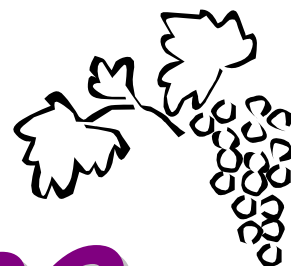




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P.O. Box 152 • Valhalla, New York 10595

**November**  
2009



the  
**Grapevine**

**PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

*~by Dana Mayclim*

I don't know about you but I love this time of year! Crisp air, colorful foliage and things are a little slower around the office after a busy summer season. I hope that you all had a great and successful summer and everyone has a chance to enjoy all that the Fall has to offer!

As President of WRAPS I have opportunity to be part of events and occasions in this profession that are truly unique and special. I have had the opportunity over the past year to witness these firsthand and, in the past couple of months we have had quite a few.

A big thank you goes out to Ron Belmont, Superintendent of Parks and Recreation for Harrison who opened his aquatics facility in September for the WRAPS opening BBQ for all members to tour and enjoy. For those of you who do not know – the complex was named in honor of all the work Ron has done for his community – so the sign outside read the “Ron Belmont Pool”. WRAPS lucked out again with a beautiful day and a big turn out so that we all had a chance to catch up and reconnect with each other while soaking in the sun's rays.

Early October brought the fourth annual Golden Idol put on by our Senior Adult Programming colleagues at the County Center. I had the pleasure to be a witness to a wonderful afternoon of friendly competition, camaraderie and some really gifted individuals who really can belt out their song choices. Thank you to all of you who had a part in putting this well attended and fun program together.

Towards the end of October I had the privilege to see a legacy continue to carry on, when Westchester County renamed Mountain Lakes in North Salem to the Sal J Prezioso Mountain Lakes Park.

It was another beautiful day and truly touching for me to see and hear what one Recreation Professional accomplished in a lifetime, to see all the fellow professionals that he had touch in some way or another and to motivate me that I still have a long way to go. If you haven't had a chance to visit this beautiful and pristine park in the “north country”, I highly encourage you to take the time to visit . . . it is a truly special place.

Please do not forget that the Downstate Conference will be taking place on Wednesday, November 18, 2009 at the Westchester County Center. This conference offers beneficial educational sessions, networking opportunities with fellow professionals from Long Island, Metro and Hudson Valley and a chance for our certified professionals to obtain CEUs. So please join me on the 18<sup>th</sup>!

On Friday, December 4<sup>th</sup>, NYSRPS Fundraising Co-Chairs Henry Jamin and Fran Brunelle will be hosting a night of the “Battle of the Has Beens” at the Mount Pleasant Community Center. It will feature a friendly competition of past athletes, competing in various events against each other for prizes and bragging rights. There are plenty of other great things planned that night so I hope that you will join me in supporting their efforts and NYSRPS. Be on the look out for all the details coming out soon.

Thank you again for your continued support as I continue to serve this special group of talented professionals.

Happy Holidays to you and yours and let's hope that 2010 is bigger and better for all of us!

**INSIDE:**

- **Dates To Remember**
- **Recreators Recreating**
- **Renaming of Mt. Lakes Park**
- **Bits and Pieces.....and More**

## WRAPS September BBQ

What a way to reunite with your fellow WRAPS members after another busy summer! Thank You to Ron Belmont, (Town of Harrison Recreation Department Superintendent) for opening up the doors for us and hosting this year's BBQ at the newly named Ron Belmont Pool in Passidomo Park, located in West Harrison.



*Photo of all the WRAPS members that came out to enjoy the beautiful day at the newly constructed Ron Belmont Pool. Editors Note: Thanks to Frank Bernabei for taking the picture from New Rochelle Recreation Department's private helicopter.*

*Pictured Below: Lifetime member Joe Curtis having a great time at the WRAPS BBQ.*



## *DON'T MISS the 15th ANNUAL Downstate Recreation Conference*

The 15<sup>th</sup> Annual Downstate Conference will be held on **Wednesday, November 18<sup>th</sup>** at the Westchester County Center. This full day conference is a great opportunity to receive CEUs, attend informative sessions, and network with fellow professionals from all over lower New York State. If you have not already registered, do so today! The brochure and registration information can be found on [www.nysrps.org](http://www.nysrps.org) under events.



