



A Message from the Board of Directors

We, the Board of Directors of the Hidden Ridge Homeowners Association, are committed to creating and maintaining an inclusive community where all people are welcome regardless of race, color, religion, ethnicity, sexual orientation, or gender identity. At Hidden Ridge we celebrate the diversity of all our residents and their families and friends. We know that this makes our community stronger and more vibrant and enduring.

We unequivocally stand against the systemic racism that has plagued our nation since its inception and has been recently exposed in the form of violence directed specifically against the African American community. We also stand against the disturbing rise in violent anti-Semitism and increased violence against other marginalized peoples in our nation and worldwide.

The President's Message



Dear Fellow Hidden Ridgers;

It is great to be back! I have a lot to convey to you, so please be advised of the following:

Pool Opening: The pool is not quite ready to be opened. We are hoping that the final structural items can be completed shortly so that we can open before the July 4th weekend. We will be contacting you when it is ready. We are hoping that we will be able to operate our pool with minimal restrictions from the Department of Health.

Clubhouse: At the current time the clubhouse is closed. There was a pipe that burst that caused water damage to part of the carpet, the men's room, storage closet and kitchen. We are in the process of having it restored. We will notify you when it is ready for use.

Maintenance Responsibilities: We have noticed that there has been some confusion among homeowners as to what the responsibilities of the Association are regarding maintenance issues. We recently composed the list referring to our governing documents and those services/responsibilities that have been added since the documents were originally published in 1984 as well as listing most of those that you, the homeowner, have responsibility for. If you did not receive this letter that was sent via snail mail, please refer to our website or contact me for an emailed copy.

Contractors at Hidden Ridge: There have been a few instances where our residents have approached our contracted vendors while they are working at Hidden Ridge. *Please refrain from approaching contracted vendors of the HOA (landscapers, painters etc.) during their contracted working hours. If you have a maintenance request, fill out a maintenance form and/or contact Steve our site engineer with any questions, concerns, or requests.*

Celebrating the July 4th Holiday at Hidden Ridge: We are planning a community wide event for the afternoon of July 3rd. Watch the bulletin board, your emails, as well as Town Sq and calls from VOLO Village for the updates.

Directory /Information Sheet: Have you changed your alternate address, phone number, email address? If you have, please complete the information form on page 6 so that we can include that information in our directory that we would like to have out by the middle of July.

Elections: This year we are holding elections to fill three positions on our Board. Please refer to the article on page 6 for more information. If you are interested in running for office, make sure you send in your intent to run.

On behalf of the Board of Directors I would like to **welcome the new homeowners** who will be sharing their first summer with us. We were able to officially meet a group of new homeowners last week at our first orientation meeting. Feedback from the new owners was positive and they learned a lot about how Hidden Ridge operates. For those new homeowners who could not attend, we will be scheduling another session within the next few weeks – check your emails.

We hope that **all our residents** will join us at the Association meetings and get involved in our planned activities. Come to a meeting and be informed. Attend a social event and have fun and meet your neighbors make new friends!

Here is looking forward to a wonderful summer.

Bonnie

2020 - 2021 Board of Directors

Bonnie Siegel	President	917-969-9646
Ben Lorick	V. Pres	845-423-2801
Karen Crumley	Secretary	845-794-0207
Brian Kudler	Treasurer	917-509-2278
JoAnn Epifania	Director	845-707-3535
Shelly Kleinberger	Director	845-798-3255
Rosemarie Del Bove	Director	718-873-3926

Hidden Ridge H.O.A.
c/o Associa NY
11 Raymond Avenue Suite 32
Poughkeepsie, NY 12603
845-473-3711 Fax: 845-473-3749

Property Manager
Nanci Patrick
845-473-3711
Emergency: 845-431-6589
Nanci.Patrick@associa.us

Hidden Ridge H.O.A. Committee Liaisons

Activities	Brian, Shelly
Architectural Control	Ben, Brian
Audit, Budget, Finance	Bonnie, Ben, Brian
Beautification	JoAnn, Shelly
Bylaw Review	Brian, Bonnie
Clubhouse & Pool	Shelly, Ben, Rose
Community Outreach	Bonnie, Ben
Cul-de-Sac Liaisons	JoAnn, Rose
GEM/Website	Bonnie
Grievance	Bonnie
Insurance	Bonnie,
Legal	Brian, Bonnie
Maintenance of Grounds	Ben, Shelly, Rose
Orientation	JoAnn, Karen, Bonnie
Sales and Rentals	Bonnie
Sanitation and Recycling	Shelly, Ben, Rose

Upcoming Events

Watch your emails and www.townsq.io for details

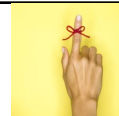


Want to announce something to our community?
Call Linda and place an ad in the GEM.

