always wanted to."

Jim and Jennifer were smiling at each other knowingly as Robert looked on appearing to be entertained by the discussion.

"So tell, me are you married – do you have a family?"

"No, I'm single but I have a pretty big family overall. We get together from time to time and have a grand old time, you know.

"Family is important. It's best for sharing and caring. That's what I always tell Jen. I come from a rather small family myself but I understand and appreciate the value of family."

"Well, you know, in my family we get together for the holidays and everyone talks at once but nonetheless we enjoy ourselves and I wouldn't trade it for anything else in the world. How about you guys?"

"Well, we get together with our parents and that's about it. We're looking forward to having children and when that time comes, our family will expand," Robert replied. "So what are you doing for Thanksgiving?"

"I'm spending the day with my family. I'm going to my parents' house and several aunts and uncles will be there and I don't know how many cousins. It'll probably be the usual riot of cacophony and mayhem but I love it.

I have this Aunt Felicia who never stops talking from the minute she says hello to the minute she says goodbye. One time as we were leaving a restaurant we had gone to for Mothers Day, she stopped to talk to a waiter. The rest of us kept walking and waited outside the restaurant for her. It took her fifteen minutes before she realized that we were no longer with her. She was completely oblivious to her surroundings."

"If you think that's funny, wait until I tell you about my father, Joe. He eats a large meal, loosens his belt, belches and then falls asleep – sometimes right at the dinner table. My mother, Mary, usually nudges him awake at which time he'll get into an argument with her for waking him. No sooner does he finish berating her when he falls asleep again. But I tell ya one thing – he always awakens for dessert."

Robert was laughing and admiring Jim's interesting story telling. He realized Jim was a gregarious fellow and a skilled raconteur. As he glanced at Jennifer she was sitting rather stoically but had a slight grin on her face as she stared down at her hands which she had folded in her lap.

"My parents were really great people, Robert – I wish you could have met them."

"Oh, you mean they passed?"

"No, no -I meant they are great people and you should meet them."

"I got another one for you, Robert. My cousin Lydia once lost her engagement ring while preparing dinner and two days later her husband found it in a slice of meatloaf he was eating. At least he didn't swallow it."

"Jim, you really have an interesting family. I can see why you enjoy being with them so much. Sounds like a lot of fun and I just can't stop laughing. Jen, does Jim entertain you at work with his family stories?"

"Ah, well, sometimes. You know, we're pretty busy at work so it's hard sometimes."

For the next forty-five minutes Jim told one family story after the other. All the while Robert was thoroughly enjoying himself but noticed Jennifer was sitting unmoving and appeared rather stiff and uncomfortable.

"Listen, fellas, how about I go to the kitchen and prepare (continued on page 12)

(continued from page 11)

some coffee and dish out some cake while you continue talking?"

"I never met a cake I didn't like," Jim eagerly replied.

Robert stared at Jennifer as she quickly made her way to the kitchen as Jim continued on with his stories without missing a beat.

After several minutes had gone by, Robert excused himself and told Jim he wanted to give his wife a hand in the kitchen and would return shortly.

He entered the kitchen and saw Jennifer cutting a cherry pie into slices as the coffee was brewing on the stove. She was wearing a sad look on her face and her eyes were watery and somewhat red. "Jen, I don't understand what's eating you. Jim's your friend and you seemed eager to have him here but you haven't said two words for the hour he's been here and now you seem upset. What's wrong?"

Jennifer looked up and in a low, hesitant voice said, "Jim doesn't have a family."

Robert stared in disbelief at Jennifer as the words slowly entered his brain and their meaning became clear. Their eyes locked and he seemed to be scanning her mind looking for a logical explanation to what he had just heard. "Aww, come on. You heard yourself all his stories about this relative and that relative. Why, Jim has a story for every member..."

"That's the problem, Rob – none of it is true. Do you remember my friend Trudy?"

"Yeah, sure. I met her at your company's Christmas party last year."

"Well, shortly after the new year began she quit but she had dated Jim for about eighteen months and they became quite close. She told me something about Jim and swore me to secrecy but I'm sharing it only with you. You see, Jim is an only child and so were his parents..."

"You said, 'were."

"Right, they're deceased for several years now and because they all were only children, there are no relatives whatsoever. His parents were sickly and didn't get along well and fought on a regular basis. Jim himself is a kind and gentle man and perfectly harmless and hates to be around people who argue. He felt comfortable telling Trudy about this and the stories he just told us are about people from her family and experiences he had while they dated. Trudy came from a large family and she made sure to invite Jim to all her family functions. In fact, they broke up because he seemed to be more interested in spending time with her relatives than with her."

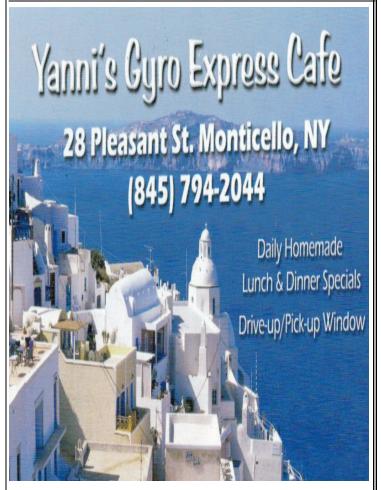
Jim's gaze was transfixed on Jennifer the whole time and he seemed unable to comment on what he had just heard. After taking in everything Jennifer had said and trying to sort things out in his mind he said, "Maybe we can invite him for Thanksgiving."

