



## Greetings!

As we enter into spring, I bring you good news of the museum's progress. While we have always enjoyed the support of the Westchester County Board of Legislators (for which we are very grateful!), at a public forum in February the four finalists vying for the right to take over the management of Playland all indicated that the museum worked well with their vision of reinventing the park.

We are pleased to have begun an open dialogue with County Executive Rob Astorino about finally moving the project forward and beginning construction in the North Bathhouse. Recent conversations with the County Executive and representatives from his selection for running the park, Sustainable Playland, have led us to believe that the project will now progress more quickly and that we will have the opportunity to provide outdoor programming on the boardwalk as early as this summer.

We look forward to sharing news of our groundbreaking in the near future, and we thank you for your ongoing support.

Sincerely,

Tracy R. Kay  
Executive Director



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## Museum Without Walls Update



Students at the Yonkers YMCA gather around the heart floor canvas after walking the "path" of blood's circulation through the heart.

This was part of the Museum Without Walls (MWW) *Alli's Healthy Heart* program encouraging kids to practice good health and nutrition and get plenty of exercise.

The program, funded by the Allison's Healthy Heart Foundation and the Bronxville Junior League, was developed by MWW instructors.

## County Executive Gives Green Light to SPI and Children's Museum



William Haley (WCM Treasurer), County Executive Rob Astorino, Tracy Kay (back, WCM Executive Director), Corinne Zola (WCM President), and Kim Morque (Sustainable Playland President).

At an April 4th press conference announcing the signing of Sustainable Playland's (SPI) 10-year asset management agreement to run Westchester County's Playland Park, representatives from the Westchester Children's Museum (WCM) expressed their appreciation for the ongoing support from

both the Westchester County Board of Legislators and Sustainable Playland. Additionally, County Executive Rob Astorino verbalized his support for the presence of a children's museum in the North Bathhouse as a year-round attraction at Playland.

## Tribute to Jim Gurfein

We were deeply saddened by the loss of board member Jim Gurfein in March. Jim Gurfein was originally introduced to us in 2005 by the graphic designer who created our logo. At that time, we were a much smaller, yet equally determined, board with a growing database of donors and volunteers, no online presence at all, and a capital campaign to run without a true donor management system. Jim resolved these issues for us and more. He became very interested in our mission and soon "adopted" the WCM as one of his causes. With the support of Jim, and his company MediaSpa, the museum's online presence soon became much bigger than our physical reality.



Jim had been ill for a long time but chose not to share it outside of his immediate family and close friends. He attended as many board meetings as he could in the last three years, and when we did see him, he always showed us the same vigor and tenacity that we had come to expect.

Jim will be fondly remembered for asking the tough questions, but being willing to be convinced one way or another if you had a good answer. Sometimes he already knew the answer but just wanted to see if you knew it too.

Jim will be sorely missed by this organization. Our thoughts and sincerest condolences go out to his family.

## Calling All Volunteers!

Volunteers needed to lead children's activities at two upcoming community events:

Saturday, April 27  
Healthy Kids Day at  
Patriot Park in Tarrytown  
11 am-1 pm or 1-3 pm

Saturday, June 8  
Buena Vista Community  
Fair in Yonkers  
12-2:30 pm or 2:30-5 pm

If you are interested,  
please contact Bev  
McAllister at  
bevmcal@aol.com

Thank you!

## Congratulations!



Congratulations to staff members Julie Sootin and Leslie Godner on the occasion of their staff anniversaries, one year and six years respectively.

## Boardwalk Bound

Only four weeks to go until the May 10th "Boardwalk Bound" gala honoring Lynn and Ray Quatararo.



This year's event will feature emcee Jené Luciani, TV personality and fashion expert, as well as carnival style entertainment and a fabulous auction. Guests will bid on items from their own smartphone, create a "watch list," get text alerts when they've been outbid, and check out by credit card - no more waiting in line! The auction will feature exclusive getaways, fine dining, sports packages, one-of-a-kind experiences, and luxury goods from the area's finest retailers. Highlights include:

- Tickets for Good Morning America, Late Night with Jimmy Fallon, Andy Cohen, the Wendy Williams Show
- Golf at Winged Foot, Fairview Country Club, Westchester Hills Country Club, and Knollwood
- Flying lessons, wine tasting, red carpet makeover, and much, much, more!

Visit [www.discoverWCM.org/gala](http://www.discoverWCM.org/gala) for tickets and sponsorship information..

## Museum Advocacy Day



In late February, over 250 museum advocates representing 48 states (plus D.C. and Puerto Rico) visited over 300 congressional offices in Washington, DC to make the case that museums are essential and therefore worthy of government support.

WCM Executive Director Tracy Kay had the opportunity to meet with Congressman Eliot Engel to advocate on behalf of the Westchester Children's Museum. He also visited the offices of Congresswoman Nita Lowey and Senators Chuck Schumer and Kirsten Gillibrand.

### Stay Connected



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