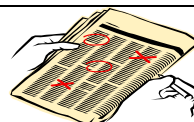
Please call 917-747-8660
or email: bonsdiva@aol.com

DEADLINE for JULY 2021 ISSUE - June 29th

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 Bonnie Siegel, 6 HR Terrace (after May 10) or to siegelmath@aol.com.



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

Editor-in-Chief
Senior Editor

Linda Solomon
Bonnie Siegel



Contributing Writers:

Terry Steinberg, Peter Morello,

Guest Writers:

Nanci Patrick, Fred Hirsh

If you would like to contribute to the April issue or consider writing a regular byline, please notify the Editor-in-Chief. Please send your information to:
Linda Solomon at bonsdiva@aol.com

Ehrlich Pest Control

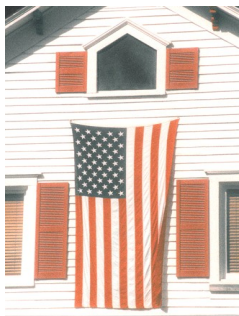
Ehrlich Pest Control will address interior concerns. Please call them at the following number to make arrangements and be sure to let them know you are part of Hidden Ridge Homeowners Association.

845-421-8020 or 845-645-3123

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

Life Cycle Events

JUNE



Flag Day
June 14



Father's Day
June 20



D Day
June 6



June is LBGT PRIDE Month

Happy Birthday



- 06-02 Ettie Rachleff
- 06-09 Michael Zwicker
- 06-12 Moishe Kleinberger
- 06-14 Doris Roseditcher
- 06-19 Kristin Porter
- 06-21 Tatiana Shorten
- 06-23 Wanda Puk
- 06-24 Robert Loesel
- 06-26 Stuart Moskowitz

Happy Anniversary

- 04-09 Rita & Ron Kukafka
- 06-10 Doris & Sy Roseditcher
- Joyce & Jack Bragin
- 06-18 Myrna & Stanley Want
- 06-23 Tzippy & Jack Gruber
- 06-25 Erica & Norman Sadowsky



Happy Anniversary

- | | |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| 1. Clocks and Watches | 15. Watches |
| 2. China | 16. Silver Holloware |
| 3. Crystal and Glass | 17. Furniture |
| 4. Electrical Appliances | 18. Porcelain |
| 5. Silverware | 19. Bronze |
| 6. Wood | 20. Platinum Watches and Jewelry |
| 7. Desk Sets - Pens and Pencil Sets | 25. Sterling Silver Jubilee |
| 8. Linens and Laces | 30. Diamond Watches and Jewelry |
| 9. Leather | 35. Jade |
| 10. Diamond Watches and Jewelry | 40. Ruby |
| 11. Fashion Jewelry and Accessories | 45. Sapphire |
| 12. Pearl or Colored Gems | 50. Golden Jubilee |
| 13. Textiles or Furs | 55. Emerald |
| 14. Gold Watches and Jewelry | 60. Diamond Jubilee |

UPCOMING EVENTS



Saturday, June 26 1:30 PM
GENERAL ASSOCIATION MEETING
(Zoom Meeting due to Clubhouse Renovations)



Saturday, July 3 2:00 PM
**FOURTH OF JULY
CELEBRATION AT HIDDEN RIDGE**
(Details to follow)



Wednesday, July 14 6:30 PM
MEET THE CANDIDATES
(Zoom details to follow)



Sunday, August 8 1:30 PM ~
ANNUAL MEETING AND ELECTIONS

A Message From the Property Manager

As we welcome in the summer and usher out this seemingly never-ending morass of winter weather, it is great to see homeowners out in the community ~ chatting with neighbors, walking their furry four-legged family members, and tending to their yards and landscaping. I have enjoyed meeting many Hidden Ridge homeowners during my weekly visits and look forward to meeting many more as we head into summer season.

The community has been buzzing with activity and projects over the past few months. The trees are budding, flowers blooming and birds singing all throughout the community. With that in mind, this seemed like the best time to talk about all that is “in bloom” in the HOA as the Board and Management prepare for one of the busiest and most exciting times of the year in Hidden Ridge.

Recently the community completed a large paving project to address the condition of the roads. Pool preparations have been underway in order to get the pool open for the summer season. The pool cover was removed, then drained and thoroughly cleaned. Finally, the pool was filled with fresh water and almost ready for homeowners to bask in the warm sunshine. In addition, the pool deck has been repaired and received a fresh coat of paint. And let’s not forget about all the beautiful landscapes of Hidden Ridge, we are pleased to see progress being made on the common area landscaping and recently the community landscape beds have been filled with fresh mulch.

