

16

people  
to watch

BY SAXON HENRY WITH JAYME RUDOLPH

Perhaps you haven't heard of these  
local men and women—yet. Odds  
are you will in the coming year.  
Why wait? We give you a head start.

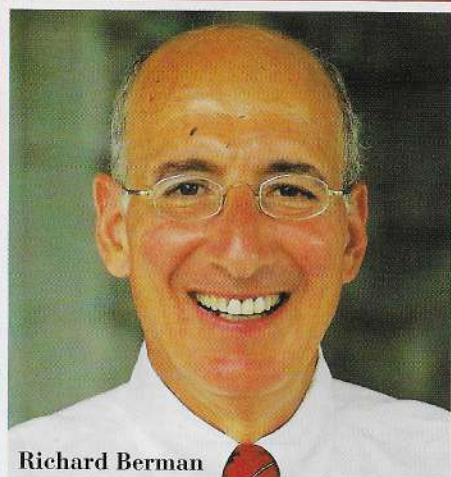




# 16 people to watch

## EDUCATING THE RICH, THE POOR, THE CURIOUS

### Richard Berman



Richard Berman

Mention Manhattanville College and those in the know will tell you that it has been transformed in less than a decade from a lackluster near-bankrupt institution to a bustling, thriving and financially solid academic stronghold. And those in the know will also tell you that credit for much of the dramatic turnaround belongs to Purchase resident Richard Berman, the president of Manhattanville College.

**"I guess I'm sort of the mayor of Manhattanville."**

Berman took over six years ago and, in that period, seemed to have worked miracles. Under his watch, the school's undergraduate enrollment has doubled, campus technology completely upgraded, the athletic program revamped, faculty increased and academic offerings expanded. Plus, the school has gone out of its way to attract a thoroughly diversified student body. It has succeeded so well that *U.S. News & World Report* put the college on its list of most diverse colleges in the country, something that makes the 56-year-old father of four very proud.

"When I talk about diversity, it's diversity

in every way—income diversity, academic preparedness diversity, geographic and religious diversity," Berman says. "What I want and hope and dream is that we will become a society that sees everyone as an individual."

At Manhattanville, Berman has impressed many. Take Provost Cate Myers. "I've been here since 1968," Myers says, "and he's the first person who has managed to bring the kind of expertise needed to balance the budget without bringing austerity." She adds that Berman's exuberant energy and devotion to Manhattanville are obvious. "He's given the students and faculty enormous amounts of support."

Berman's background is not an ivory tower one. He was CEO of Howe-Lewis International, and vice president of Korn-Ferry International, both executive search firms. He was a management consultant for McKinsey & Company, a consulting company in Manhattan. Between the years of 1977 and 1983, he served as New York State Commissioner of Housing, and from 1973 to 1974 he was director of policy development for the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare. He was also a U.S. Congressional candidate in the 1986 Democratic primary, and held a variety of positions in the health care industry, including executive vice president of the New York University Medical Center.

Berman has still more plans for Manhattanville next year. The college, for example, is in the early stages of raising money to transform undergraduate education from a traditional classroom-grounded curriculum to one that includes learning beyond the classroom and more. "In addition to increasing the support for undergraduate education," he says, "we will be recruiting significant numbers of full-time faculty, developing partnerships with school districts, and providing more opportunities for our students. We will also be responding to the teacher shortage by increasing the availability of classes for those who want to become educators. You will see significant improvements to our school of education. We are taking on the challenge of the issues related to K-12 education in this country next year."

You can often find Berman on campus. "I try not to miss a play or a performance or an athletic event," he says. "I guess I'm sort of the mayor of Manhattanville," he jokes. With no plan to end his tenure anytime soon, he's one mayor that doesn't have to worry about elections!

## ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL MECCA

### Christopher Beach



Christopher Beach

"I never got opera," admits Christopher Beach, director of The Performing Arts Center at Purchase College, an unlikely confession, to say the least. "Then I went through the process of hearing each part of an opera separately, then together. It was an intense education for my musical career." He eventually—and gratefully—got it.

When Beach was hired 12 years ago by Purchase to head its arts center (as managing director of PepsiCo Summerfare and director of operations at the Metropolitan Opera), he was told to "realize the full potential of the facility."

Twelve years ago, the Center's main season featured 18 performances. This year, 80 performances will take place.

Twelve years ago, fundraising contributed \$6,000 to the program. This year, \$700,000 has been raised.

