

Members of the Free to Speak Self Advocacy Group of Putnam ARC – including President Michael Contreras, Robert Joy, Athena Lightcap, Jason McDonnell, Kate Larsen, Mary Hession and Robert Barrett – receive the Leadership and Giving Award from PCLT President Judy Terlizzi.



County Legislator Roger Gross acknowledges Camp Herrlich Executive Director Bob Gentile for his support of PCLT, during its April 18 dinner benefit.

## Land Trust Celebrates its Volunteers

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education. Among several written citations, State Sen. Terrence Murphy described Gentile as an “extraordinary leader” and “tremendous asset” who contributed to the camp’s increased enrollment, operating budget and scholarships.

County Legislator Roger Gross, a presenter at the dinner, said he has known Gentile for years and praised him for instilling “self-discipline, confidence and environmental education” to youth from as far as Albany and Long Island through sub-

jects like orienteering, survival skills and colonial life.

Two land trust stewards, Steve Giglio and Rob Kerbstat, who were recognized at the dinner, have a deep relationship with nature.

Kerbstat and his fiancée moved from White Plains last year and found themselves surrounded by Land Trust property, which sparked their interest in joining. A self-described “avid outdoorsman,” Kerbstat said he enjoys maintaining the trails, whether through removing downed trees or cleaning up garbage, in order to make them more accessible to everyone and hopefully convince them to become involved with the trust.

Giglio joined the land trust last summer but has experience

as a steward of a small lake in Bedford for 20 years, and is taking a graduate program in environmental sustainability – in addition to teaching math, science and technology at Blind Brook Middle School in Rye Brook. He is particularly concerned about pollution and water quality and is working toward incorporating more environmental programs with the trust.

He noted his admiration for PCLT President Judy Terlizzi’s leadership, saying: “She inspires you at meetings to really work hard and give a lot.” He added that the organization is always looking for the “trifecta” of resources – volunteers, money and time.

The PCLT recently received a New York State Conservation Partnership Grant. The funds, totaling \$1.8 million split among 55 trusts, will help in the acquisition of the Garden

Recreational Preserve, which overlooks the Middle Branch Reservoir and connects to Tilly Foster Farm.

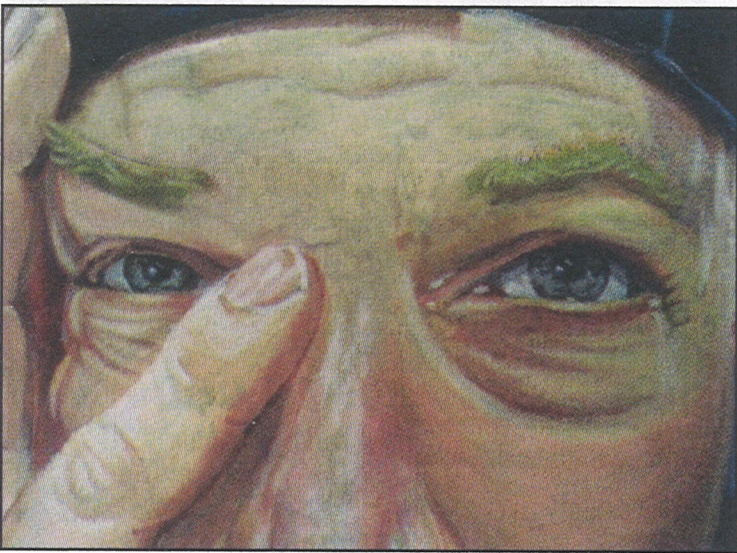
“The NYS Conservation Partnership grant program has

been a significant factor in the ability of the Putnam County Land Trust to increase its capacity and to protect more of Putnam’s natural beauty and resources,” said Terlizzi.



Showing off some of the Green Chimneys birds are Cheyanne Alberti with an American kestrel, Paul Kupchok with a gyrfalcon, and Tobe Wilson with a screech owl. Photos by David DeRita.

## Brewster Studio to Exhibit ‘Inside Out’



“Yes Dear,” acrylic on canvas, by AnnMarie Funigiello.

Two artists who were featured in an October fundraising event at the Studio Around the Corner are returning to show their work in an exhibit titled “Inside Out” in Brewster.

James Thomas is a self-taught photographer from Green Bay, Wisc., whose photography is heavily influenced by the literature and film he has studied since moving to this area. In this collection of photographs, Thomas describes how fear can provoke a prison of routine that becomes inescapable; death casts its shadow on those who are incapable of action or progressive thought – they live, but are not living.

Painter AnnMarie Funigiello earned a bachelor’s of fine arts degree from the School of Visual Arts and a master’s in art education from The College of New Rochelle.

Since 1995, she has been teaching art at New Rochelle High School.

The majority of Funigiello’s paintings are depictions of how we respond to the unexpected experiences in our daily lives, while the rest of her work is images of experiences that have left an impact on her life.

An opening meet-the-artists reception for “Inside Out” will take place Saturday, May 2 from 7 to 9 p.m. at 67 Main St., Suite 101, Brewster, sponsored by the Town of Southeast Cultural Arts Coalition. Additional studio hours will be Sunday, May 3 from noon to 2 p.m.; and Friday, May 8 from 7 to 9 p.m., and Saturday, May 9 from noon to 2 p.m.

For more information, call 845-363-8330 or visit [www.oth-theater.org](http://www.oth-theater.org), or find the group on Facebook.

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