

# Haverstraw Center News

Issue 11

NOVEMBER 2012

## Village of Haverstraw/Haverstraw Center

### George Joseph Rusciano Memorial

Marion E. Breland, Director of the Haverstraw Center for Youth and Family Services was pleasantly surprised and very pleased with the presentation of the George Joseph Rusciano Memorial plaque. The Haverstraw Center staff wanted to do something special to honor the great work that Marion's father did in this community he called home for so many years.

The memorial will honor a student in his or her junior year of high school who exemplifies the wonderful traits Mr. Rusciano exhibited: perseverance and achievement.

Attending NYU part-time, it took twelve years for Mr. Rusciano to graduate while working full-time to support his parents and family. An immigrant, Mr. Rusciano came to the United States with nothing but the clothes on his back. He had to learn to speak English and acclimate himself to the hustle and bustle of the big city.

With a command for the language, a college degree and a supportive family, Mr. Rusciano was able to finally establish himself in an industry where his skills were widely needed. As an architect at a time when the country was seeing strip

malls and shopping taking on a shape of its own, Mr. Rusciano was widely sought for his ideas and visions. He designed Haverstraw Town Hall, St. Paul's Church in Congers, Sons of Jacob in Haverstraw, plus buildings all over the tri-state area, the country and internationally. Those he employed became like family to him and those who supported him in his struggle to the top were never forgotten.

Donations may be made to the George Joseph Rusciano fund. Please make checks payable to "The C.E.N.T.E.R." and write scholarship in the memo section.

### Special points of interest:

- HAVERSTRAW CENTER offers many programs free of charge
- COUNSELING for help with: alcohol, tobacco and other drug use, family problems, boyfriends/girlfriends, school
- RECREATION and homework help
- FAMILY ACTIVITIES
- SUMMER CAMP

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### HURRICANE SANDY HITS THE EAST COAST

Trees down, power lines down, transformers blowing making all wonder if there was a lightning storm, houses floating on the Hudson, as Hurricane Sandy ROARED into the area with 90 MPH winds. Bridges were barred to traffic, mass transit was shut down, and schools were closed. Coupled with the high tide, shore damage is tremendous. No lives were lost in Haverstraw, but the storm claimed more than 50 lives throughout the areas it hit. The power is still out to many as this story is being written, and the schools remain closed, but kudos to the Department of Public Works, the Volunteer Emergency Services and utility



workers who put their lives at risk to help others.



# Thanksgiving

Haverstraw Center  
Thanksgiving Dinner and  
Monthly Youth Celebration  
Wednesday,  
November 21, 2012  
After school  
(By invitation only)



Donations accepted until  
Friday, November 16, 2012

## MONTHLY YOUTH CELEBRATION "Caught Being Good"

The Monthly Youth Celebration took place on Tuesday October 23rd. This event includes recognition of those youth who have been "Caught Being Good" at the Haverstraw Center as well as birthdays celebrated in October. Frankie Vazquez cooked a tasty pot of chili served over rice which was enjoyed by all. Youth volunteers helped to serve and clean up. Open Arms sent volunteers to help set up.

This month's celebration focused on the theme of "The Best Me is Drug Free" as recognition of **Red Ribbon Week** continued. Posters created by many of the youth who participate in a variety of clubs decorated the walls. The message is clear and many signed pledges to remain drug-free. Fun Red Ribbon activity sheets with a healthy choices maze, word search and puzzle were also completed as the youth gathered.

In addition, the youth signed a sympathy card expressing their condolences to Director Marion Breland to be delivered at the memorial service for her father, George J. Rusciano. (See story on pages 1 & 3.)

Each time a youth is nominated for "Caught Being Good", his/her name is placed in the hat for a drawing of prizes. Most months the prizes are \$10.00 gift certificates to McDonald's in hopes that the youth will make healthy choices when they redeem their prize. Sometimes the prize is a donation from a local business and some months the Town of Haverstraw makes a generous donation of tickets to one of their Youth Board sponsored trips.

### Strengthening Families Program

The second half of the Strengthening Families Program continues in November with seven families participating. The October sessions focused on a variety of activities for the parents, youth and family. Parent topics included Love and Limits, Making House Rules and Encouraging Good Behavior. The youth explored Having Goals and Dreams, Appreciating Parents and Dealing With Stress. The family sessions looked at Supporting Goals and Dreams, Appreciating Family Members and Using Family Meetings. The FREE program is for parents and youth ages 10—14. Watch for the announcement of the Spring session.