One of Beach's original goals was to build



up the Center's standards so the world's best performers would be proud to perform there. This year's performances feature world-renowned pianists Krystian Zimerman, Evgeny Kissin and Imogen Cooper, to name a few.

When Beach, who hails from Hyannisport where he lived two doors down from President Kennedy, first arrived at the Center, he says it was a massive facility that lay empty and unused most of the time. This season, 650 events will take place there.

**"I have the greatest staff in the world. It's really my staff that has made these seasons possible."**

As for the immediate future, Beach is getting ready for a December 15 performance of Mozart's "Great Mass in C Minor." Beach promises it will be "the cornerstone of the season and will be the most dramatic music event all season."

In the more distant future, he has great expectations for the opening of the Center's 25th anniversary season next year. The Center is undergoing a \$3 million renovation that will transform it into a more gracious and welcoming facility.

Beach is quick to credit his devoted staff for the Center's growth. "I have the greatest staff in the world. They challenge me all the time. It's really my staff that has made these seasons possible." Perhaps. Or maybe his staff, along with the orchestras, soloists, conductors and chorus masters are the scattered pieces of an intangible puzzle that, when connected, make The Performing Arts Center the cultural mecca it's turning out to be.

## FLYING WESTCHESTER'S EXECUTIVES

### Millie Hernandez-Becker

Yes, we know women have made it into most every field. But admit it, it's still a bit



Millie Hernandez-Becker

**"I grew up thinking I was going to be Donna Reed. Instead I found I had to be a Donald Trump!"**

surprising to find a woman—young, pretty, and a new mom, to boot—in charge of a private airline company.

Millie Hernandez-Becker, 45, a Pound Ridge resident and the CEO and president of Westchester Air, a privately owned air charter and management company located in the Westchester County Airport, was recently named Business Woman of the Year by the U.S. Hispanic Chamber of Commerce.

Hernandez-Becker began her career in aviation (a field she has loved since age 10) as a part-time reservations agent for New York Air at LaGuardia Airport. She moved up to flight attendant, then administrative assistant and then supervisor. Eventually, she landed at Westchester County Airport as an assistant manager of ground handling and finally moved to Westchester Air as vice president of sales. It is there that she met, fell in love, and eventually married her boss, David M. Becker, who founded Westchester Air. After he died in a plane crash in 1994, Hernandez-Becker took over.

Thanks to her insight, Westchester Air has established a marketing niche that keeps the company soaring. The launch of a Nantucket shuttle two years ago has been so successful that the company is now conduct-

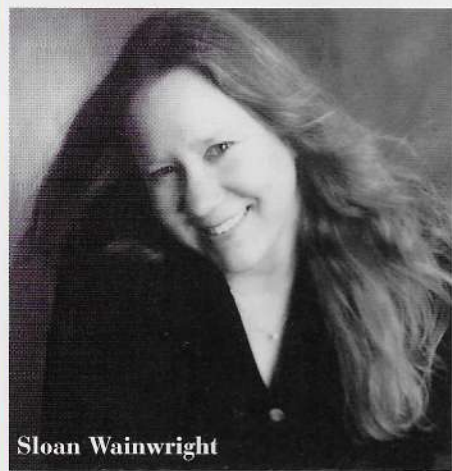
ing market research on the viability of a Palm Beach shuttle as well. "We're hoping to offer the snowbirds who have Palm Beach homes, a safe, secure, reliable mode of transportation," she says.

Becker-Hernandez is now remarried to Thomas Bush and is the mother of 27-month-old John Charles.

"I grew up thinking I was going to be Donna Reed," she quips. "Instead I found I had to be a Donald Trump!"

## MOVING HEARTS AND FEET

### Sloan Wainwright



Sloan Wainwright

Sloan Wainwright—Loudon's younger sister, Rufus's aunt—has been composing songs since age 10. Like her talented relatives, the fortysomething Katonah-based musician, the former owner of the Baker's Cafe, is well known to the folk music

**"It was like discovering a buried treasure."**

cognoscenti. But her listening audience should grow in the coming year, thanks to a third album, titled "The Song Inside," which is slated to make it into record stores in February. Wainwright's last album was released in 1998.

"We really got it right," declares Wainwright. "I'm very proud of the record. It



# 16 people to watch

has a strong voice with a very good message."

Talking about the new album, fan Ellie Sarty, who recently joined Wainwright's promotion team, says, "It was like discovering a buried treasure."