Brianna Gray hosted the first WRAPS Kids Conference on October 10, 2009. Attendees (left to right): Brianna Gray, Reagan & Tyler Cook, McKenzie Grey, J.J. Nordt and Aiden Kuzio. Sessions included; *How to Keep your Parents up all Night, Proper Form When Throwing Toys, & The Basics of Climbing*, just to name a few.



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## *Japanese Family Reunites with Members of North East*

*~ by Janet Riley*

On July 27<sup>th</sup>, 2009, a mother and daughter from Japan visited Westchester to be reunited with two friends from the United States. Takako and Mio from Matsumoto, Japan served as host for two members of Special Olympics Team USA during the 2005 Special Olympics World Games in Nagano. The Japanese family provided room and board for North East coach, Nancy Troiano and athlete, Anne Marie O'Sullivan during the Home Town portion of the games. Members of Team USA stayed with Japanese families to learn their customs and make new friends in this far away land. In this case, the friendship and correspondence has continued for the last four years.



During their stay with Nancy Troiano, Takako and daughter Mio, who is nine years old, met Nancy's children and were a part of their daily routine. Mio attended Bedford Town camp with Nancy's daughter, Catherine who is ten. They visited with participants of North East Westchester Special Recreation at a few of the programs where Nancy serves as Program Director. The picture above shows Nancy and her children, Anne Marie and her mother and Takako and Mio. The visit was a huge success!

In 2005, the floor hockey team from North East Westchester Special Recreation was selected to represent the USA at these games. The North East

Team came home with the gold medal! North East Westchester Special Recreation provides therapeutic recreation for children and adults with developmental disabilities in Westchester County.

## *Camp Workshop Goes Green!*

*~by Daryl Sudlow, Kevin Donnelly, and Dana Mayclim*

The Camp Advisory Committee held its first meeting of the new program year on 10/2/09 to review and evaluate the 2009 Camp Workshop and discuss plans for the 2010 Camp Workshop. For 2010, we are actively exploring having a web based on-line workshop.

While we are still in the preliminary stages of discussion, the idea stemmed from participant surveys as well as committee member feedback. The committee feels by doing a web based workshop we not only help our county and municipal governments in their "green efforts" but we are keeping in step with the technological world we live in. While an on-line program will not be as personal as a live workshop, the committee hopes to have some interactive on-line sessions and videos to view to make it more fun. Of course, cyber attendance is mandatory for all camp operators (attendance verification is still being worked out – perhaps a test or evaluation at the end of each session before you can proceed and/or the completion of your permit application at the very end).

In addition, with the help of the county's IT department, we hope to make this workshop user friendly, educational, enjoyable, and easily accessible to not only camp operators, but directors and any staff that are interested in attending who, in the past, could not attend due to scheduling conflicts.

### **CAMP CODE UPDATE**

The recent changes in Public Health Law that affect the definition of a camp and the permit fee increase for camps will not become effective until the 2011 camping season. This will allow the time needed by the Public Health Council to amend the State Sanitary Code.

*Story Continued on Page 4*



## *Camp Workshop Cont.....*

The health department will keep us informed of all proposed changes to the camp regulations so that you can submit any comments to the state on their proposals.

In addition, Camp Operators will not be required to submit new computerized safety plans on-line (like pool operators did in 2009).

As more information becomes available we will try and get it out to our membership. You are always welcome to call us should you have additional questions.

Daryl Sudlow – 666-7004  
Kevin Donnelly – 864-7056  
Dana Mayclim – 232-6162

## *Mountain Lakes Park Renamed in Honor of Dr. Sal J. Prezioso ~By Mary Kaye Koch*

County Executive Andy Spano joined friends, family, WRAPS members and other officials to re-dedicate Mountain Lakes Park in North Salem in memory of Dr. Sal J. Prezioso, who for 60 years helped shape public policy in Westchester, New York State and the nation, on Wednesday, Oct. 21.

