

PHILIPSE MANOR

Keeping you up to date on neighborhood goings on.

Read-A-Thon Makes a Novel Debut

PMIA hosted a new event this year to encourage young readers. By all accounts this first book project was fun and very successful. Events Chairwoman, Lauren Sullivan, with help from Board Member Saavan Gatfield, organized this project that welcomed youngsters to read, read, read during February with a celebration party at the Sleepy Hollow Bookshop in March. We included some participants from Sleepy Hollow Manor as well. Who could refuse children who want to read with their friends!

Four reading groups were assigned by age from babies to 13-year-old readers. The children could choose their own books, but they were encouraged to read age-level or above selections. All our participants are winners. But here are the top readers, their stats and comments:



Ages 0-6

Most Books Read: Hunter Mitchell - 111 books (as per Michelle, his mother, Hunter "devours" books)

Most Pages Read: Vivian Mihalas - 3,122 pages (continued to read 5+ books while in the store)

Ages 7-8

Most Books Read: Flynn Mitchell - 176 books (was more excited for his brother, Hunter, than himself)

Most Pages Read: Elijah Sergeant - 17,554 pages (self-proclaimed reader who reads morning, noon and night)

Ages 9-11

Most Books Read: Remi Nakpodia - 25 books (the biggest reader for this group in both categories whose mom reported that Remi really enjoyed it)

Most Pages Read: Remi Nakpodia - 3,736 pages

Ages 12-14

Most Books Read: Dylan Raghavan - 4 books (was able to fit his reading in between his middle-school homework, drum and band lessons, and ski team practices and competitions)

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“It was a great success,” said Sullivan, adding that nearly 30 neighbors participated. “I was really thrilled to see how many children and parents joined in, and with such enthusiasm. This seemed like a good project during the doldrums of winter.” Of note, Sullivan is a former children’s book editor and mother of a nearly one year old. It’s clear she has a natural affinity for books, children and fun events.

Our local bookseller Leah Bloom, who opened the Sleepy Hollow Bookshop in November 2022, graciously offered her store for the group party. “Thank you so much for holding the celebration at the Bookshop,” she said. “It was so wonderful to see all those kids (and parents) excited about reading.”

A PMIA Board Transition

Earlier this year, Paul Kaufman announced that, because of work constraints, he needed to resign during his second term as Treasurer on the PMIA Board. We want to thank Paul for his contributions to PMIA. Paul was instrumental in modernizing PMIA financial practices: updating accounting software, introducing electronic payments, and re-establishing our association’s tax ID status with state and federal governments. This month, we appointed Andrew Beshara to take on the role of Treasurer and he has worked with Paul to ensure a smooth transition.

Welcome Our New Board Member



Andrew Beshara and his wife Mariam Manichaikul, moved from Brooklyn to Philipse Manor in March 2022 with their now 3-year-old son Thomas, and have since welcomed their daughter Valerie, this February. They quickly fell in love with Philipse Manor and are grateful to have met such friendly neighbors. They enjoy seeing the beautiful sunsets off Riverside Drive, playing at Devries playground, admiring the gorgeous properties in the neighborhood. And Thomas particularly loves the mac n’ cheese at Bridge View Tavern! Having spent more than 18 years in finance, Andrew felt he could contribute

to the community by helping manage the PMIA’s finances. Andrew looks forward to meeting more of the neighborhood in his new role.

Let’s Celebrate the Red, White & Blue

Our annual July 4th Parade and Picnic hosted jointly by the PMIA and the Sleepy Hollow Manor Association will be Tuesday, July 4th. As always, we begin with a spirited parade along Bellwood Avenue at 10:30 a.m. led by our police and fire brigade. Everyone is encouraged to dress up in patriotic colors and to decorate their bicycles, scooters, skateboards or whatever. There will be a contest (with prizes) for the best decorated vehicle and the best decorated cake/ cupcake.

The parade ends at Peabody Field with grilled food, beverages, games and music.

Volunteers help us put on this most popular community event. If you are interested in helping, please contact PMIAEvents@gmail.com.

2023 PMIA Board

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- Saavan Gatfield
Maintenance, Events
- Barbara Nackman
Communications

How to Reach Us

Contact any board member to get involved, share ideas, or make us aware of any neighborhood happenings: philipsemanor@gmail.com

Former School Trustee Talks About Education

A bio of Joe Lillis, a longtime Philipse Manor resident, would mention many distinctions. These range from serving as co-treasurer of the restoration committee of the Eagle statue at the train station to spending a large part of his working career as a commercial and investment banker at JP Morgan Chase and its predecessors.