Pamela Murray Winters, who writes for a number of music publications, agrees. "In the cold, bleak times, the best way to keep warm is to keep moving," Winters writes. "Sloan Wainwright's music—and especially 'The Song Inside'—engenders grins of cat-like bliss, ripples of wise-ass laughter, and the pure solace of a mother's arms. And, both in word and in voice, it urges the simplest life-affirming message: 'Put one foot in front of the other.'"

Wainwright's favorite song on the album? "There isn't a song on the record I don't like," she says.

Wainwright is set to promote her new work. "I'm concentrating fully on my music"—and, she adds, "my family." She and her husband, George McTavey, live in Katonah with their two teenage boys, Sam, 18, and Gabe, 15. ("We were super young when we had our children," she notes.)

Wainwright and her band will be playing at the Northern Westchester Center for the Arts on December 8. "I feel really good about my writing and what I'm doing now," she declares.

## BUILDING A CULINARY EMPORIUM

### Brian MacMenamin

If chef and restaurateur Brian MacMenamin, 35, has his way, Westchester will become a culinary capital of sorts. Not only has the New Rochelle native set to open a 160-seat American restaurant—MacMenamin's Grill—but he's about to launch a gourmet food gallery, ChefWorks, as well. He is housing his ambitious culinary venture in what was once the pink and purple Plastic Works building off Interstate 95 in New Rochelle: MacMenamin has had his eye on the building since age 14.



Brian MacMenamin

**"We're pressing our own fresh olive oil, aging our own vinegars, making fresh ice creams and sorbets."**

ChefWorks incorporates a cooking school (both for professionals and domestic dabblers), a gourmet food gallery, a television cooking studio, and a basement wine cellar that seats 35 and will serve as the locale for hosting wine courses and seminars. Also included in the megamix of temptations is a bakery, a pastry shop, and an Italian specialty area—with fresh sausages, fresh mozzarellas and fresh pastas. Catering, too, of course is available.

Says MacMenamin: "We're pressing our own fresh olive oil, aging our own vinegars, making fresh ice creams and sorbets, and offering fresh fish, meats and produce that I hand-pick." The father of two (his wife, Rosemary, serves as the sommelier for both ChefWorks and MacMenamin's Grill) treks to Manhattan early every morning to choose fresh quality fish and meats.

This is not MacMenamin's first venture into the restaurant/food world. He owns the Larchmont Avenue Oyster House in Larchmont. Besides, he hails from a restaurant family—he is, in fact, a third generation restaurateur.

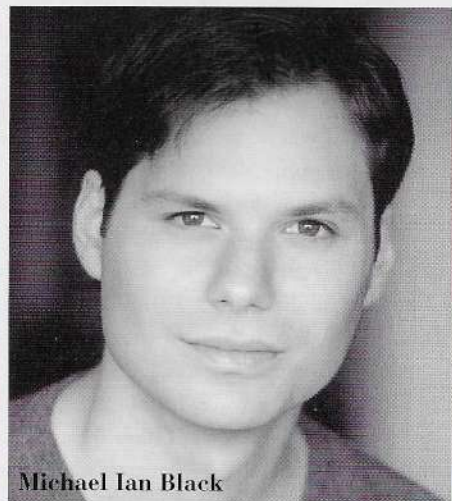
Brian's father owned 17 MacMenamin Bars, mostly in the Bronx. He still owns one on Pier 17 at the South Street Seaport.

MacMenamin recalls riding around with his father when he was a boy, scouting locations for the perfect MacMenamin's eatery. "We wouldn't talk sports. We'd talk about what makes a good location and what makes good traffic flow."

Calling his cooking school for professionals a culinary boot camp, MacMenamin says he is hoping to raise the standards of those who own restaurants and those who work in them. "If you eat out five or six nights a week," he says, "you shouldn't look it by being 30 pounds overweight."

## MAKING PEOPLE LAUGH

### Michael Ian Black



Michael Ian Black

How do you know when you've been "Stubbsified"? Watch the NBC sitcom *Ed* and see Michael Ian Black, a.k.a. Philip "Phil" Washington Stubbs, work his quirky kind of madness. Launched by NBC in 2000, the critically acclaimed *Ed*, with an ensemble cast that stars Tom Cavanagh as Ed, is in its second season (Wednesday nights at 8).

