

Aging in Place In White Plains

October 2012

Inside This Issue

- 1 Meet Your Co-Presidents
- 1 Upcoming Events
- 2 Cultural Gem in White Plains
- 3 Volunteer Services
- 3 Recent Events

Meet Your Co-Presidents: Ellen Blauner & Paul Schwarz

Born and raised in White Plains, Ellen Blauner was influenced early by her parents, who were strong advocates of volunteering. A pivotal moment came in a high school Hi-Y "Youth in Government" program, where students took over the legislature in Albany for a week-end—and one of the bills they proposed became law. "That really set the tone for my community involvement," she says.

Ellen's interest in the elderly developed during her career in social work, first at Greenwich Hospital, where she worked in a home care program and helped to set up a hospice program, and then at the Jewish Home and Hospital Long Term Home Care Program in the Bronx, where she supervised services that would help seniors remain in their homes.

Ties with the elderly and with community-based services led Ellen naturally to AIP, which she describes as "so needed now as the

Continued on page 4

Upcoming Events

Wednesday, October 10, 3-5- p.m. "The Roosevelt Era: How History Is Made; A Look at Unexpected Influences." Lecture and discussion led by David Leinwand, adjunct professor of history at Iona College. At Memorial United Methodist Church, 250 Bryant Avenue, White Plains. Use the back entrance to the church at the bottom of the parking lot.

Wednesday, November 7, 6 p.m. William Kuang, former president of the Organization of Chinese Americans in Westchester County, will discuss aging in China and the United States. A full Chinese dinner will be served at Bao's Restaurant in White Plains. The cost is \$20 for members and \$26 for non-members. Reservations are a must. Send your check made out to Aging in Place in White Plains to Carla Anderson, 27 Barker Avenue, Apartment 715, White Plains, NY 10601 before the end of October.

Wednesday, December 19. Holiday party. (Details to be announced.)

*We look forward to seeing many of you at these monthly events. All are free to members and guests unless otherwise noted. We encourage you to bring friends so that they can see who we are and what we do. **Please RSVP for all events** to Carla Anderson: phone (914) 328-6497; email: bander6641@aol.com.*



Cultural Gem in White Plains: Downtown Music at Grace

Now entering its 25th anniversary season, Downtown Music at Grace offers free weekly Wednesday noontime concerts performed by musicians of the highest caliber.

Founded in 1988 by Timothy Lewis, Director and Organist of Grace Church, Downtown Music at Grace is, according to board of directors president Paul Bergins, "the only arts organization in the heart of downtown White Plains presenting a year-long series of world-class musical programs," with an emphasis on the classics but offering a variety of programs appealing to other musical tastes.

All concerts take place at Grace Church, at the intersection of Main Street and Mamaroneck Avenue, on Wednesdays starting at 12:10 p.m. and lasting about 45 minutes. The schedule for October is:

- **October 3.** Flutist Harold Jones joined by two pianists for a program featuring the Prokofiev Sonata for flute and piano and Ravel works for piano four-hands.
- **October 10.** Christine Wu, prizewinner at the New York International Piano Competition, playing works by Schumann, Chopin and Prokofiev.
- **October 17.** Concert in conjunction with faculty of the Music Conservatory of Westchester.
- **October 24.** Organist Preston Smith in a program of orchestral transcriptions on the magnificent Guilbault Therien organ at Grace Church.
- **October 31.** Tricks and Treats for Trumpet. A special Halloween program featuring John Charles Thomas.

For a complete schedule, go to www.DTMusic.org or call 914-949-0384.

In addition to the Wednesday concerts, there are five special monthly Sunday afternoon performances (\$15 for seniors), and several Thursday evening jazz programs in partnership with the Manhattan School of Music (admission free, suggested donation \$10). Please visit the website for details.

Thanks to Rhoda Fidler of AIP for researching this article, and to Downtown Music at Grace board member Renee Cohen and administrative associate Dale Bonenberger for their assistance.



*The Capriccio
Ensemble performing at
Grace Church*

Volunteer Services Vital to AIPWP Mission

A central part of the program of AIPWP is providing volunteer services to our members. These services include: transportation to medical appointments; transportation to and help with grocery shopping; errands, for example to the pharmacy or post office; friendly visiting (in person or by phone); help with bill paying; and assistance with electronic equipment such as cell phones and computers. Volunteers are already providing some of these services to several members.

If you would like to receive any of these services, contact AIPWP at 914-319-1609. Please give a minimum of two days' notice so that we can find a volunteer.

