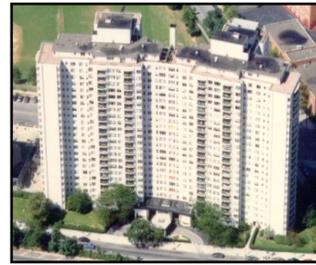




..If you've got a rich imagination, give it a whirl, give it a try..."
—Frank Loesser

The Whitehall WHIRL



3333 Henry Hudson Parkway
Riverdale, NY 10463

**AN INFORMAL NEWSLETTER FOR ALL RESIDENTS OF THE WHITEHALL
FALL 2018
ISSUE No. 47**

FROM END TO END...A SEASON TO REMEMBER ON THE WHITEHALL'S GLORIOUS GREEN ROOF!



Out of the pool and onto the chow line! Whitehall Club member Leah Kaplan shows how she feels about the first big holiday food event on The Whitehall's green roof. (Or maybe she's just demonstrating the size of the fish she caught in the pool.) See more July 4th photos on page 6.

WHITEHALL CLUB

SET OFF A GREAT **FOURTH** OF JULY

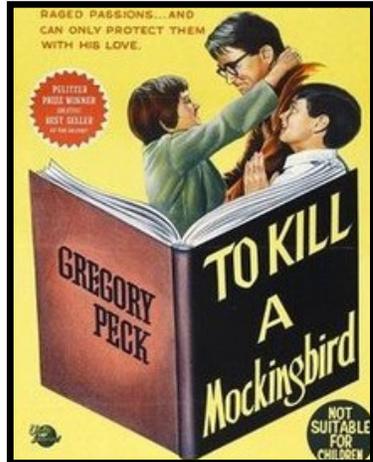
Citizens of the Whitehall!!!

This July 4th declare your independence from cooking and join the Whitehall Club family at

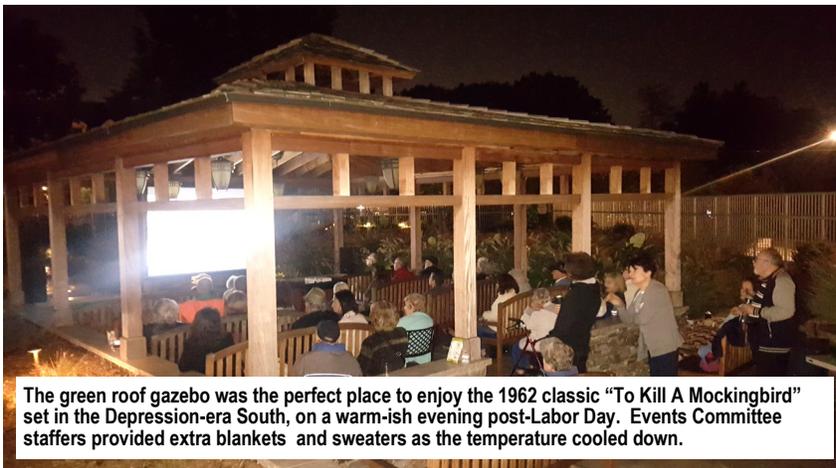
Our first ever Green Roof Holiday BBQ!
from 3:00pm to 7:00pm

From "4th"...

SATURDAY NIGHT AT THE MOVIES
September 29, 2018,
8:00pm on
the Green Roof!



...To Last!



The green roof gazebo was the perfect place to enjoy the 1962 classic "To Kill A Mockingbird" set in the Depression-era South, on a warm-ish evening post-Labor Day. Events Committee staffers provided extra blankets and sweaters as the temperature cooled down.

NY TIMES ARTICLE CONFIRMS THE VALUE OF WHAT WE HAVE PLENTY OF HERE....THE LIGHT!