Black, 30, doesn't seem to have a serious bone in his trim body, a fine thing too, given that he plays a funny ne'er-do-well character. "My background is primarily in sketch comedy, so the more outlandish and outrageous things I get to do, the happier I am. Tomorrow I'm walking on stilts all day



dressed as Uncle Sam. When I go to the office and I'm strapping on stilts, that's a pretty good day!"

What does he think he brings to his character? "The main thing I brought to Phil are my shoes," he answers. "Phil wears the shoes that I supplied to the wardrobe department."

Next year we won't just know Black from his work in front of the camera. In the spring, Black is scheduled to direct his first feature film, *The Pleasure of Your Company*, a comedy for which he has written the screenplay. Will this lead him away from his nutty TV pals in Stuckeyville?

**"I seem to keep falling down the ladder—rung, by rung, by rung!"**

"*Ed's* a dream job, particularly because I live in Westchester County and the show shoots in Northern New Jersey," he answers. "The people I work with are just tremendous. One of the advantages of our show is that nobody who came in was already a star, so there were no egos or baggage. Subsequently though," he adds, "I've developed a huge ego, so I've become difficult to work with. Everybody else is just super nice!"

Black never intended to become a comic. "My goal was always to be a serious actor, but my professional experience has been largely comedic. I'm obviously lucky to be doing this."

Besides taking on gigs ranging from commercial voice-overs to hosting last summer's reality series *Spy TV*, the actor has taken on one serious role—as father of eight-month-old son Elijah. "It certainly puts your priorities in order. I'm suddenly not the most important person, and that's a real shame!" He adds: "Although, since I got married, I guess I haven't been the most important person. We got a dog and that knocked me down a rung, too. I seem to keep falling down the ladder—rung, by rung, by rung!"

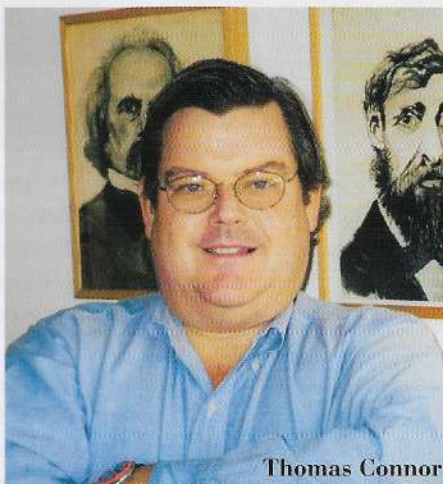
What more can we expect from Phil in the future? "It's going to be a lot of the same: bad ideas, poorly executed! I should print up business cards for Phil Stubbs that say that!" Unlike his television alter ego, Black doesn't dream big.

"What do I hope for in 2002? Specifically, I'm hoping to get a patio in. My dreams don't go beyond that: I'm a simple man!"

## SELLING THE COUNTY TO TOURISTS

### Thomas Connor

Thomas Aquinas Connor, president of Weinrib & Connor and a self-described "contrarian," comes up with advertising campaigns his way. Unlike other advertising agencies, he doesn't rush to embark on market research—not at first. The agency digests what clients tell it—and then jump-starts the creative process, which isn't just words and pictures.



Thomas Connor

**"I won't put a trophy tarpon on the wall. But we definitely put trophy clients on the wall."**

Says Connor: "There's no such thing as a creative department at an advertising agency. Everybody's creative." This year Weinrib & Connor (partner Arnold Weinrib died five years ago) won the Westchester County Office of Tourism account. The campaign slogan the firm came up with? "I Love New York: The Westchester Way."

"Once we came up with The Westchester Way, I knew we had it," says the Katonah res-

ident. Margo Jones, director of the Westchester County Office of Tourism, agrees. "It's great," she says. "The slogan clinched the deal."

Connors, a serious fisherman for 29 years, declares: "Our business is so much like fly-fishing. If somebody were to ask me whether I'd rather catch a trophy tarpon or a trophy client, I'd answer, 'I won't put a trophy tarpon on the wall. But we definitely put trophy clients on the wall.'"

Weinrib & Connor's trophy accounts over the years include General Motors, Kraft, Philip Morris USA, General Electric and Sony. In the third year of a continuing campaign for Dr. Pepper/7Up—a large national undertaking—Connor expects the agency's success in national promotion to continue and the company to grow. The agency, headquartered in Elmsford, has grown from two to 11 employees in eight years. Says Connor: "We just committed \$200,000 to new staff additions."