"You heard what he said his plans were. He obviously doesn't want anyone to know what the truth is," Jennifer countered. "I think the only thing we can do is just go with

the flow and let things be. Now, you go out to the living room and I'll follow shortly."

Robert left the kitchen and entered the living room and saw Jim still sitting in the same position and wearing a broad smile as though he just heard a joke.

Jennifer wiped her eyes and took three dishes and forks and the sliced pie and made her way into the living room. As she pushed open the swinging door to the kitchen and walked into the living room Jim's baritone voice became clear – "Jennifer, I was telling your hubby about my cousin Michelle. Now there's an interesting personality for ya. I remember when we were kids and in grammar school together..."





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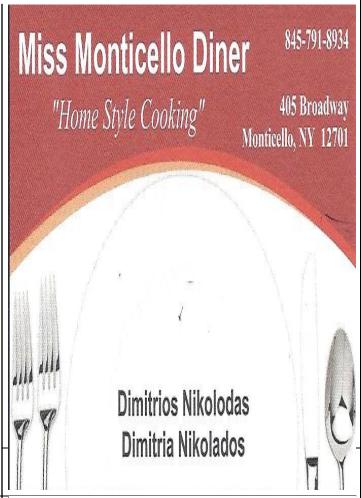




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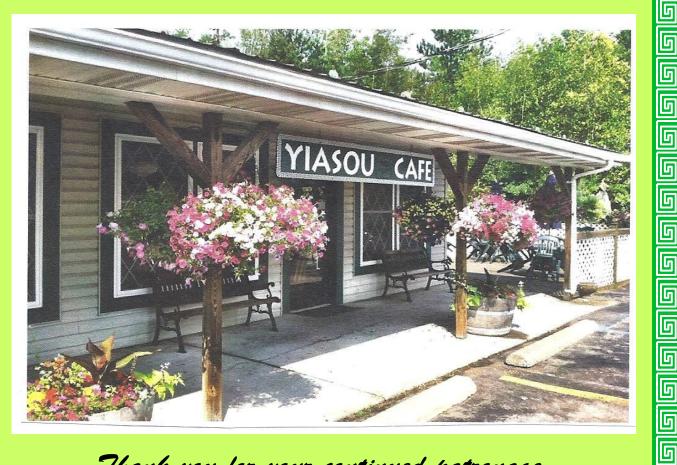




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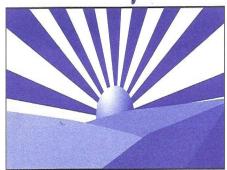
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Issue 16-03



Hidden Ridge Directory Information Sheet

Birthdays _____ Anniversary ____

Candidates for the 2016-7 Board

Jerry Bassik

I have been a full time resident of Hidden Ridge for the past 7 years, having owned my home for 17 years. I have been a member of the Board for the past 5 years. I believe my most important position has been as assistant to our Vice President Leonard Kirschenbaum during the winter months, ensuring that everything runs



smoothly for full time residents and the weekenders who join us as well as preparing for the residents who come up for the summer.

One of my other responsibilities is to solicit new ads for the newspaper as well as oversee the renewal of contracts from our vendors.

I am a Naval War Veteran of the Korean Combat. As a proud veteran, I have ensured that American flags fly in most of our cul de sacs.

After my honorable discharge from the Navy, I worked as a production manager in an electronics factory. During one of my residencies in the Bronx, I was the vice-president of our neighborhood Homeowner's Association. Late, I became an insurance agent for Allstate Insurance Company. I worked for Allstate for 30 years until my retirement.

Because of my background and experience along with my willingness to do any job that is asked of me, I believe I am an asset to the community and the Board. I hope you will re-elect me so that I may continue to serve you.

Chuck Greenberg

It's me again. Another two years have gone by. I'm still floating around the pool, wearing suspenders, playing CD's at the pool, and dancing in the clubhouse. Over the past four years I've been your treasurer and one of those years the secretary.



For those that don't know my past I was a math teacher for twenty-one years and an accountant/controller for the prior twenty-three years.

I have worked with our accountants and sped up the presentation of our certified audit from our outside audit firm.

I'm also working with board members and others on keeping our development looking beautiful and well maintained, as well as developing new amenities to bring up the resale value of our homes.

I hope you'll cast one of your four votes for me in our next election, allowing me to serve you for the next two years. I know there are other very qualified candidates and I feel I can serve you with the new board.

Have a great summer and don't forget every vote counts so be heard and make sure you vote.