For real estate brokers and even Whitehall shareholders looking for additional selling points about apartments at The Whitehall, they need look no further than a recent NY Times Sunday Real Estate section lead story entitled, "The Bright Side's the Big Thing." The subhead makes the point most clearly: "For some New York City apartment hunters, the amount of light a space gets is the deciding factor."

Fortunately, The Whitehall, which sits high up on a large unobstructed plot of real estate not immediately surrounded by other buildings of equal or greater height, is blessed with an abundance of natural light on all sides. Even apartments on our lower floors cannot be pigeonholed as "dingy," even if they do not also command the sweeping views afforded by the higher floors. The Times article makes mention of a website, "**Localize.city**," which offers in-depth data about every single street address in New York City, including a special algorithm that can tell users how much sunlight hits every side of every building, by season and by time of day!

Of course there are some who downplay the value of excessive sunlight. These nay-sayers complain that "the sun's steady presence makes it more expensive to cool, fades textiles and damages wood floors." Others complain that if the sun is too strong, you sometimes have to close the blinds in order to watch TV. In addition, there are those who go to work before sunup and return home after sundown, so the amount of sunlight may well mean little if anything to them. But at The Whitehall, we have a more diverse population, including many older residents who do not go to business, as well as many young and growing families. We prefer to believe that sunlight is an extremely important factor. As one New Yorker quoted in the article explained it, "I equate sunlight with happiness." w

GARAGE RESTORATION PROJECT LOOMING; WILL TAKE ALMOST ONE YEAR TO COMPLETE

Next major capital improvement project for The Whitehall is shaping up to be the garage, which has had water penetration issues, particularly along the East wall (facing Henry Hudson Parkway) for forever. Degradation of the "waffle slab" ceilings has also been ongoing (which may necessitate additional maintenance work in the future) and the concrete floors and ramps have long needed to be repaired and traffic-coated. The Board of Directors is expected to give final approval for the repair project to get underway soon, but whenever the green light starts flashing, one thing is certain: This project will take the better part of one year to complete — 41 weeks is the current estimate — and that assumes no major glitches.

Why the nearly year-long time estimate? The project needs to be completed while cars are parked on the five levels of the garage, and in-and-out traffic is constantly underway. It means that the garage repairs will have to be done piecemeal, by temporarily moving a few cars from their regular spots into vacant spaces. It's like a vast jigsaw puzzle, moreover, one that is compounded by the fact that there is only one up and down ramp for each level. But walk-throughs with building management, our architect, the contractor and the materials supplier have aided in the development of the schedule. An indication of how frequently follow-up maintenance will be required is the fact that there is only a 5-year warranty on labor and materials for this anticipated 6-figure project. w

FROM

The New York Times

METROPOLITAN DIARY

FROM THE OCTOBER 22, 2018 EDITION

DEAR DIARY:

In October 1962, my parents' mood was grim. There was a lot of whispering between them.

The newspaper headlines were bold and twice their normal size, like World Series headlines. The Cuban Missile Crisis was commanding the full attention of the television and the radio.

"The Russians are coming," was all I heard from just about everybody. It raised the hair on the back of my neck. I tried to shut it out of my mind.

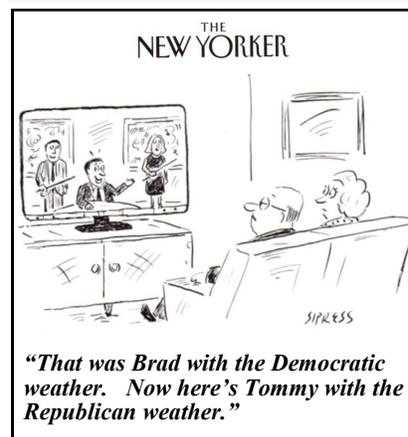
I was 8 and in the third grade at St. Stephan of Hungary School on East 82nd Street. At the start of music period, our teacher, Mrs. Francis, would put the needle on the record.

"Class," she would say, "sing along."

