

Town of Greenburgh
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———— felicia barber + riley wentzler ————

*From the Basement to Trailers and
Beyond: The Story of June Castleberry
and The Lois Bronz Children's Center
By Riley Wentzler & Felicia Barber*



At 30 Manhattan Avenue, White Plains, New York 10607 stands a well-loved building. This is the Lois Bronz Children's Center named for the Honorable Lois Bronz, a math teacher; who taught at every level K-12 at some point in her long career as an educator, and later served on The Town of Greenburgh Town Board from 1976 until 1993, when she left to become a member of the Westchester County Board of Legislators. She was later elected Chair of the Board of

Legislators in 2002. She served on the board until 2009 (<https://obits.lohud.com/obituaries/lohud/obituary.aspx?n=lois-bronz&pid=188189057&fhid=21962>). Most of Greenburgh's residents are probably familiar with everything the Lois Bronz Children's Center does today: a Full Day Program for toddlers (beginning at 18 months old) and preschoolers from 8:00 am - 6:00 pm Monday – Friday, a School-Age Enrichment Program for children ages 6 to 12 Stepping Stones Program, and, a New York State certified special education preschool for children with special needs etc. (<https://loisbronzchildrenscenter.org/about-us>), but just how did it get here?

The answer lies with one woman who, starting in 1957, had the herculean task of caring for 17 toddlers a day every day for nine years. This woman's name is June Castleberry, a lifelong Greenburgh resident. Initially it was 3 children from each of her two sisters plus 11 neighborhood kids. For many years she cared for these children in her own home. The unique challenges presented by this large undertaking inspired her to found a daycare center which she initially set up in the basement of Union Baptist Church (Personal Communication from June Castleberry). She was there for about a year before having to alternate between a series of trailers on Tarrytown Road. This trailer-hopping phase lasted for about two years (Personal Communication from June Castleberry).

Then Marion Goodman, one of the parents of the children she was caring for, suggested moving to a larger and more permanent location in order to accommodate more children (Personal Communication from June Castleberry). 30 Manhattan Avenue, White Plains, New York 10607 was chosen as the new location. It was in 1966 that things finally got established there (<https://loisbronzchildrenscenter.org/about-us>). After about a month, the center began accepting even younger children. Initially, June had been taking care of 18 month- 2 year-old children, but at this point the center began accepting kids as young as four months old (Personal Communication from June Castleberry). They also soon expanded into other age groups including: (2-4 years), (5-8 years) and (6-12 years.)

While the responsibilities and staff of the center continued to increase, June herself continued to work only with the 18 month- 2 year-old children for 30 years

(Personal Communication from June Castleberry). During her 30 years of work founding and working at Lois Bronz Children's Center she was a source of inspiration to many. She was and remains a crowning jewel in her community for launching a much needed and valued service to residents - caring for children.



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<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5658/BROTHERLY-LOVE-RELIEF-AND-TRUTH--in-Greenburgh>
- Greenburgh and The Arts (9/22/18)
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5665/Greenburgh-AND-The--ARTS>
- A Final Resting Place for "Man's Best Friend": The Peaceable Kingdom (9/29/18)
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- "The Disappearing Railroad Blues" in Greenburgh: The Fate of the Putnam Railroad Line and the old Putnam Trail (11/6/18)
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5675/The-Disappearing-Railroad-Blues-in-Greenburgh>
- A Thousand Words Which You Never Knew: The Forgotten Story of the Seal of Greenburgh (11/17/18)

<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5651/A--Thousand-Words-Which-You-Never-Knew-The-Forgotten-Story-of-The-Seal-of-Greenburgh>