He adds: "Today you've got a lot of people making advertising decisions who shouldn't. You wouldn't say to a car mechanic, 'Here's how I want you to check my car.' People should say, 'Let me give you guys a chance to do it your way.'"

The Weinrib & Connor way, says Connor, is to offer clients "Madison Avenue at Westchester prices."

## HELPING MORNING, NOON AND NIGHT

### Maureen Redmond

Maureen Redmond, an Ossining grandmother, is a member of so many organizations that she has to go through her calendar to be sure she hasn't forgotten any.

Just a few of the organizations she helps out:

- 1) The Great Hunger Foundation, which she co-founded;
- 2) The Greater Ossining Chamber of Commerce;
- 3) The Alliance for Downtown Ossining;
- 4) The Business Network International Group;

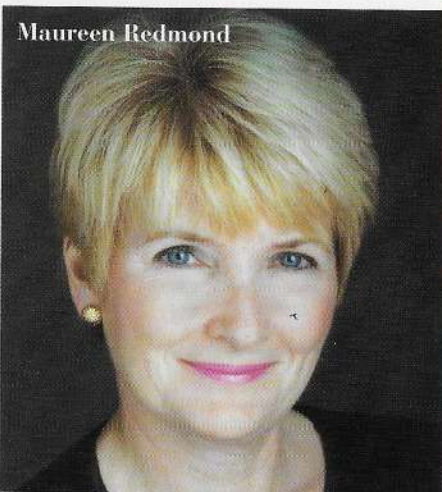


# 16 people to watch

- 5) The Westchester County Association;
- 6) The Ossining Bar Association;
- 7) Building Women, which she also co-founded;
- 8) The Westchester Film Group;
- 9) The Dominican Sisters Family Health Services.

A typical day for Redmond includes breakfast, lunch and dinner meetings.

She plans to devote much of her time next year to the Great Hunger Foundation (GHF), whose goal is to establish a center to house a collection of educational videos, books, paintings and other items depicting the plight of the Irish who immigrated to America.



Maureen Redmond

**"The reason people were starving is the same reason people are starving today: man's inhumanity to man."**

"We want to enable teachers to supplement what their students learn in school," she explains. "We want to help make people more aware of why so many of the Irish came over here 150 years ago. Many people think it was because of the potato famine. It really wasn't; that was just the final straw. The reason these people were starving is the same reason people are starving today: man's inhumanity to man."

Redmond credits an automobile accident in 1989 for getting her so involved. "It was one of those revelations," she says. "I thought, 'I could be sitting in the old rocking chair,

complaining this hurts and that hurts.' But I realized it was going to hurt whether I'm out doing something or sitting and watching television and feeling sorry for myself."

Redmond says she often asks herself, "If this was my last day on earth, am I doing what I'd want to be doing?" As long as she can answer yes, she says, she knows she's on the right track. "If you treat people like they are your friends, you'll always have plenty of friends," she says, adding that it's not only important to treat others well, but to help those less fortunate. "When you get out in the world, you see people who are so much worse off than you are. If everyone just took on one assignment—one charity, one good deed—I think it would really make our world a great place."

## PLAYING MUSIC & SAVING WOLVES

### Helene Grimaud

Critically acclaimed pianist Helene Grimaud, who moved to North Salem in 1997, began her life as a musician at the age of 12. At 15, she made her first recording and, in 1988, at the age of 18, debuted with the Orchestra de Paris.

Now 31, she has established a career that has allowed her to tour widely in the United States and Europe. She recently returned from concerts in Stockholm and Zurich, as well as a performance of a Ravel's piano concerto with the Cleveland Orchestra and David Zinman. She will release a new recording of Brahms sonatas early next year, and she is in the process of commissioning several new pieces from contemporary composers.

Most recently, Grimaud's projects have included a CD of Rachmaninoff pieces, released in May 2001, and a performance at Caramoor's Music Festival last June with the Orchestra of St. Luke's, conducted by Peter Oundjian. Although she plays 80 to 100 concerts a year, whatever off-time she has is devoted to a cause—other than music—that she's very passionate about.