As a reminder, essentially all changes (permanent or temporary) to the exterior appearance of your home or lot are subject to review and approval by the Hidden Ridge Architectural Control Committee. When planning to submit a proposal, please provide a detailed description on the project or improvement (including photo or drawing). Remember to plan ahead, the Committee has up to 60 days to review these requests. If there is any doubt whether or not a proposed exterior change is exempt from design review and approval, homeowners should first seek clarification before proceeding with the improvement.

Please remember that it is important to keep your contact information updated with the Association and Associa New York. This will help to ensure that we can continue to effectively communicate with you. Please email any updates to Bridget Mosono, Associa New York Administrative Assistant – Bridget.Mosono@Associa.Us or phone 845.473.3711.

Finally, to wrap up my column for this issue of the Hidden Ridge Gem, while it’s always great to keep the community in the loop on all the happenings around Hidden Ridge from the management’s perspective, this is also a great time to remind residents that this is the time of year to take pride in living in Hidden Ridge. We ask homeowners to take advantage of the weather and perform home maintenance, landscaping and other improvement projects to promote property values in the community. Your participation and cooperation are key to keeping the community standards high and property values even higher!

Wishing you a wonderful and spectacular summer!

*Nanci Patrick, Community Manager
Hidden Ridge HOA*

Cul-de-Sac Liaisons

Cul-de-Sac	Numbers	Liaison
Azaleas	15-25D	Karen Seltzer
Birch	29-43D	Michael Zwicker
Camellias	59-73D	Betty Fuchs
Daffodils	89-103D	Annie Bridgers-Balgun
Elms	107-125D	Julia Glaz
Firs	149-171D	Lenny Kirschenbaum
Gardenias	173-187D	Shelly Kleinberger
Hemlocks	193-205D	Michael Valcin
Iris	196-214D	Mariano Ambroselli
Juniper	126-148D	Jeff Lynn
Kerrias	74-96D	Eddie Erlich
Laurels	44-58D	Robbie Schecter
Magnolias	29-43T	Beth Burke
Narcissus	45-58T	Joe Gluck
Oaks	28-46T	Randi Berkowitz
Petunias	6-26T	JoAnn Epifania
Roses	8-14D	Karen Seltzer

A NOTE REGARDING OUR GARBAGE DUMPSTERS

All residents of Hidden Ridge are reminded that garbage is collected on Tuesday and Friday. Household garbage only must be placed in the dumpsters. **Items not placed in the dumpsters will not be collected!** If you are having work done in your unit, please have the contractor make arrangements for disposing of the construction debris. If you have large items such as appliances, beds or furniture, please make arrangements to have the company delivering the new item haul away the old item and the packing for the new item or contact Thompson Sanitation at 845-796-1032 to arrange for a bulk sanitation pick up.



THE RECYCLING SHED IS OPEN

PLEASE FOLLOW TOWN OF THOMPSON GUIDELINES

Short List of Do's and Don'ts of Recycling

Recycling Shed

Newspapers tied in bundles

Brown corrugated cardboard, flattened and tied

Clear glass bottles and jars

Plastics

Regular Garbage

Cardboard, paper bags, small books, magazines

Cereal boxes, shoe boxes, soda cartons, etc.

Bottle caps and tops

Removed caps

PLEASE! DO NOT FEED THE CATS!



SELLING YOUR UNIT? PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING

At a recent meeting of the Board of Directors, the following was approved:

The transfer fee on the sale of a unit has been increased to \$2500 on all transfers that take place pursuant to contracts of sale entered into on or after September 15, 2020. The transfer fee is paid by the buyer at the time of closing.

MAINTENANCE REQUEST FORMS

ALL requests for exterior maintenance must be written on **Maintenance Service Request Forms**. Or post on TownSQ under "Requests." Use one form per request. Forms submitted with more than one item on it, will be returned for revision to the homeowner. 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 Nanci Patrick, Property Manager



IMPORTANT REMINDER TO MEMBERS: WORK ON THE EXTERIOR OF YOUR UNIT

By Fred Hirsh

Over the past several months, members have performed or commenced work on the exterior of their unit that required Board approval without obtaining approval from the Board.

Any changes or modifications you are planning to make to the exterior of your unit needs approval of the Board. Before you do any work on the exterior of your unit such as painting a door, changing the windows or doors or basement doors, replacing a storm door, constructing a deck, patio or shed, and/or affixing anything on the exterior of the unit please consult with the Board to determine if you need Board approval before the work commences. **ALL REQUESTS MUST BE IN WRITING. Please submit your plans to Ben Lorick or Brian Kudler, Co-Chairs of the Architectural Control Committee.**

Their telephone numbers are on Page 2 of The Gem.