This month the nominees are:

September 27h

Nyimma Bartee, Markeyah Cousar, Kwani Harris, Ann Pierre Jean, Nathaly Lopez, Essence May, Gabriel Rivera, Debria Thomas, Anai Walton, Justin Williams

October 4

Atalia Duhun, Javier Estevez, Leana Estevez, Dyelen Guzman, Rocio Juca, Essence May, Semaj McNeil, Anthony Rutherford, Andrew Salters, Jisel Wallace, Devon West, Anai Wilson

October 11

Izaiah Battle, Kaily Cano, Eric hayden, Roger Harris, Ann Pierre Jean, Samantha Pierre Jean, Merline Pierre Louis, Nathaly Lopez, Pam Miceus, Gabriel Rivera, Yeidy Rodriguez, Debria Thomas, Tattianna Wallace, Justin Willilams, Nigel Williams

October 18

Nyimma Bartee, Kaily Cano, Maleik Crowder, Angie Hemmings, Rafael Lopez, Kemy Pierre Louis, Essence May, Leyti Ndiaye, Michael Salters, Osmeiry Santana, Nakita Sisco, Ashley Taveras, Justin Williams

Happy Birthday to Staff Members & Special Volunteer:

Kevin Jones, Tanya Soto, Alicia Noel, Michael McRae and Tom Scaffidi

### YOUTH CREED

"We are strong young people with a great future. We are making good decisions, so we reach our goals."

### PARENT CREED

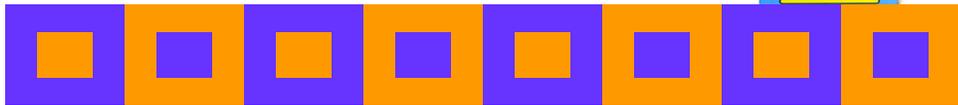
"We are strong & caring parents who show love & set limits. We are helping our kids become responsible young adults."

### FAMILY CREED

"We are strong families who care about each other and have fun together."



Girls' Club—Fieldstone  
Team Work  
Red Ribbon Week Poster  
"The Best Me is Drug Free"



Pumpkin Fettuccine Alfredo

A rich and creamy Alfredo sauce with a subtle flavor of pumpkin make this a delightful dish for a quick and easy addition to your Thanksgiving menu. Use fresh fettuccine or a good quality dried egg fettuccine. Feel free to toss some toasted, chopped walnuts or crushed amaretti cookies on top.

- 12 ounces fettuccine
- 2 tablespoons butter
- 1 small onion, finely chopped
- 1 cup canned solid pack pumpkin puree
- 2 cups heavy cream
- Freshly ground nutmeg
- Slat and pepper
- 1/2 cup grated parmesan cheese
- 4-5 fresh sage leaves, chopped
- Additional parmesan cheese for serving

Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over medium-high heat. Cook the pasta according to package directions.

Melt the butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add the onion; sauté for 2-3 minutes, stirring until softened. Add the pumpkin, heavy cream, parmesan cheese, nutmeg, salt and pepper. Reduce heat to medium-low. Simmer for 5 minutes, stirring frequently, until the sauce is slightly thickened.

Drain the pasta and add to the sauce. Transfer the pasta to a serving bowl. Sprinkle with fresh sage and additional grated parmesan cheese.

From the Mangia Bene Pasta website



*“Chi mangia bene, vive bene”  
“Who eats well, lives well”*

September 3, 1914 George Joseph Rusciano October 12, 2012

George Joseph Rusciano of Leonia, NJ, formerly of Haverstraw, NY died on October 12, 2012. Beloved father of Haverstraw Center Director, Marion E. Breland, Mr. Rusciano was 98 years old. He enjoyed telling stories of his early years in Bronx, NY, roaming fields, being taken to school by stagecoach, reading books in his treehouse, playing baseball with his numerous cousins and brothers, and enjoying his mother’s incredible cooking.