In 1999, Grimaud, along with live-in

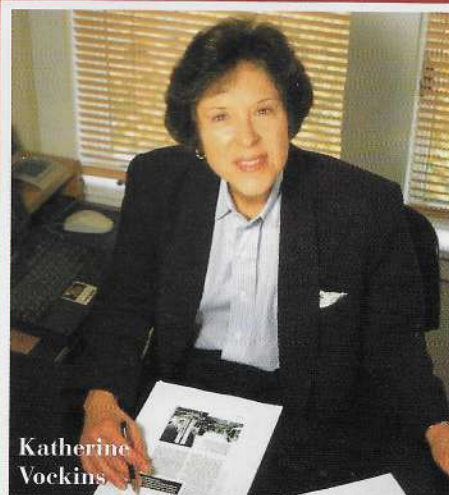


Helene Grimaud

boyfriend J. Henry Fair, founded the Wolf Conservation Center—a center inspired by three wolves, Lukas, Kaila and Apache, who live in a two-acre enclosure on Grimaud's 17-acre property. The center hopes to change people's views of wolves. Grimaud has even found a way to combine her two passions: On May 18, 2002, she will perform at a fundraising event for the Center.

## REHABILITATING AND DETERRING

### Katherine Vockins



Katherine Vockins

Katonah's Katherine Vockins was doing just fine, thank you. The marketing consultant's client list included such top-of-the-corporate-line names like American Express, Cartier, Waterford Crystal and Sony. But the



55-year-old businesswoman wanted more—something, well, altruistic, to do.

Thus Vockins started Rehabilitation Through the Arts (RTA), a drama program, inside the Ossining Sing Sing Correctional Facility. The purpose of RTA is to help rehabilitate inmates by providing them with an opportunity to use their creativity—by writing and performing. Vockins says: “The men use theater arts as a rehabilitative tool, expanding, improving and enhancing their social and communication skills.” And six years later, the program is still going strong. While Vockins still heads KV Marketing, the company she founded in 1970, her free time is largely spent on RTA.

**“When you get a bit older, you want to spend your time working on community and social issues.”**

Vockins’s route to founding RTA was actually paved by her husband, Hans Hallundbaek (also a marketing consultant). It wasn’t until he got his Masters of Divinity and began teaching at Sing Sing that Vockins was inspired to get involved helping the inmates. “When you get a bit older, you want to spend your time working on community and social issues rather than strictly commercial ones,” she says.

An outgrowth of her work at Sing Sing is an annual conference—organized by Vockins—called “Can Anything Good Come Out of Prison?” Its purpose is to foster communication between organizations that work to rehabilitate the prison population as well as raise awareness about criminal justice.

The program seems to be a hit. Her second conference drew 500 people, twice as many as attended her first conference.

If Vockins has her way, RTA will soon also help deter young men from making the sort of serious, often irreversible mistakes that the inmates in Sing Sing have made. Her new intervention program is designed to help create an exchange between the writers in Sing Sing and high school students, a collaborative effort wherein the inmates will

write plays with an intervention message and the students will perform them. “I’ve had preliminary conversations with Mt. Vernon High School and they’re interested in the idea,” says Vockins. Other schools may soon follow.

## WRITING BOOKS FOR COOKS—AND FOR KIDS

### Mimi Shanley Taft



Mimi Shanley Taft

Mimi Shanley Taft, a 47-year-old mother of three, is hardly a newcomer to publishing. She has written three cookbooks: *Cucina and Famiglia: Two Families Share Their Stories, Recipes and Traditions*; *The TriBeCa Cookbook* and *Sorbets and Granita*.

“I was eleven when I baked my first pie,” says the South Salem resident. “My grandmother was a terrific baker and she gave me a lot of recipes, many of which I still use today.” Husband Lloyd, an architect and the great-grandson of President William H. Taft, is a good cook also, she says. “Ever since we met we’ve enjoyed cooking together. And when the children were born, I combined my love of cooking with my love of writing. That’s how my career writing cookbooks began.”

Her latest effort—a children’s book to be published by HarperCollins Junior Books next year—was born out of another of Taft’s loves: her family.

Taft not only wanted to tell the story of Helen Herron Taft, Lloyd’s great-grandmother, but she hoped to create a legacy for her children—daughter Virginia, 15, and sons Daniel, 17, and Ben, 13. Taft set out to capture the life of Nellie (as her family called her), a shy girl who married Taft in 1909 and who became the first lady of the United States.

**“I’ve got a couple of ideas percolating.”**

“I saw the book as something you could read to a young child,” says Taft. In the picture book, Nellie blossoms from a girl to a woman and instigates the planting of many flowering cherry trees—trees that in real life still bloom each spring in Washington D.C. In fact, the original tree her young great-grandmother-in-law planted is part of the largest collection of flowering cherry trees anywhere in the world outside of Japan, Taft tells her young readers.