HIDDEN RIDGE DIRECTORY INFORMATION SHEET

The Summer 2021 Directory will be updated this coming month and to residents shortly thereafter. **Please complete the following form and return it to Bonnie Siegel at 6 Hidden Ridge Terrace or sieglm1ath@aol.com.** If previously sent, return this form only if there are any recent changes. Questions? Call Bonnie 917-969-9646.

Name: _____

Hidden Ridge Address: _____

Phone: _____

The following information will be kept confidential. However, it will be included in the Hidden Ridge Directory if you check the appropriate line(s). Please indicate below.

☐ ***I want my alternate address/es and phone numbers included in the Hidden Ridge Directory.***

Alternate Address: _____

Phone: _____

☐ ***I want my cell phone number/s included in the Hidden Ridge Directory.***

Cell Phone: _____ Cell Phone: _____

☐ ***I want my email address/es included in the Hidden Ridge Directory.***

Email Address #1: _____

Email Address #2: _____

☐ ***I want my birthday/s (list name/date for more than one) and anniversary listed in the GEM***

Birthday _____

Anniversary _____

Get Well Wishes

Fred Hirsh
Iris Lynn
Adrienne Meyers
Allan Meyers
Sue Mc Mahon
Bill Stevens



Wishing them a full and speedy recovery

ELECTIONS 2021 ARE COMING!

This year there will be elections to fill three (3) positions on the Board of Directors. The following Directors' terms of office will end August 8, 2021:

Karen Crumley
Rosemarie DelBove
Shelly Kleinberger

Any member who is in good standing and who is 19 years of age or older can run for the Board of Directors.

If you are interested in running for the Board, please submit your name in writing as soon as possible and have your name placed in nomination at our General Meeting on June 26, 2021. Written letters of intent should be emailed, sent or delivered in advance of the June 26th meeting to:

Bonnie Siegel, President of the Board of Directors
6 Hidden Ridge Terrace
Monticello, NY 12701

Sieglm1ath@aol.com

Subject: Letter of Intent to Run for Board of Directors

Information about the functions and responsibilities of the Board can be found in the section of Offering Plan Book in the section titled By-Laws or by clicking on the document tab on the Hidden Ridge website www.hiddenridgehoa.org.

Check the GEM and the bulletin boards for further details and related election dates.



Call me for nagging little repairs that you've been putting off - painting, plumbing, electrical, landscape, and general house repairs

Cabinetry or leaky faucets - same precision work

Steve Brechner
Cabinetmaker

PO Box 366
White Lake, NY
845-807-6518

Custom Cabinetry
Countertops
Interior Design

Terry's Fitness & Health Corner



Terry asked that we reprint this article this month because she thinks it is that important for you all to think about and to follow....

2021-22 ..a new year for an "Affirmation to be the BEST VERSION OF YOUR SELF" ..

5 DAILY COMMITMENTS by Terry Steinberg .

Hopefully with much fear, worry, stress and new rules of living, improving we and our families/friends survived an awful unprecedented year, starting with a GLOBAL PANDEMIC (still here) and ending with a horrific insurrection of our wonderful nation.

We must be strong and have a rebirth in spirit.. BECAUSE Under our newly elected Leaders BIDEN /HARRIS and a Democratic Senate we must all become ONE "United we stand, divided we Fall."

1. Make your dedicated lifestyle ALWAYS to **SAFETY AND HEALTH...** Vaccines, masks, social distance, wash hands often. Speak to your medical professionals about all healthy concerns and schedule your visits.

2. **KINDNESS** should guide your ways of behavior ... understanding and compassion for others, INSTEAD of anger and judgement. .Listen and reflect, then act. (Try a smile)

3. **HEALTHY NUTRITION** and common sense eating...1, 500 -3,000 calories daily diet...low sugars and fats, good "carbs" protein, fruits, veggies, calcium and plenty of WATER, decaf tea, coffee, club soda (vitamins/meds).

4. **EXERCISE** each day, continuing with your lifelong hobbies, interests and movement... yoga, stretch, dance, biking, swimming, pickle-ball, tennis, Pilates, golf, walking, hiking, light jogging, exercise classes (virtual , ZOOM) etc. .at least one hour a day or more STRIVE for 2000-10,000 steps DAILY!!!

MENTAL exercise of reading, Scrabble, cross-swords, writing, podcasts "virtual" concerts, theater and plays and limit mindless, screen time, social media, AND often neglected, meditation.

