

# PHILIPSE MANOR

Keeping you up to date on neighborhood goings on.

## A Spooky, and Very Fun, Halloween



As is the PMIA tradition, our Ragamuffin Parade was led by our Sleepy Hollow fire and police departments as well as PMIA President Ray Endreny. But this year, the Headless Horseman arrived to lead the way in grand style. The horseman galloped along Munroe Avenue with all the costumed children and adults in tow.

We think the adults had as much fun as the children. It was beautiful to see families celebrating Halloween together and with such enthusiasm.

This year the residents of Hunter Avenue hosted the annual Block Party. With the organizational skills of new PMIA Board Member Lauren Sullivan there were some very creative games, such as "Pumpkin Tic-Tac-Toe" and "Bite the Hanging Donuts."

The gorgeous, crisp fall weather completed the day to make it another PMIA success. Our tradition continues!



## Writers, Readers and More

### The Hudson Valley Writers Center

For the past 30 years, the Hudson Valley Writers Center has leased the Philipse Manor train station building. Here dedicated staff and members have conducted writing workshops, a multi-genre reading series, created its own national imprint known as the Slapering Hol Press, and organized outreach programs for youngsters and disadvantaged communities in the region.



This summer, after decades of negotiation with the MTA, the leaders of HVWC, especially two founding board members Don Stever aided by Nicholas Robinson, successfully ended its lease and gained ownership of the historic building. This signifies a permanent commitment to Sleepy Hollow's Philipse Manor as the home of Westchester's premier literary arts center. The purchase also allows the Center to make needed renovations and to develop new programs designed specifically for neighborhood families.

Built in 1912, the train station was poised for demolition in the 1980s when Sleepy Hollow residents Margo, a poet and writer, and Don Stever, a lawyer, spearheaded a campaign to restore the building. Extensive renovations began in 1995 and continued through 1996 to establish the Hudson Valley Writers Center headquarters. Since then, the HVWC has continued to "support writers and readers of diverse ages, talents and backgrounds at every stage of their development," as the Stevers have explained. The Center's leaders express their gratitude for support from their Philipse Manor neighbors. Go to <https://www.writerscenter.org/>

### Writers in our Community

There are many books set in and about Sleepy Hollow, most notably, "The Legend of Sleepy Hollow" by Washington Irving of Sleepy Hollow. But our current Manor community is home to many writers.

**BK Fischer** In 2021 Fischer was named Poet Laureate of Westchester County. In this role she sought to highlight how poetry can be used to express a variety of emotions and feelings. She has taught poetry for 25 years and is the author of five books of poetry. "I draw a great deal of inspiration and solace from our community and environment. Having the river right there always lifts my spirits," she said. "I love to see the changing colors and textures of the river surface—it's never the same two days in a row," she added. Fisher has lived in here for 20 years. Her recent book "Ceive," a science-fiction novella, was a 2021 National Book Critics Circle Finalist. Her website <https://www.bkfischer.com/>

**Brian Stack** first moved into the Manor in 2002. For the past seven years he has been a writer/performer for "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert." Before that, he wrote/performed for "Conan" (Conan O'Brien) for 18 years. And before that, Stack and his wife Miriam Tolan both worked at The Second City in Chicago.

(Cont'd)

The couple spent several years in L.A., but came back East in 2015 when Stack started work at "Colbert" (Stephen Colbert). "I find our neighborhood and the surrounding area very inspiring. There's so much history and beauty here obviously and so many interesting people from various backgrounds. I love hearing about what other people do and learning about other cultures and professions. I know my wife Miriam feels the same way," he said."

**Berkeley Rice** is a former editor and journalist, has written numerous articles for Medical Economics, Newsweek, Psychology Today, Harpers, and the New York Times Sunday Magazine. He has also published four books: "Enter Gambia," , "The Other End of the Leash" , "The C-5A Scandal" and "Trafficking," the story of a local cocaine ring.

**Margo Taft Stever** is an award-winning poet who in 1983 established the Sleepy Hollow Poetry Series at the Warner Library before embarking on the HVWC project. She continues to write poems and essays and she serves as co-editor of the Slapering Hol Press. Three of her full-length collections and four chapbooks were published by various presses. Her website is <https://margotaftstever.com/>



**Warner Library**

The Warner Library is a real community asset. For library information, go to <https://warnerlibrary.org/>

Trustee Diane Tasca lived in Philipse Manor from 1982 to 1992 but moved back in 2021. She has worked as a textbook editor at Macmillan Publishing and a freelance editor. Tasca moved to the San Francisco area and ran a small theatre for 15 years before returning to the neighborhood. She has a PhD in English literature and is keenly interested in reading, libraries and books.

**Little Free Library**

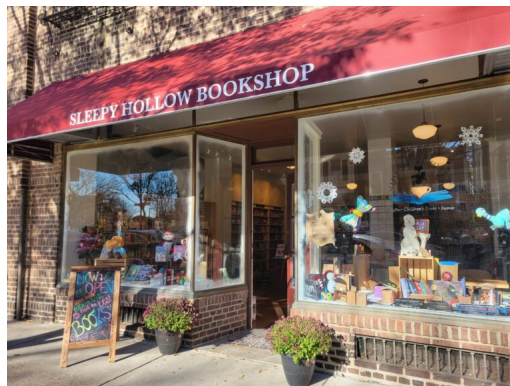
Resident and PMIA Board Member Laura Bedrossian has brought a new book-sharing resource to our neighborhood with the erection of a Little Free Library kiosk at the edge of her property. Here, neighbors can take and deposit a book to share. It must be popular because the titles are always changing.



For information, go to <https://littlefreelibrary.org/>

**Bookstores**

After years without a local bookseller, our greater community now has two bookstores: Transom Books, 23 Main St., Tarrytown, and Sleepy Hollow Bookshop, 95 Beekman Ave., Sleepy Hollow, which opened this year.



## Upcoming Events

- **Ongoing:** Kingsland Point Park. Open daily year-round, 8 am to dusk.
- **Feb. 4:** Sign-up for TNT Youth Baseball <https://www.tntbsa.com/>
- **Feb 4, 5, 11, 12:** Tap-A-Tree. Maple syrup program, 1 to 3 pm at Sugar Shack in Somers. Register at [muscootfarm.org](https://muscootfarm.org).
- **Feb. 21-24:** Winter Recess, Public Schools of the Tarrytowns.
- **March 21 (Tuesday):** Village Elections.



**Hoping everyone's holidays were filled with joy.**

**Wishing everyone a great 2023.**

Thank you to the Philipse Manor Garden Club for making the beautiful wreaths on our Manor entrance signs as well as wreaths for the Warner Library, Farrington House, the Senior Center and the HVWC.

This is a publication of the PMIA. Feel free to contact us to get involved with events or programs, or to share ideas. Contact us at [philipsemanor@gmail.com](mailto:philipsemanor@gmail.com)

# PMIA