He was a graduate of NYU with a Bachelor’s degree in architecture, attending as a part-time student for twelve years while working full-time to support his parents and family. During

WWII, George served his country as a naval architect at Gibbs and Cox, and it was there that he met his first wife, Marion Gallagher. They were married in 1944, and in 1956 moved to Rockland County where they raised their three children. In 1978, he married Catherine Hayes and moved to New Jersey where he lived for the remainder of his life. George was a prominent architect designing buildings not only locally, but all over the country as well as internationally, including hotels in Curacao and Puerto Rico. Some of his more well-known local designs include St. Paul’s Church in Congers, the David B. Roche firehouse, and serving as the local architect

for the renovation of the Rockland County Jail. He was especially proud to be chosen to design the Haverstraw Town Hall because of his great love for his “adopted” community. George was a founding member of the David B. Roche Volunteer Fire Company, and served on the Haverstraw Planning Board for several years.

George is survived by his three daughters, Marion Breland of Nyack, Kathleen and her husband Harold Jaffe of Wayne, NJ and Susan Rusciano of River Edge, NJ; by his sisters-in-law Dorothy DiRoma, Jeane Mabusth, Mary Rusciano, and Anne Hayes. He will be deeply missed by his grandchildren Dylan Rupp, Cassidy Rupp, Jonathan Breland, Carole Breland and Mia Oswald, his cousin Kurt and his son-in-law Prentiss.

HAVERSTRAW COLLABORATIVE HIGHLIGHTS

The Haverstraw Collaborative consists of agencies who meet the first Wednesday of every month from 12:00 noon until 2:00 PM to discuss issues and ideas that affect the North Rockland Community and the Village of Haverstraw in particular. The Haverstraw Collaborative was founded in 2001 for the purpose of all community-based organizations serving the children, youth, elders, adults and families of Haverstraw to meet monthly in a spirit of non-partisanship and cooperation which is reflected in the Mission Statement.

The October agenda included a very moving presentation by Peggy Koval regarding Domestic Violence. A delicious lunch, introductions of the 32 attendees, a warm welcome by Collaborative Chair and director of the

Haverstraw Center Marion E. Breland, and an enlightening presentation from Selena Nixon the newly appointed executive director of Rockland Parent Child Care followed.

Subcommittees on Immigration Advocacy, Drug Prevention, Food and Nutrition, Parental Involvement and Teen Pregnancy gave their updates.

As the concluding agenda item, agencies offered updates and planned events.

The next meeting is scheduled for the first Wednesday of the month, November 7, 2012 from 12:00 noon until 2:00 PM. The Teen Pregnancy Subcommittee will meet immediately afterwards at the Center. Please call 845.429.5731 x 10 to confirm your attendance.



Intern of the Month

Janelle James came to the Haverstraw Center looking for ways to increase her awareness and understanding of youth as she studies the field of psychology and speech therapy. Janelle is a student at RCC and has been so helpful with the youth who participate in the afterschool homework help program. In addition, Janelle has been assisting with the Strengthening Families Program in the parent’s sessions, where she is learning skills that can apply to her future career.

We are very grateful for her assistance at the Center and her initiative to help wherever she sees a need. We wish you much success in your future endeavors.

**Thank you!  
Great job!**

# Village of Haverstraw/Haverstraw Center

**SAVE THE DATE!**

**17th Annual  
Rockland County  
Storytelling  
Festival  
Saturday,  
November 17,  
2012  
1:00 PM—4:00 PM**

**December 1  
Village Holiday  
Event**

50 West Broad Street  
Haverstraw, NY 10927

Phone: 845.429.5731  
Fax: 845.429.5796  
E-mail: CommunityCenter@VoHny.com



## The Haverstraw Center Mission Statement

The Haverstraw Center serves all residents of the Village of Haverstraw by providing and hosting high-quality, comprehensive services for youth, families, adults and elders, promoting the health, safety, and well-being of community residents of all ages, and raising the quality of life for all people of our diverse community in a spirit of non-partisanship and cooperation.

We're on the WEB!  
[http://www.voh-ny.com/dept\\_youth.htm](http://www.voh-ny.com/dept_youth.htm)

### November Special Events and Notable Days

- 11/1 Strengthening Families (session #4)
- 11/1 All Saint's Day
- 11/4 Daylight Savings Time ends
- 11/6 Election Day VOTE!!  
(Center closed for activities, but POLL is open)
- 11/7 Haverstraw Collaborative NOON
- 11/7 RCDOH FREE HIV Test 2—5 PM
- 11/8 Strengthening Families (session #5)
- 11/11 Veteran's Day
- 11/12 Center closed to honor Veteran's
- 11/13 Sadie Hawkins Day
- 11/15 Strengthening Families (session #6)
- 11/15 Great American Smokeout
- 11/16 RCDOH FREE HIV Test 2—5 PM
- 11/17 National Adoption Day
- 11/17 RC Storytelling Festival 1—4 PM
- 11/21 Thanksgiving Luncheon and Monthly Youth Celebration
- 11/22 THANKSGIVING (Center closed)
- 11/23 Center closed