5. **SLEEP** rest and relaxation. Your body needs ENOUGH of these in order to perform optimally and while awake, spend quality time SOCIALLY with those you love and admire ..., and allow you to feel safe and trusted...Please, stay well and hopefully we will be together, SOON, safely, at our lovely, peaceful Catskills retreat, HIDDEN RIDGE.

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.



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



Wood: 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.



Dogs: All residents (homeowners and renters) are to register their dogs (including service dogs) with the homeowners association and provide proof of current rabies vaccination. Please send this information to Bonnie Siegel.



All dogs residing in Hidden Ridge for a period of 30 consecutive days must also be registered and licensed in the Town of Thompson. Proof of this license must be presented to the homeowners association. All homeowners shall provide proof the dog is licensed in the jurisdiction in which the dog's primary residence is maintained, if the dog does not reside for a period of 30 consecutive days in Hidden Ridge.



Dog owners are responsible for abiding by the regulations set forth by the Town of Thompson which includes picking up after their dog, dogs on leashes, no dogs at the pool, avoiding excessive barking, etc.

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 landscaping company. 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 have had problems where wipes, sanitary napkins and paper towels have caused problems for homeowners.



Bulk Garbage: Please do not put furniture, old appliances or large items in or next to the dumpsters. The dumpsters are for household garbage. If you need a bulk pick up, please arrange to have them carted away by the delivery people or by call Thompson Sanitation at 845 796 1032.



Guests and the Gates

All guests and other visitors (deliveries, etc.) must enter through the Old Liberty Road entrance

- Your guest will scroll to your name on the telephone access pad.
- There are instructions on the screen for the telephone access pad. Your guest will scroll the A-Z listing to your last name. Your guest can "Push Call." The dialer (gate) will dial the phone number that is associated with you
- Upon answering your phone (and speaking to your guest) you will press 9 on that phone and the gate will open.
- FYI - The phone number of the gate is (845) 794-0681.

Please be aware that the several of our regular vendors (US Post Office, UPS, FedEx, Time Warner Cable, etc.) will receive either a four digit access code or a remote. Emergency personnel will have a siren sensor for access.

If you have any questions, please contact Bonnie Siegel (917-969-9646)



HOLIDAY GREETINGS REMINDER

Collection for the 2021 holiday greetings began in January. There are 2 more opportunities to share your greetings with your neighbors - September - Jewish High Holidays, December - Christmas/Chanukah/Kwanzaa. If you would like to participate, complete the form below and send to the editor with a check for \$3.00 made payable to HRHOA. Thank you to all who have contributed in the past. We look forward to seeing your names listed in September and December Holiday Greetings!

Please complete this form and submit with \$3 to Linda Solomon, GEM Editor-in-Chief
6 Hidden Ridge Terrace, Monticello, NY 12701

Name(s) (as you want it to appear in the Holiday Greetings)

Your Name

Looking Back and Looking Forward

By Linda Solomon

It happens to still be June and we are finally getting the June issue of the GEM into the hands of our readers. There are many reasons for this, but it was out of our control due to many issues needing attending all at once.

And you can tell that I have been relegated to page 8 because there was so much that Bonnie and Nanci had to share with all of you. So here is my pandemic sob story and my turnaround once I was here at Hidden Ridge.

Since October 2019, Bonnie and I were back in our house in Florida. When the lockdown started in March, of course Bonnie did not let me go anywhere except to doctors, so I was pretty much housebound. My back was really acting up and after a few months of therapy, when my insurance ran out, I found myself sitting around the house, not exercising and feeling pretty bad about the whole situation, as I am sure many of you did.

When May 2020 came around and we realized there was no way we could travel to Monticello, I was really feeling sorry for myself. You see, I love it up here. It will always feel like home to me, no matter what. I started using a walker to ease the strain of walking, even in the house. Of course, I had a seat on my walker so that when I did have to walk or stand, I was able to sit if I needed to do so.

Finally, we went to the Covid-19 year of hell and 2021 came along with all of its promises of renewal. I decided that I would no longer use my walker when I got up here and I would start therapy again.

Then something else special happened - Jonah Neill Alenky Cohen was born and was also living in Hidden Ridge! His g-ma and I grew up in Sackett Lake as friends. Jonah's mom is my friend, Joyce's daughter who also grew up here as did Jonah's dad. That little joy had me with the first photo I ever saw of him. And now that I have held him in my arms, I look forward to walks with him and his nanny or mommy and great times in the pool once it opens!

Hidden Ridge needs you!



The Board of Directors request that you as a resident of Hidden Ridge sign up for one or more of our committees.

Please consider offering your expertise and experience to our community.

Contact the liaisons listed on page 2 to lend a hand.

We look forward to hearing from you and working with you. Thank you.