Dr. Prezioso's widow, Sybil, County Board of Legislators Chairman William Ryan, Board Vice Chairman Michael Kaplowitz and County Legislators Peter Harckham, Ken Jenkins and Vito Pinto, County Parks Commissioner Joseph Stout, WRAPS president Dana Mayclim and other invited guests participated in the tribute, during which a new park sign was unveiled. Dr. Prezioso died on Memorial Day 2008 at age 95.

“Dr. Prezioso was a prominent parks and recreation professional for more than 60 years and a nationally acclaimed public administrator,” Spano said. “For many in the county he was known as ‘Dr. Sal.’ For me personally, he was both a mentor and someone I could always turn to for solid advice. Dr. Prezioso

was a visionary who was ahead of his time in identifying the needs of restructuring local governments and school districts for the benefit of all Westchester residents. He is sorely missed. It is fitting that we are rededicating this park in his memory because he was instrumental in the acquisition of this property in the 1960s. Like much of his legacy, this park will benefit Westchester residents for generations to come.”



*Pictured Above (From Left to Right): County Legislators Ken Jenkins and Vito Pinto; County Executive Andy Spano; Dr. Prezioso's widow Sybil; County Legislators Peter Harckham and Michael Kaplowitz; and County Parks Commissioner Joe Stout.*

The 1,082-acre park, the northernmost Westchester County park, is open to the public for fishing, skating, boating and canoeing, hiking and nature study, along with many other outdoor activities. The park is also the home of “Camp Morty,” a summer camp for underprivileged boys and girls from Westchester's larger urban communities. The camp is named after Morton Hyman, Supervisor of Camping for County Parks from 1957 through 1974.

Dr. Prezioso was born in New York City in 1913. He became parks director for Scarsdale in 1948 and Superintendent of Recreation for the county in 1955. He was also instrumental in bringing about the merger of the parks and recreation departments as a unified Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation in 1960. While serving as Deputy County Executive from 1962 to 1967, he designed the county's E-911 system and strengthened the government's commitment to establishing a full-time department focused on recreation.

## *Recreators Recreating!!*

Below are some pictures of our own Recreation Professionals that understand that the summer can't be all work and no play!!



*Down the back stretch they come!! Sally Veltidi and Beth Bricker of Westchester County PRC having some fun at Playland.*



*Dobbs Ferry Recreation Superintendent Matt Arone doing his best Harry Caray impersonation while visiting Wrigley Field this summer.*



*Trying out for the next episode of Nitro Circus, Yorktown Assistant Superintendent Brian Gray clears a 20 foot gap while dropping 15 feet to the landing.*



*Matt Nordt of New Castle Recreation and his family enjoy the day while visiting Ocean City.*



*The big Cheese of New Castle Recreation, Bob Snyder trying on a new hat in Green Bay.*

## *Bits & Pieces*

**Matt Trainer of Rye Recreation** and his wife Kathy, welcomed their first child, Jack Matthew, on September 22, 2009.

**Kevin Cook of Westchester County PRC** and his wife Kathy, welcomed the birth of their second child, Tyler Quinn, on June 21, 2009.

**Lesley Bornstein of Cortlandt Recreation** and her husband Ben, welcomed the birth of their second child, Rayna Miriam on July 6, 2009.

Congratulations to **Chris Soi of Briarcliff Recreation** on getting married on October 24, 2009.



## **DATES TO REMEMBER!**

### **November 18**

Annual Downstate Conference  
Westchester County Center ~ White Plains

### **December 11**

Holiday Luncheon  
Crabtree Kittle House ~ Chappaqua

### **January 20**

Regular WRAPS Luncheon Meeting ~  
White Plains Senior Center

### **February 10**

Vendors Luncheon ~  
Westchester County Center, White Plains

## **TO REACH THE EXECUTIVE BOARD**

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Joe Lemischak, Vice President	864-7036
Daryl Sudlow, Secretary	666-7004
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## **WRAPS HOLIDAY PARTY**

Friday, December 11, 2009

At Crabtree's Kittle House

11 Kittle Road, Chappaqua

12 noon to 3:00 PM

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