Some of our members volunteer to provide services to other members. If you are interested in doing this, please call Joan Raim, Volunteer Committee chair, at 914-949-2567.



Recent Events Appeal to Diverse Interests

By Simon Aronin

Aging in Place Sings Songs of Our Youth

Starting with "You Make Me Feel So Young," a group of Aging in Place in White Plains members and friends enjoyed a sing-along program on Wednesday afternoon, July 25. Maestro and AIPWP member Michael Friedman led us through more than twenty songs, which brought back memories of Frank Sinatra, Al Jolson, and Eddie Cantor.

Song sheets were distributed that included *romantic* songs ("All of Me," "Let's Do It [Let's Fall in Love]," "Embraceable You," "My Funny Valentine," "[I'll Be Loving You] Always"); *meteorologic* songs ("Blue Skies," "April Showers," "O What a Beautiful Morning"); *geographic* songs ("Manhattan," "California Here I Come," "Carolina in the Morning," "Fly Me to the Moon"); and others.

Thanks to Memorial United Methodist Church for providing the venue and to Michael Friedman for his musical leadership.

Preparing for the Presidential Election

On Wednesday, September 12, Aging in Place in White Plains sponsored a timely program for members and guests. Robert and Selena Barron presented facts and background concerning "Seniors' Stake in the 2012 Election." Their thorough presentation covered five major topics of importance to the senior community: Medicare, the Affordable Healthcare Act, Medicaid, Social Security, and Insufficient Food/Hunger/Food Stamps.

The concluding message was that, whatever your political beliefs, it is important to vote.

Thanks to the Music Conservatory of Westchester for hosting us.



Meet Your Co-Presidents (continued)

life span is becoming longer." She hopes the organization will expand its cultural offerings, with trips to the theater and to museums. She would also like us to provide more services, and would love to see more diversity among the membership.

"A core value of mine is to be involved with other people," says Ellen. "I get back as much as I give." Besides her love of singing and the practice of Tai Chi, Ellen is involved in a broad spectrum of community activities, including the League of Women Voters of White Plains, the Democratic Party, and the Martin Luther King Institute. In 2010 she received the Merit Service to the Westchester Division award from the National Association of Social Workers--New York State Westchester Division, for establishing a universal health care committee, with which she is still involved.

Paul Schwarz, like Ellen, is a lifelong resident of White Plains, where his parents, too, were very involved in the community. His mother helped to found the Volunteer Service Bureau (today the Volunteer Center of Westchester).

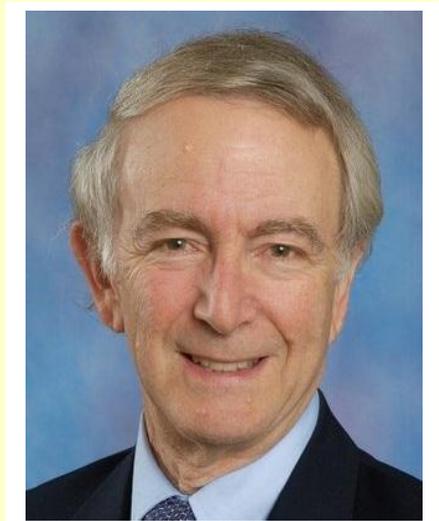
Paul had started volunteering with Meals-on-Wheels of White Plains before his retirement from teaching in 2002. After he retired, he knew he "wasn't going to play golf four times a week," but would instead savor this chance to devote himself to community action.

Working with the elderly became a focus because of the network of people he met through Meals-on-Wheels. He became involved with senior programs at Family Services of Westchester, and the county's Public/Private Partnership for Aging Services in Westchester. When focus groups were formed in the planning stages of Aging in Place in White Plains, Paul joined in and remained with the organization. Among his goals for AIPWP are an expanded membership and an active working volunteer base to provide more services, especially transportation.

"I feel I have a need to be useful and to contribute something," says Paul. He is president of the White Plains Library Board of Trustees, and he is treasurer of the White Plains Rotary Club, which gives numerous grants to social service agencies. Paul and his wife Barbara received the White Plains Historical Society's Citizen Extraordinaire award in 2010. In 2012 he was named Public Citizen of the Year by the National Association of Social Workers--New York State Westchester Division. In his leisure time, Paul enjoys playing golf and tennis and is an avid theater, concert and operagoer.



"A core value of mine is to be involved with other people."



Working with the elderly is an important focus of Paul's.

**To learn more about Aging in Place in White Plains
visit our website at www.aipwhiteplains.org
or contact us at
914-319-1609 or aipwhiteplains@gmail.com.**