"No one can do everything; but, everyone can do something."

FROM THE PEN OF....



At Sixteen

By Peter Morell

any sixteen year old will tell you how difficult it is to be sixteen. It's more difficult than being seventeen but not as difficult as being fifteen.

Self-conscious, always on the go, worried about their complexions, arguing with their parents and as horny as a locust during mating season, are some of the things teenagers go through. All of this and more is amplified right around the age of sixteen.

In September of 1973, just four months before turning sixteen, I entered into my junior year of high school and had gone through all of the good-natured ribbing that went along with being in a school where not too many students had a vowel at the end of their last name.

"Hey Peter, how did you get here?" was the standard question asked of me.

"Well, I took the twelve bus from Pelham Parkway and then the seventeen bus from Valentine Avenue - how about you?"

We would smile at each other and before you knew it, we were friends. Students knew just by looking at me that I was about as Jewish as pork chop. All in all, there was a lot of mutual respect recognizing the fact that we were all there for the same reason - to get a good education. There were rarely disciplinary problems and absenteeism was extremely low and class participation was very high. Our teachers engaged and challenged us and they all knew they had a good gig.

My three years at Science coincided with the continuing and eventual end, of the Vietnam War, Watergate and the near bankruptcy of New York City. Hapless Abraham Beame was our one term mayor ushering in the twelve-year reign of Ed Koch. Nonetheless, the students went about their business of preparing for college and the rest of their lives.

The typical Bronx Science student in those days was Jewish and lived in Co-Op City and previously had lived in other parts of the Bronx that had undergone rapid change for the worse. While parts of the Bronx were burning, we at Bronx Science were somehow shielded from all of this and ensconced in our own part of the world that for most would be a temporary stopover to somewhere else. Also typical was long hair for the guys and gals and ripped jeans. Some of the students looked as though they hadn't passed a comb through their hair in weeks or hadn't washed their jeans in a similar length of time. However, every now and then there seemed to be someone who seemed to rise above it all - someone who others looked up to and secretly wished they could be like if only they had the will to put in the effort and the personality to achieve "the look."

In my biology class there was Debbie Grossman. I had known Debbie casually since my sophomore year and now we finally had the chance to be in the same room for the entire school year. She was every male student's dream and was different from other female students. In addition to being very smart she was very good looking and had an engaging personality. She stood about five feet five inches tall and her hair was always perfectly coiffed. Her dirty blond hair was parted in the middle, cascaded slightly below her shoulders and there were soft curls framing her face. She had cantilevered cleavage that not even a loose-fitting blouse could hide. I don't recollect her ever wearing jeans or anything that looked well-worn in any way. Rather, she would wear dress slacks with a color-matched top of some sort and dress shoes. She obviously put a lot of effort into her appearance and I'm sure she realized how good she looked.

Nonetheless, she was never conceited in any way. In fact, she too lived in Co-op City which told me she came from modest means.

Her personality also stood out. Debbie was always a good conversationalist and seemed genuinely interested in what the other person was saying. More often than not, she had a smile on her face and would always say hello to everyone she knew as she passed them by in the hallways.

As perfect and popular as she was, she never had a visible boyfriend during her stay at Science. Of course, she may have had a boyfriend who didn't attend the school, but no one ever heard her make any reference to any guy she was seeing. Among the guys I knew, no one would dare try to ask her out because everyone felt she wouldn't be interested in them and would face instant rejection. We all realized that being rejected by Debbie Grossman wouldn't be nearly as bad as being rejected by a not so good looking girl, but we all felt we were not in her league due to her standout looks and personality. As a result of these beliefs, none of the guys would even think of getting too close to Debbie. None of us were worthy.

Debbie sat two seats to my right and we always acknowledged each other's presence with a smile and a "hello" and then settled down to listen to the lesson. After the class ended, we would wave goodbye to each other and go our separate ways. That's what I always expected and was satisfied that she even acknowledged my existence. Occasionally we would make small talk before class started but it would end as fast as it started once class officially began. I was happy with that arrangement never expecting more and knew I was at least equal to any of the other guys.

One day I was sitting in the library early in the morning before classes started. I was studying something or other and suddenly Debbie was standing beside me. I was surprised to see her and she looked as perfect as she always did and I was somewhat startled by her appearance.

"Hi ya, Peter. Mind if I sit with you?"

Was she kidding or something? Just being seen with her would be my pleasure.

"Well, sure, Debbie - there's plenty of room here. What's going on?"

"You know, I've been having a heck of a time understanding the Krebs Cycle that Mr. Landsberg was talking about the other day. I know you're good at biology so I was wondering if you could help explain it to me."