And we did: "Enjoy yourself, it's later than you think/Enjoy yourself, while you're still in the pink."

I was oblivious to the meaning of the lyrics we were singing. I liked the tune. Thinking back, it was not a prudent selection for young children to sing in fall 1962.

— Thomas Pryor



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

Office/Garage.....718-796-3383
Front Desk.....718-548-7522
Club.....718-796-2100

LEGACY OF THE HOLOCAUST

HOW ONE WHITEHALL WOMAN'S LIFE STORY COULD STAND AS A METAPHOR FOR THE REBIRTH OF A PEOPLE

To be honest, this story started out as something much simpler: how four generations of women came to be living under one roof here at The Whitehall. Shareholder Jonathan Konovitch, a Whitehall resident with his wife Doris since 2010, mentioned that his mother-in-law, Margie Berger, and Jonathan and Doris's daughter Naomi Lev, with her husband Dovid, and their daughters Ayelet, age 10 and Daniella, age 7, were all now living here in three apartments, and wouldn't that be a great story for the *Whitehall Whirl*? Well, while charming, examples of multi-generational family residents here are not exactly a novelty given the number of Whitehall apartments, both owned and rented, occupied by members of the Ghermezian extended family.

So as we sat around a dining room table in Mrs. Berger's apartment and were able to absorb her personal history, it became clear that a far more important story was how Margie Berger, now in her 90s, born Matl Gedalovich in the tiny town of Apsa in what was then Eastern Czechoslovakia, was the only one of her mother and sisters able to survive the horrors of Auschwitz in Poland, and start a new life and raise a family here in America.

Matl was born to Devorah Gedalovich and Nesanel Eisakovich in the Carpathian Mountains region in what was then Eastern Czechoslovakia, the same area that was also the birthplace of Elie Wiesel. Today, thanks to Soviet expansion at the end of World War II, that region is part of Ukraine. "Mati," as she was nicknamed, was one of five daughters of Devorah and Nesanel, and the only female member of her immediate family to survive the Holocaust.

Her father Nesanel (a variation of the Hebrew name "Netanel" which means "the Lord has given"), must have realized the danger to Jews of the rise of Nazism in neighboring Germany and Poland in the early 1930s, for in 1935, he was able to leave Czechoslovakia and emigrate to Colombia, where his family had cousins who were prepared to help. Once in Colombia, as Jonathan Konovitch puts together the pieces of the family puzzle, Nesanel intended to send the required documents back to Czechoslovakia so that his wife and children could join him in South America, but by the time the papers finally got to Czechoslovakia, it was too late — Germany had occupied first the Sudetenland region



Four generations under one roof at The Whitehall starts with Margie Berger (center), her daughter Doris Konovitch (top left), granddaughter Naomi Lev (top right) and great-granddaughters Ayelet (bottom right) and Daniella Lev (bottom left).

and then, by occupation or alliance, controlled all of Czechoslovakia, and Jews were no longer permitted to leave the country. Matl, her mother and sisters were eventually all transported to the camps, where death awaited so many. But "Mati," young and strong, somehow survived at Auschwitz, helped by an aunt 15 years her senior who went through the camps with her. Mati's future husband, Walter Berger, who had been imprisoned in Mauthausen in Upper Austria, was also a survivor. Both were liberated from the extermination camps by Allied troops, and both made their way to America, in Matl's case by way of Sweden. When Matl Gedalovich finally went through US immigration, she took the surname of the aunt who had helped her survive in Auschwitz — Vegh. And the uncle who had sponsored her suggested that she needed an Americanized name, and so Matl became "Margie."



Margie Berger's mother, "Alta" Devorah, with two of her four sisters. Only Margie survived of the women in her family.

Margie met her husband Walter Berger in New York after the war, and they were married in 1947, lived in Brooklyn, and eventually settled in the Boro Park neighborhood. Like most immigrants, Walter worked at many different jobs, including as a busboy and a butcher. Eventually, he began a small real estate business. Newlyned Margie Berger also worked at many jobs — at first



“There were some very dark years when I didn’t know if I was going to see morning.”