- **How a Flat Tire led to a Happy Escape: The Story of Carvel in Greenburgh (12/11/18)**
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5670/How-a-Flat-Tire-led-to-a-Happy-Escape>
- **The Guardians of History: Greenburgh's Historical Societies (1/6/19)**
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5676/The-Guardians-of--History>
- **A Small House, an Important Meeting, a Huge Victory: The Story of the Odell House (1/12/2019)**
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5654/A-Small-House--an-Important-Meeting--A-Huge-Victory>
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- **Lost History: The Tragedy of Malkasten (1/26/19)**
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5673/Lost-History--The-Tragedy-of-Malkasten>
- **A Beautiful View for the Perfect Event: The Belvedere Estate (2/9/19)**
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5652/A-Beautiful-View-for-The-Perfect-Event--Belvedere-Estate>
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- Oh, The Places Your Mail has Gone: A History of The Hartsdale Post Office (3/9/2019)
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5674/Oh-The-Places-Your-Mail-has-Gone>
- From Insurance to Symphonies: The Home of Charles Ives (3/16/19)
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5664/From-Insurance-to-Symphonies--The-Home-of-Charles-Ives>
- Greenburgh Under the Hollywood Lights: The TV shows and Movies Filmed in Greenburgh Part II (3/29/19)
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- There is no church here, but “the brave men, living and dead, who struggled here, have consecrated” this ground: The Story of The Little White Church Cemetery (4/27/19)
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5678/There-is-no-church-here-but-the-brave-men-living-and-dead-who-struggled-here-have-consecrated-this-ground>

- **Irvington in Chains and our Process A History of Slavery in Irvington and A look at how Slices of History are made (and our interview with historian Robert Marchant) (5/11/2019)**
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5671/Irvington-in-Chains>
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<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5662/From-Farmland-to-Shopping-District-The-Rise-of-Central-Avenue>
- **Like a long lost friend”: The story of how summer recreation has evolved in Greenburgh (6/7/2019)**
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5672/like-a-long-lost-friend>
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<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/5656/Abandon-Ship>
- **Beyond Heritage Versus Hate Toward Hope and Reconciliation: The story of Mount Hope Cemetery and its Confederate Monument (7/13/19)**
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- **A Tale of Two Towns: Greenburgh, NY, and Muncy, PA (8/23/2019)**
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- **Greenburgh Gets its “Sun Daze on” Under the Watchful Eyes of the Boys in Blue (1/9/2020)**
<https://greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/6366/Greenburgh-Gets--its-Sun-Daze-on-Under-the-Watchful-Eyes-of-the-Boys-in-Blue>
- **Making Martin Luther King Jr’s Dream Come Alive the Success Story of the Parkway Homes/ Parkway Gardens Community:(1/18/2020)**
<https://greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/6377/Making-Martin-Luther-King-Jrs-Dream-Come-Alive-the-Success-Story-of-the-Parkway-Homes-Parkway-Gardens-Community>
- **Formed By Adversity, Held Together by Faith: The History of the Parkway Homes/Parkway Gardens Community (2/27/2020)**
<https://greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/6547/Formed-->

[By-Adversity-and--Held-Together-by-Faith-The-History-of-the-Parkway-Homes- Parkway-Gardens-Community](#)

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<https://greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/6728/When-The-Cure-was-Worse-than-the-Disease>
- **All Aboard!!! The Story of The Old Putnam Railroad In Greenburgh (5/31/2020)**
<https://greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/6909/All-Aboard-The-Story--the-Old-Putnam-Railroad>
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<https://greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/7065/Hastings-Best-and--Brightest---Nobel-Laureates-of-Hastings>
- **Happy Hour Amid Civil Strife In Elmsford The Story of How the Brother Against Brother Nature of the American Revolution Led to the Cocktail. (8/8/2020)**
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<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/7171/Headless-Horsemen-Long-Naps-and-Sunshine>
- **A General's Residence in Greenburgh (10/21/2020)** [A-Generals-Residence-in-Greenburgh \(greenburghny.com\)](https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/7172/A-Generals-Residence-in-Greenburgh)
- **The Ghost of Restaurants Past in Greenburgh Part I (12/12/20)**
[The-Ghost-of-Restaurants--Past-in-Greenburgh-Part-I \(greenburghny.com\)](https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/7173/The-Ghost-of-Restaurants--Past-in-Greenburgh-Part-I)