How did she know I was good at anything? It's not that I stood out or anything as far as I was concerned. I tried not to think about this too much - all I wanted was to hang out with her and have the other guys see me doing so. I considered this progress of some sort.

"Well, I know a thing or two, I guess. Go ahead, ask me anything you want."

Debbie leaned forward, placed her right hand on my left forearm and ever so slightly squeezed it and gave me one of her million watt smiles.

"Peter, let's go out on a date."

I thought I was in a dream or something and briefly had the sensation that I had wet myself. The best-looking gal in the school just asked me out on a date. Wasn't it supposed to be the other way around? This was incredible and I figured she was in a situation with guys being so intimidated by her that she well-understood she had to take the initiative. She knew what she wanted and wasn't going to wait for me to ask her. This girl had spunk and I liked it. Was this what it meant to be one of the "chosen people?" I began to open my mouth to ask her where she wanted to go as so many thoughts coursed through my mind as to what it would be like to be with my dream girl.

(continued on page 10)

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Debbie removed her hand from my forearm and looked down at the table and her smile quickly evaporated. "I'd like that but my parents wouldn't."

What had just happened here? First the hottest looking gal in school asked a guy out on a date and before I could accept, she rescinded the offer and I felt I was ruined for the rest of my God-forsaken life. I didn't know how to respond so instead of saying anything I began to talk about the exciting topic of the Krebs's Cycle.

Here were two sixteen year old kids who wanted nothing more than to maybe see a movie and not watch the movie but were prevented because of Debbie's parents. Man had walked on the moon, the Civil Rights Movement had changed our country and the Vietnam War would soon end but we couldn't overcome this dilemma. Then again, I knew my parents felt the same way.

About a week later I was in the cafeteria and was passing by the lunch table of two students I knew – Jeffrey Blum and Andrew Klein. I stopped by the table because I heard Jeff mention the name Debbie Grossman.

"Andrew it was great. I took Debbie to the RKO Fordham and we saw 'The Lords of Flatbush' and we sat in the balcony. Before you knew it she was all over me. I mean this was a guy's dream come true. I reciprocated of course and before you knew it I was feeling her up. Afterwards we went to Jahn's for ice cream."

"Gee Jeff, you got the best looking broad in the school to make out with you," replied Andrew in amazement.

I was seething with anger. I had just been accepted and then rejected by the one and only Debbie Grossman and now I'm listening to this. Maybe her parents were happy but I was pissed. Jeffrey really seemed so unmatched for Debbie. He had long, stringy, greasy looking hair, stained and torn jeans and his sneakers were encrusted with layers of dirt. In other words, he was for all intents and purposes, a slob. I couldn't contain myself any longer and had to say something.

"Jeff, tell me something. If you and Debbie are an item then how come I never see you together?"

"Well, the relationship is new and Debbie doesn't want anyone to know - she's modest and private - know what I mean? But I have to tell you something - in the right circumstances, she's an animal."

This sounded plausible to me but I was still boiling with anger and disappointed and I didn't appreciate him call Debbie an animal. From that day forward I would refer to Jeffrey Blum as "Blum the Crumb" and I looked at Debbie in a different light.

The story of their dating made the usual rounds of the junior class and I never could bring myself to tell anyone what Debbie had said to me in the library. Blum the Crumb was a hero and I was a zero.

I finished my junior year without incident and Debbie and I never had anymore conversations but civilly addressed each other in bio class. We graduated and over time I completely forgot about that humiliating exchange we had until 1995 when we both attended our twentieth reunion.

After several minutes of exchanging lies with people I knew by mutually saying "you look exactly the same," I spied Debbie across the room standing with a man. We both smiled and approached each other and quickly gave each other a peck on the cheek. She looked as gorgeous as ever to my eyes and the man with her was by any standards, handsome.

"Debbie Grossman, you're a sight for saw eyes."

"No, no, my last name is now Furman, Peter, I'd like to introduce you to my husband, Richard Furman."

We shook hands and Richard quickly excused himself to freshen his drink leaving me once again with the best-looking woman in the room.

"Gee, Peter, it's been so long since bio class and I recognized you right away. You haven't changed that much at all."

As the conversation continued over the next several minutes, my mind drifted to what Jeffrey Blum had told me. I wasn't even paying attention to what Debbie was saying. All of my disappointments came back to me and I regretted even going to the reunion. I wondered why their relationship hadn't continued and perhaps resulted in marriage. I just had to broach the topic - I couldn't stand it any longer.

"Ah, Debbie, I must admit your husband is a real handsome guy and I'm happy for you. You deserve the best and were always nice to me..."

"Oh, and you were always a gentleman around me, Peter."