— Margie Berger



Walter and Margie Berger, around the time of their wedding in 1947.



because they needed the money. One job was in a local linen store. Later, when Walter and Margie’s two daughters, Doris (named for Margie’s mother Devorah) and Hedy, were older, she worked as a “salesgirl” at Saks Fifth Avenue, because it afforded her the opportunity to get out, go to Manhattan, and meet different kinds of people.

In 1948, Margie’s father, Nesanel Eisakovich, who had escaped to Colombia in 1935, was traced and located — they still had an address there for the cousins who had first taken him in — and they were able to bring him to New York. Both Margie and Walter went to the train station in New York to meet her father. As the story goes, Margie told Walter to look for a tall, handsome and strong man — just as Margie remembered him. But when the train arrived and passengers disembarked, there was eventually no one left but a small, frail older man who bore no resemblance to the father she had described. But it was indeed he.

Families under one roof — then and now

It is with the reuniting with Nesanel (who everyone called “Sana”), that the story of Margie Berger takes on mythic proportions. As soon as they were able to, Walter and Margie created an apartment for her father within their home in Brooklyn, in effect foreshadowing the generations-under-one-roof story of today. The Berger’s daughters, Doris and Hedy, were raised with their “Zaydie” essentially living with them, and a daily presence in their lives. It largely mirrored the current situation here in the Whitehall, with great-grandmother Margie Berger now having virtually daily contact with her daughter Naomi ,



Walter and Margie celebrate the arrival of her father, Nesanel Eisakovich (right) who was located in Colombia, South America in 1948, and was brought to New York to reunite with the sole survivor of his original family. It was the first time Margie had seen her father since she was 8 years old, and the family was still in Czechoslovakia.

great-granddaughters Ayelet and Daniella, and their pet dog, Negev.

Margie’s daughter Doris had met and married Jonathan Konovitch, an anesthesiologist (now retired), and they raised their daughters in Westchester, where they lived for 35 years. In 2010, with their three daughters by now all married with families of their own, Jonathan and Doris

Story continues on Page 8

Margie Berger, a modern day matriarch, is always front and center in group family photos. The occasion here was a 70th birthday celebration in 2017 for her son-in-law, Whitehall resident Jonathan Konovitch (4th from right in top row), with his wife Doris diagonally in front of him. Jonathan and Doris’ daughter Naomi and her family are the group of four at the left. Naomi’s husband Dovid Lev stands with her in front of their daughters, Ayelet and Daniella. (Jonathan, Doris and Margie, and Naomi, David and family are all Whitehall residents.) Also in the photo, Jonathan and Doris’ other daughters, Risa and her husband Levi Kahane, who live in Florida, and Erica and her husband Eliot Heisler, who live in Great Neck (where this photo was taken), each have four children, so in just this family grouping, we have one daughter, three granddaughters and 10 great grandchildren.



PICTURING A GREEN ROOF SEASON TO SAVOR!



More than 150 Whitehall residents and Club Members participated in the July 4th BBQ on the Green Roof. **Above:** Tables with umbrellas were set up on portions of the sundecks while **(right)** the shady gazebo was a popular spot for larger groups to escape the heat and enjoy the food.



Club Mgr. Taffy Dabby (left) and Asst. Mgr. Alan Persivale sport appropriate T-shirts as they directed all activities for the July 4th event.



Getting a head start on gazebo dining, Whitehall stalwarts (from left) Hanna Wolkun, Judy Sonett and Joe Gordon dig in.



Overall view of the food & beverage area shows plenty of activity even late in the day.



Outside catering company set up the food table with plenty of hot and cold dishes and when everything was ready **(below left)**, the chow line was quick to form.