Taft intends this to be the first of many books she will write about interesting women. Does this mean fans of her cookbooks will be left without future inspiration? Certainly not! “I’ve got a couple of ideas percolating,” she assures.

## FINDING COMMON GROUND

### George S. Latimer

Forty-eight-year old Rye resident George S. Latimer, chairman of the Westchester County Board of Legislators, has big plans for the future. His next order of business: announcing his bid for New York’s Lieutenant Governor next month.

Prior to becoming a full-time politician, Latimer worked for 20 years as a marketing executive in hotel development with Stouffer Hotels and ITT Sheraton. Ten years into his work in the private sector, he became a Rye City councilman. Following his three-year term, he served five consecutive two-year terms as a legislator for the seventh district. Since 1998, he has served as chairman of the



# 16 people to watch



George S. Latimer

**"Wherever he winds up, it's going to be to the benefit of the people of New York."**

Legislature. That experience, Latimer says, has prepared him for state-level politics.

As a legislator, Latimer has launched several initiatives. He was responsible for seeing that all board meetings are televised—a change that he believes "has given average people all across the county access to the workings of the county government and the legislative branch." He apparently is credited for the MacBride Principals, which prohibit companies in Westchester from doing business with companies in Northern Ireland that don't support fair housing and employment. Additionally, he is the self-described "engine" behind a local law that prohibits the use of public moneys to publicize races of elected officials during campaign season.

The accomplishment Latimer is most proud of is the unprecedented cooperation he believes he has fostered between Democrats and Republicans. "I've learned how to find common ground between people that represent different parties." Says fellow legislator Richard Wishnie: "He has assigned people to various committees based on their abilities and not their party labels." Wishnie is equally as supportive of Latimer's implementation of televised board meetings, which he calls "revolutionary."

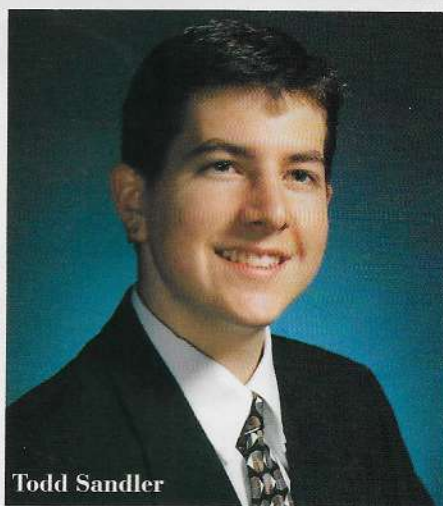
Currently, Latimer is readying his platform for his upcoming campaign, which will

address agricultural improvements and the creation of more jobs upstate, and energy and transportation issues downstate.

Wishnie sees Latimer easily finding his way into state and possibly even national politics. "This is a different place because of him. Wherever he winds up, it's going to be to the benefit of the people of New York."

## MAKING FILM

### Todd Sandler



Todd Sandler

The big winner at the Putnam County Film and Video Festival this past October was 19-year-old Somers resident Todd Sandler. His first film—*Corey*, a narrative short, received the "Best of Fest" award in the student category.

Seems like an unexpected accomplishment for the math major at SUNY Albany. The truth is, movies have always been an integral part of his—and his brother Terry's (*Corey* co-creator,)—lives. (Terry is a professor of theatre arts at Kent State in Ohio). "We've practically watched movies since we were born. We spent our vacations watching movies and learning from the best," says Sandler.

They've learned well, according to Maryann Arrien, director of the Putnam Film Festival, who calls *Corey* "beautiful and poetic." She adds: "I was surprised that this documentary was made by a student. We originally thought it was made by one of our

more experienced filmmakers. It's an outstanding film."

*Corey* is not the only film Sandler has to his credit. He used SUNY Albany as the backdrop for *Sanitary Confinement*—a surreal comedy about a campuswide toilet paper shortage.

**"I was surprised that this documentary was made by a student. We originally thought it was made by one of our more experienced filmmakers. It's an outstanding film."**

As for now, Sandler is focused on his future as a filmmaker. He will attend film school in the fall, although he's yet to decide which one. And he has two other projects in development: a "mockumentary" about freestyle pogo sticking and a psychological drama. *Corey* is scheduled to air on the Film Channel and Bravo in the next couple of months.