- **A Truly Trailblazing Road: Historic Roads in Greenburgh Part I- The Bronx River Parkway (12/19/2020)**
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- **On The Road Again: Significant Roads In Greenburgh – Saw Mill River Parkway (1/2/2021)**
<https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/7413/Saw-Mill-River-Parkway>
- **The Baby Brother of Parkways The Sprain Brook Parkway (1/9/2021)** [The-Baby-Brother-of-Parkways---The-Sprain-Brook \(greenburghny.com\)](https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/7413/Saw-Mill-River-Parkway)
- **Tarrytown is Alive with The Sound Music: The Tarrytown Music Hall (1/30/2021)**
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- **African- Americans Nobly Serving Their Community At the Levers of Power: African-American Town Board Members Past & Present (3/1/2021)** [African--Americans-Nobly-Serving-Their-Community-At--the-Levers-of-Power \(greenburghny.com\)](https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/7525/Tarrytown-is-Alive-with-The-Sound-of-Music-Tarrytown-Music-Hall)

- **The Legacy and Influence of Alexander Hamilton In Greenburgh: The Life of His Great-Great Granddaughter - Mary Schuyler Hamilton**
(3/13/2021) <https://www.greenburghny.com/DocumentCenter/View/7635/The-Life-of-Alexander-Hamiltons-Great-Great-Granddaughter---Mary-Schuyler-Hamilton>
- **Alcohol, The Irvings and the Hamiltons: The Sanctuary of Zion Episcopal Church(3/27/2021)** [Sanctuary-of-Zion-Episcopal-Church \(greenburghny.com\)](https://www.greenburghny.com/Sanctuary-of-Zion-Episcopal-Church)

About the Authors:

We are both Assistant Town Historians at Greenburgh Town Hall and we are engaged to be married and are currently looking for permanent employment.

Riley Wentzler:

I was born and raised in a small rural town in central Pennsylvania. In high school, I took every honors course available including four years of Spanish. I received A's in all of them. I graduated third in my class of 146 students. This brought me to Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. Once there, I continued my trend of academic excellence. I graduated summa cum laude in Political Science with a minor in Spanish and a Master's in Communication Studies, with a G.P.A of 3.94. It was also there that I met my lovely fiancée, Felicia Barber. My Master's in Communication has promoted public speaking, teamwork, and customer service. My Political Science degree has developed my research skills using computer-based tools and provided me with experience using the Microsoft Office products. My minor in Spanish has facilitated my bilingual capabilities. During my internship at Greenburgh, I created the petition for the State Roads project using website tools. My diverse education and areas of interest have provided me with a wide range of skills. I look forward to finding a career opportunity in business or government. **To suggest a topic for next week's article, you can contact me at assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com, or to help me find employment, you can contact me at rjwentzler413@gmail.com**

Felicia Barber:

I was born in New York City and raised in Hartsdale, New York. I graduated from Ardsley High School. I recently earned a Bachelor of Fine Arts degree in Graphic Design at Edinboro University of Pennsylvania. It was here that I met my fiancé, Riley Wentzler. As a result of my academic excellence, I won a scholarship every year. I learned and applied many graphic design skills to projects during my summer internships and at school. I am proficient in using Adobe graphic design applications including Photoshop, Illustrator and InDesign. For my Identity/branding course at Edinboro, I created logos to appear on the tee-shirts of Physical Education majors. For a veteran's upcoming event, I used a typeface to focus the reader to the soldier in the poster. For the State Roads Legislative Campaign project, I created the embedded graphic-photo that accompanied the petition I am looking for a job to utilize my skills as a Graphic Designer in an agency, print shop, company or government **To suggest a topic for next week's article, you can contact me at assistanthistorian@greenburghny.com. To learn more about my artwork or to help me find employment you can contact me at feliciadbarber@gmail.com.**

Two Interviews with the authors:

<https://riverjournalonline.com/around-town/a-love-of-history-and-each-other/13708/>

<https://wcbs880.radio.com/articles/news/stories-main-street-couple-cerebral-palsy-brings-manytalents-town-greenburgh>

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<https://loisbronzchildrenscenter.org/about-us>

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<https://obits.lohud.com/obituaries/lohud/obituary.aspx?n=lois-bronz&pid=188189057&fhid=21962>