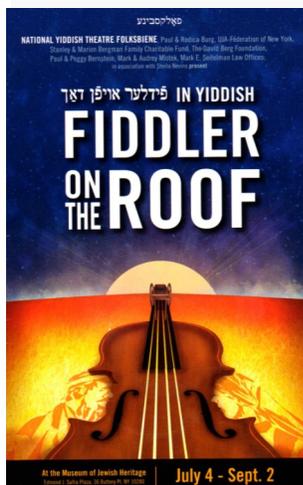
Fire pit/conversation area was another locale on the Green Roof for BBQ attendees to gather and enjoy food and drink.



The Whitehall's Green Roof remained a great place to go all summer long, and, even as the weather cooled down and the leaves were changing, you could still draw a crowd, for events like our annual Halloween Carnival, held this year on October 28, giving kids a chance to try on their Halloween costumes and get in some early Trick or Treating.

THE WHITEHALL STRATEGIST

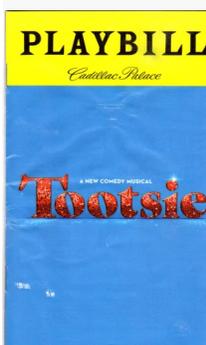
**YIDDISH VERSION OF "FIDDLER ON THE ROOF"
HAS BEEN EXTENDED THRU DEC. 30 — A "MUST SEE"!**



Doesn't matter that you've seen "Fiddler on the Roof" — both stage and film versions — countless times. Nor that you've wept to "Sunrise, Sunset" at every bar and bat mitzvah, wedding, communion, baptism, or graduation you've ever attended. You need to experience this "Fiddler" in the language that Tevya, Golde, Lazar Wolf, Yenta, Fruma Sarah, Motl, Tzeitl and all the rest in Russia would actually have spoken....the language in which Sholom Aleichem actually wrote his stories — Yiddish,

This amazing production of the National Yiddish Theatre/Folksbiene, with dialogue and lyrics entirely in Yiddish, comes complete with super-titles in both English and Russian(!), and imparts an authenticity that feels so right it is like a deep dive into a collective memory pool. Plus, the original Broadway choreography of Jerome Robbins has been retained, so if you have long-cherished memories of Zero Mostel doing his "biddy-biddy-bom" and the long, sad circularly- staged exit from Anatevka at the end, you will not be disappointed. Along the way, there are many revelations — the staging of the dream sequence with the butcher's wife rising from the dead, the slight modifications of Yiddish lyrics to fit the original meter and beat of the music (example: "If I Were a Rich Man" becomes "If I Were a Rothschild.") It all works beautifully and the voices, staging and innate warmth and humor are irresistible. But hurry! The performances at the National Museum of Jewish Heritage at Battery Park have just been extended through December 30th. You owe it to yourself not to miss this treasure!

**SPOILER ALERT! MUSICAL VERSION OF "TOOTSIE"
IS COMING TO BROADWAY IN SPRING 2019!**



Thanks to your Whitehall Strategist spending a week in Chicago in early October, we can report that a musical version of the revered film "Tootsie" had a very successful out-of-town tryout at the Cadillac Palace on W. Randolph St. and is now planned to open on Broadway in Spring 2019. This production, with music and lyrics by David Yazbek (Tony winner for this season's "The Band's Visit") makes a couple of changes from the film to suit the confines of the theater stage. In the movie, for example, the cast is toiling away on a hospital-themed soap opera. Here, it's in rehearsals for an off-Broadway crazy mixed up version of "Romeo & Juliet." And a couple of characters in the movie have either been changed or written off entirely. But the essential story is all here, funny as ever and if anything even more relevant to today. Watch for Andy Grotelueschen and Sarah Stiles as Jeff and Sandy, buddies of the Michael Dorsey/Dorothy Michaels character played by Santino Fontana, to absolutely steal every scene they're in, with great laugh lines and totally neurotic songs. This will definitely be a hot ticket in 2019! **w**

The
Whitehall
WHIRL

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**BOOK CLUB
AT**



THE WHITEHALL
Generally meets once
each month at 7:30 pm.