One of his proudest roles was his 33 years as a School Board Trustee with the Public Schools of the Tarrytowns. After 11 three-year board terms, including eight years as president, he chose not to run in 2021.

“Being on the School Board was a great way to contribute to the community,” he said, noting he shared his seven years of teaching mathematics with his banking skills to help keep the district on a “solid course academically and financially.”

The role on the School Board utilized a perfect combination of Joe’s skills. After graduating from the University of Wisconsin-Madison with a bachelor’s degree in mathematics, he taught middle and high school students, first, in the Midwest and then in Brussels. When he and his wife, Kathy, moved back to the U.S. he received an MBA from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and changed careers. He worked for NYC-based banks and focused on investment banking and portfolio management.

The school district was fortunate, he said, when leaders in the 1970s chose to follow the Princeton Plan, which kept all same-age children together and eliminated the neighborhood schools designation. This, he said, allowed students to stay together during their school years.

“This was a wonderful choice for our district, especially since we are such a diverse district culturally and economically,” he said. “The children really do grow with each other from an early age, which teaches them so much about themselves and their fellow students.” His three children went to the public schools from kindergarten through high school. He describes the Tarrytowns as a “microcosm of the real world.”

Joe was on the School Board that oversaw the end of the 1985 Payment in Lieu of Taxes agreement with General Motors and its 1996 exit from the village. During his tenure, the Board remained a stable center of the community with many longtime staffers and oversaw renovations to the high school and the creation of a middle school.

“I am most proud of the number of high school graduates who are the first of their family to go to college,” he said, noting the community is very diverse with more than half of the students on free or reduced lunch, and many students whose first language is not English.

He and Kathy, moved to the Manor in 1986 to a house on Devries Avenue. After the birth of their third child, they moved to a larger home on Bellwood Avenue in 1996. Kathy was an elementary school teacher in Irvington until her retirement in 2016 and is currently co-president of the Philipse Manor Garden Club.

The Lillis’ currently enjoy taking long walks in Rockefeller State Park with their two dogs and love the chance to enjoy our picturesque location. Joe has several hobbies including writing – he’s written a lengthy and well-researched history of Philipse Manor which he’d like to publish – and collecting antique maps. They especially enjoy Maine and travelling domestically and internationally.

Joe encourages others to become involved with school organizations and activities, and to consider running for the board. He hopes the future includes a universal Pre-K program to expand on the current program available since 1988. We thank Joe Lillis for his contributions to our school district and our community.

Upcoming Events

- **June 18:** Happy Father's Day! Sleepy Hollow Sprint Triathlon at Kingsland Point Park -- Details to come.
- **June 22:** Sleepy Hollow High School Graduation, 6:30 p.m.
- **July 4:** The Annual July 4th Parade and Picnic hosted jointly by PMIA and SHMA. Parade begins at 10:30 a.m. on Bellwood Avenue followed by picnic, games, food, music at Peabody Field.
- **July 6 and weekly through August 24:** Sunset Jazz Concerts at Lyndhurst from 6:30 to 8 p.m. <https://visitsleepyhollow.com/series/sunset-jazz-at-lyndhurst/>
- **July 14 and August 4:** Outdoor Movie Night at Barnhardt Park at 8:30 p.m. Details to follow. <https://www.sleepyhollowny.gov/home/events/41421>
- **August 2:** Outdoor Concert at Horan's Landing from 6 to 8 p.m. Details to follow. <https://www.sleepyhollowny.gov/home/events/41466>
- **September 1:** Sleepy Hollow Cemetery Lantern Tour. 8 to 10 pm. August 5 and 19; every Friday and Saturday night in September. Cost: \$45. <http://sleepyhollowcemetery.org/>

Membership Update:

Thank you to the 234 member families who renewed either by check or auto-renewal option. Stickers for parking at the train station have been sent out. But beyond supplying parking stickers, the PMIA keeps you informed of Manor and Village events/news through monthly E-blasts, social media posts and a quarterly newsletter; runs popular events for July 4th, Halloween and much more. If you forgot to renew or join here is the link below to get it done. It's YOU, our neighbors, who make this a great place to live.

<https://www.philipsemanor.org/become-a-member>

PMIA