## SAVING OPEN SPACE

### J. Henry Fair



J. Henry Fair

Photographer J. Henry Fair, who shares a home with pianist Helene Grimaud in North Salem, has been pleasing photography-lovers with his work for years. And although he has made a name for himself by



photographing international music celebrities such as cellist Yo Yo Ma and soprano Cecilia Bartoli, the 41-year-old's greatest passion is the environment.

"I am very involved in the open space initiative," Fair says. "In the last two years we have photographed all of the large, valuable 'at risk' properties in Northern Westchester and created a matrix of importance."

**"In the last two years we have photographed all of the large, valuable 'at risk' properties in Northern Westchester and created a matrix of importance."**

Past photography exhibits have been successful in publicizing the issue of open space. With photographs entitled "Old Cement Factory," "Natural Gas Burnoff" and "Anthropomorphic Gas Pump," Fair hopes that what he refers to as "sometimes haunting, always dramatic images" will make people think about the impact that development has on their communities.

Currently, Fair is working on a series of aerial views of toxic waste sites, which he describes as both beautiful and scary. He's planning to show his growing collection in the spring at the Hammond Museum in North Salem.

## DESIGNING A SHOW-PLACE FOR ARTISTS

### Coulter Young

Illustrator and artist Coulter Young wants to put Peekskill on the map—the art-world map, that is. Thus, in March, the 32-year-old artist and illustrator opened an art gallery—the Coulter Young Gallery—a 540-square-foot space on Peekskill's Park Street, where last month he launched his fifth show. "I'd like to get people to come here," says Young. His bait? Exhibitions of works that he says will be unique, provocative and profound.

What about his own work? Young



Coulter Young

describes his illustrations, mostly portraits of musicians, as "studies in abstract realism." He explains: "I try not to be too realistic, but still descriptive enough for the viewer to know whose portrait it is. But I go a little crazy with color; that's where the abstraction comes in."

His portrait of actor Laurence Fishburne was featured in *Emerge Magazine*, one of musician Frank Zappa was published in *Gadfly*, and a rendering of Dan Aykroyd appeared in *Drink Magazine*. A likeness of Eartha Kitt painted by the illustrator was published in *Utne Reader*.

What is it about Peekskill that so enchants the artist? "I think it's a beautiful town," he answers. And if Young has his way, it may soon be both beautiful and a destination for art lovers.

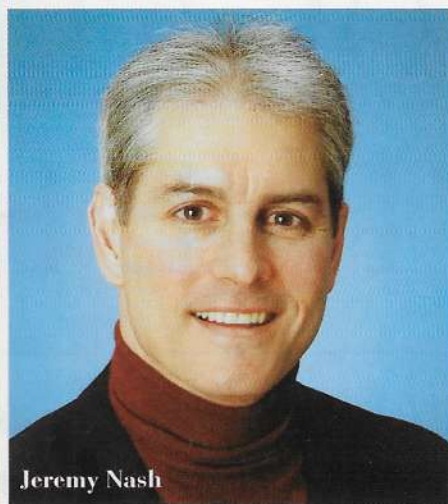
## TEACHING COMMUNICATION SKILLS

### Jeremy Nash

When companies or individuals need help getting their message across, Jeremy Nash can help. The 46-year-old Pleasantville resident is the developer of a program called Communicating with Purpose, Presence and Impact—a program designed to help people become better communicators.

Nash has worked with a long list of notable corporations, including Xerox, Lucent Technologies and Prudential Bank. Working one-to-one with his clients, he helps them figure out what contributions they can make based on the talents they possess.

One of Nash's clients, Robin Kessler DeSantis, manager of learning and development for Diversified Investment Advisors in Purchase, says, "Jeremy is quite a genius. I've seen novices and inexperienced presenters make complete transformations under his gentle guidance."



Jeremy Nash

**"Jeremy is quite a genius. I've seen novices and inexperienced presenters make complete transformations under his guidance."**

Nash underwent a profound change when he was in his late twenties. He began working for The Hunger Project—a high-performance project geared to ending world hunger, where he witnessed people's ability to *visualize* change and make it happen. He then began a 20-year journey of progressive training as a coach, consultant and transformational speaker. He was certified as a professional coach in 1992 and then as a speaking circle facilitator six years later. For 11 years he worked in business management and leadership development.

Nash is planning to expand overseas. 