Check flyer posted in Health
Club lobby for day, date and
location of next meeting and
selected book title.

**WHITEHALL
WISDOM**

**"Satire is what
closes on Saturday
night."**

— George S. Kaufman

A METAPHOR FOR REBIRTH OF A PEOPLE

continued

decided to downsize, and kept passing “this beautiful building” on their way into Manhattan. Of course, it was The Whitehall, and in February 2010 they bought their apartment here. Around this same time, in 2009, Margie’s husband Walter passed away. They had been married 63 years. When Margie visited Doris and Jonathan after they moved into The Whitehall, she immediately loved the building, and, although it was hard to leave Boro Park after more than 50 years there, the idea of having more of the family under one roof was overpowering — so in Fall of 2010, Margie moved into her own apartment here.

Doris and Jonathan’s daughter Naomi had been living in Denver, where she was head of a Jewish Day School there and her husband Dovid was going to school in Denver to study nursing. As Naomi explains it, we thought we’d stay for 2 years in Denver, but it turned into 12 years. All that time, though, they dreamed of moving to Israel. And so, with her parents and grandmother now ensconced in The Whitehall, a move back to New York became part of their Israel transition plan. Naomi got a job as Principal of Westchester Day School. And as of this past July, they were able to rent an apartment right here in The Whitehall. Why? Three reasons, Naomi says: “It’s pet-friendly, the pool, and — Grandma!” However, this portion of the family togetherness is temporary, as Dovid, Naomi and family (see photo left) are planning to move to Jerusalem in Summer 2019. Knowing how family-centered this clan is, you can expect plenty of back-and-forth visits

The Nazis tried to exterminate the Jewish people in the Holocaust. But with survivors like Margie Berger, who kept the old traditions, and raised new families, it can be seen that the ancient prophecy, “I will make of you a great nation,” has been renewed. Make no mistake, however, there is still anti-Semitism in the world, and not just in “the old country.” Recent events in Pittsburgh need no further explanation. w



Margie Berger (center) with her younger daughter Hedy Lipschitz and her husband Ben, who live in Oceanside, LI. The Lipschitz family now includes four married children and 8 grandchildren.

COMING EVENTS!



Saturday Nite Movies
“Currents & Classics”
ON OUR BIG SCREEEN!
Upcoming Films Planned



November 17 — 7:30pm
“THE TRAIN” (1965)
 Starring Burt Lancaster and Paul Scofield

December 1 — 7:30pm
“THE FRISCO KID” (1979)
 Starring Gene Wilder and Harrison Ford

January 2019 — Date TBD
“MOLLY’S GAME” (2017)
 Starring Jessica Chastain, Idris Elba and Kevin Costner

February 2019 — Date TBD
“GALAXY QUEST” (1999)
 Starring Tim Allen, Tony Shalhoub, Sigourney Weaver, Alan Rickman



Wednesday, December 12, 2018
THE WHITEHALL’S
HOLIDAY COCKTAIL PARTY
 In our Main Lobby
 Singing, Schmoozing
 & Smorgasbording
 Starts at 6:30pm



Sunday, December 16, 2018
 2pm in the Club Ballroom
BRONX ARTS ENSEMBLE
 Presents
 For Children of All Ages
“THE TORTOISE & THE HARE”

LIMITED NUMBER OF
FREE TICKETS
FOR WHITEHALL RESIDENTS
 (See flyer for details)



Sunday, January 20, 2019
 Starts at 11:30 am
THE WHITEHALL’S
 12th Annual
“SCHMOOZE & SCHMEAR”
BAGEL BRUNCH
 Featuring the Singing Duo
 “Ryan and Lou and the
 Famous People They Do!”
Must sign up to attend!
 (See flyer for details)