"Well, not to pry or anything, but I was wondering what happened to your relationship with Jeffrey Blum."

"Jeffrey Blum? You're asking me this because of all those rumors that moron created about us, aren't you?" Debbie responded while displaying slight annoyance.

"Well, I mean, you know how high school was and all and I didn't know what to think. You mean it's not true?"

"Peter, Jeffrey was a loser as far as I'm concerned and that's why he made up all that stuff about us. I never forgave him after having to live down everything he said about us. Anyway, that was over twenty years ago and he's had to live with himself and his vicious lies. For quite a while I was really hurt but after graduation my anger slowly subsided. I just hope he's not here tonight. I really don't want to see him."

"Listen, Richard is by himself and he doesn't know anyone here. I have to get going. It's great seeing you again."

She displayed one of her unforgettable smiles and gave me a kiss on the lips that seemed to last a bit longer than necessary and then she was gone to the other side of the crowded room.

I stood there exalted in the knowledge that if I couldn't have Debbie then at least Jeffrey Blum didn't succeed either. Now everything came into sharp focus - Debbie Grossman had never gone to the RKO Fordham with Jeffrey and without a doubt he had never laid a hand on her and they never went to Jahn's for ice cream nor did they ever date, in fact.

Here's the real ironic part of all this - I just got two kisses from Debbie Grossman which was a "helluva" lot more than Blum the Crumb ever got.



Who Should I Call?

Revised April 2021

Associa NY is our property management company and is responsible for the maintenance of common property and operations. If you have an emergency, i.e., your roof is leaking or a tree has fallen on or near your residence, please contact our property manager, **Nanci Patrick, nanci.patrick@associa.us or call the emergency number for Associa, 845-431-6589.**

For all other matters, please call **845-473-3711** and leave a message. Your call will be returned within two business days. Please make sure you leave your contact number and the nature of your call.

MAINTENANCE REQUESTS

There are two ways to submit your request for maintenance:

1. Maintenance Request Forms are available by the bulletin board by the old security booth near the Friedman Road entrance and on the Hidden Ridge web site, www.hiddenridgehoa.org. These forms should be completed, one request per form, and be deposited in the mail box on the right side of the bulletin board by the Friedman Road entrance.
2. You can submit your request electronically on TownSq.io.

You will be notified within 72 hours of the filing of the request if the work requested is not the HOA responsibility.

The following are some phone numbers that you may find helpful:

EMERGENCY NUMBERS

Medical Emergency - 911

Police - 911

Sullivan County Sheriff 845-794-7100

New York State Police Liberty Barracks 845-292-6600.

Fire - 911 or Monticello Fire Department - 845-794-5121

EXTERMINATOR

Ehrlich Pest Control 845-421-8020

Please advise the person answering the phone you are a resident of Hidden Ridge.

UTILITIES

Electric - NYSEG - 800-572-1131 for outages or service interruption

Cable - Spectrum - 1-855-707-7328

Land line phone not provided by cable - Verizon -1-800-Verizon

Sewer - Sullivan Infra West - 732-486-2831

Water - Crystal Water – Allan Schacknovsky – 845-798-5121

HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONERS- Individual Homeowner's responsibility

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Larson's Heating and Air Conditioning – 845-344-3030

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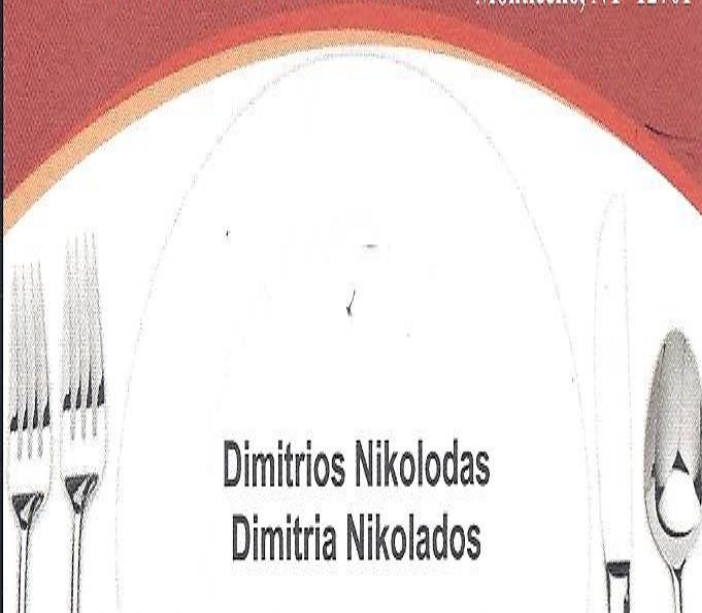
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