NOVEMBER CELEBRATES:  
Aviation History Month  
Child Safety Protection Month  
National Adoption Awareness Month  
National Epilepsy Month

## Haverstraw Center Schedule/NOVEMBER (Subject to change)

Location	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY/ SUNDAY
Computer Room	Homework Help 3:00 PM—6:00 PM	Homework Help 3:00 PM—6:00 PM	Homework Help 3:00 PM—6:00 PM	Homework Help 3:00 PM—6:00 PM	Homework Help 3:00 PM—6:00 PM	
Game Room	3:00 PM—6:00 PM	3:00 PM—6:00 PM	3:00 PM—6:00 PM	3:00 PM—6:00 PM	3:00 PM—6:00 PM	
Multi-purpose Room	Homework Help 2nd—6th grade 3:00 PM—6:00 PM Back to Basics 7:00 PM—9:30 PM	Homework Help 2nd—6th grade 3:00 PM—6:00 PM	Homework Help 2nd—6th grade 3:00 PM—6:00 PM Boys' Council 11-14 year old 4:30PM-5:30PM	Homework Help 2nd—6th grade 3:00 PM—6:00 PM	Homework Help 2nd—6th grade 3:00 PM—6:00 PM Hip Hop Dance 6:00PM-8:00PM	SATURDAY ESL Level 1B With HKDL 11:00 AM—1:30 PM
Gymnasium	Senior Dancing 2:00PM-3:00PM Open Gym 3:00 PM—6:00 PM Adult Basketball 8:00 PM—10:00 PM	Youth Basketball 3:00 PM—6:00 PM JUMP 6:00 PM—7:30 PM St. Peter's CYO 7:30PM-9:00PM	Open Gym 3:00 PM—7:00 PM 35 & Over Basketball 8:00 PM—10:00 PM	Open Gym 3:00 PM—6:00 PM RPCC Support 6:00PM-8:00PM Adult Basketball 8:00 PM—10:00 PM	Open Gym 3:00 PM—9:00 PM	SATURDAY Sharp Shooting Academy Co-ed Middle School Youth 9:00 AM—11:00 AM Steve's Basketball 11:00 AM— 1:00 PM
Conference Room	Homework Help 9th—12th grade 3:00 PM—5:00 PM RFS Empowerment Group 6:30 PM—9:00 PM	Homework Help 9th—12th grade 3:00 PM—5:00 PM Clinical Staff Meeting 12:00 noon—2:00 PM	Homework Help 9th—12th grade 3:00 PM—5:00 PM	Homework Help 9th—12th grade 3:00 PM—5:30 PM Staff Meeting 12:00 noon—2:00 PM	Homework Help 9th—12th grade 3:00 PM—5:30 PM	
Group Room	Girl Scouts 3:30PM-4:45PM (Girls ages 8—15)  RFS—babysitting 6:30 PM—9:00 PM	Girls Club 3:30PM—5:00 PM Grades 4, 5, & 6	Girls Club 3:30PM-5:00PM Grades 7 & 8  Project S.H.I.F.T. 6:00PM—8:00PM	Teen Advisory (9th— 12th grade) 3:00 PM—4:00 PM Teen Group (9th—12th grade) 4:00 PM—5:00 PM Self Expressions 5:30 PM—6:30 PM	GIRLS GAME DAY 3:00 PM—6:00 PM	SATURDAY Citizenship Exam Prep Course with HKDL 10:00AM-1:00PM
Art Room	Homework Help 7th and 8th grade 3:00 PM—5:00 PM	Homework Help 7th and 8th grade 3:00 PM—5:00 PM	Homework Help 7th and 8th grade 3:00 PM—5:00 PM	Homework Help 7th and 8th grade 3:00 PM—5:00 PM	Homework Help 7th and 8th grade 3:00 PM—5:00 PM	SATURDAY So You! Sewing Class 9:30AM-11:30AM Adult Sewing 12:00noon-2:00PM
Kitchen			RCDOH Health Insurance Assistance 2:00 PM—5:00 PM			
Counseling Room	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment	By Appointment	
Other			Smoker's Aftercare	Butts Out		