Benjamin Lorick



When I think of Hidden Ridge, I think of community, continuity, compromise, tradition and transition. We all could have chosen a more isolated and individual form of property ownership to enjoy the beauty and wonders of the Catskill region. The

idea of community really appealed to a city slicker like myself. Moving into a community with a strong historical connection to the region and its traditions only added to the appeal of Hidden Ridge. I have been regaled by the many stories of the Catskills fabled past that drew so many to become residents of Hidden Ridge.

While we should always honor the past I believe that it is also important to embrace the future. Clearly we are a community in transition much like the Catskill region as a whole. The question today is how do we as a community help each other through this transitional process? How do we attempt to ensure that Hidden Ridge is prepared for the future that this transition portends not only for ourselves, but our children, grandchildren as well as prospective new residents?

We all have our thoughts as what would best position us to become the ideal community. Sometimes those ideas may conflict with each other or the reality of our financial situation as a community or individual situations as homeowners. That's where the idea of compromise is important as we go forward into the future both known and unknown. We can disagree but we can disagree civilly. The diversity of our community is our greatest treasure. It is that diversity of experiences, backgrounds, thoughts and opinions that will continue to make us the gem of the Catskills.

I believe that it is one of the primary functions of the board to help us to navigate our differences and guide us as a community towards the best possible solutions to the issues we face today. As a former practicing attorney and administrative law judge I believe I have the experience, temperament and qualities that can be of benefit to our community -both its present and future. I believe that the board should be as transparent as possible and reflective of the hopes, aspirations and will of the community it serves.



Robbie Schecter

Stan & I have been owners here for nearly 11 years. We are long-weekend year rounders. Being here in every season, I have seen the <u>best</u> & <u>worst</u> of HR. But knowing what the problems are is only a small part of finding the solutions. It is critical that your Board members have qualifica-



tions & experience as well as ability to work together to achieve our goals. I truly believe I have these attributes. Career & Volunteer Highlights:

- *23 yrs as a Dental Hygienist
- *Back to school for BA/MS degrees. Worked as a grad asst. to the director of the program in order to reduce my tuition. My job? Collect, organize & coordinate all material for 150 page dept. policies & procedures manual
- *23 yrs as a Speech Language Pathologist. This included several years of mentoring grad student interns. Also worked with nursing/rehab facility administrator & architectural committee designing new building.
- *Co Editor of PS41 PTA newsletter for 5 years.
- *Served on Bd of Trustees, Temple Beth Sholom, Flushing, for 15 years.
- *Co Chair of Temple Bazaar 2 years.
- *Studied for 1 year with 9 other adults & had my Bat Mitzvah at age 45!
- *With dtr Jenn, presented Sisterhood workshop for non Hebrew reading adults, including our booklet of transliteration of all common ritual prayers. This allowed interfaith families to celebrate together.

At Hidden Ridge:

- *Served on Safe Water Committee to rid our water of dangerous chemicals and ensure safe to drink water at HR.
- *Contributer to GEM
- *After witnessing excessive bullying at a Board meeting & elsewhere at HR, I wrote my "Let's Stop the Bullyshit" article.
- *Currently serve on the Future of HR Committee,
- *Currently serve as a Cul-de-Sac Liaison.
- I am honored to have been nominated for a position on the Board of Directors. If elected, I will surely continue my strong commitment to service, community, and achieving positive outcomes.



Bonnie Siegel

I have been a resident at Hidden Ridge since 2005. My experience includes 30+ years with the NYC Department of Education as a classroom teacher, staff developer, District and School Administrator. In those roles I was responsible for overseeing budgets in excess of \$1,000,000.00 imple-



menting and running after-school and summer school programs for 28 schools. In these positions, one needs to be a quick thinker and problem solver.

It has been an honor and a pleasure to serve on the Board of Directors since November 2007, as Secretary (2007-2010) and then as President (2010-present). I have also been an active member of the Social committee, assisting in planning and preparation of activities for the community.

During my tenure as Secretary, I developed many forms and procedures that are currently in place:

As the President of the HOA, I have supervised or taken the lead on the following initiatives/projects at Hidden Ridge:

- Interaction with our legal counsel and insurance broker in regard to resolution of concerns for the HOA;
- Improvement of communication to the community via the *GEM* newsletter, email, bulletin boards, cul de sac liaisons and a new user friendly web site
- Maintenance of our property and by our crew and outside vendors who serve us.
- Beautification of areas at the gate on Liberty Road as well as entrances to the cul-de-sacs.
- Restoration of a number of disintegrating retaining walls throughout the community.
- Restoration of the poolside bathrooms
- Installation of additional light posts on the hill from the Clubhouse up to Hidden Ridge Drive and from the Drive up to the Terrace, and on Hidden Ridge Drive to the Liberty Road gate.
- Responding to emergency situations that arise from time to time, making sure that our residents and our properties are not in harm's way.
- Revision of the A to Z Book of Rules
- Developed relationships with our vendors, local realtors as well as officials from the Town of Thompson
- Installation of security cameras at both entrances and at the pool and in the clubhouse

I am visible around the community making sure that all is well. I am task oriented and hope that my fellow Hidden Ridgers can detect this as well as my other leadership qualities. I welcome the opportunity to continue to serve on the Board for the coming term. Thank you.