

I ♥ NY®

Meetings

2005/06



The
WESTCHESTER
way

*Westchester County, New York
Gateway to the Hudson River Valley.*





Friendly faces at the Westchester County Office of Tourism (from left to right): **Sandra Mahonski**, Junior Staff Assistant; **Margo Jones**, Director; **Kim Sinistore**, Deputy Director; and **Traci Suppa**, Marketing Director.

Q: Margo, why should we bring our meeting to your region?

A: "Whatever your specifications, no matter what time of year, Westchester will suit your every need. We're within a half-day's drive of the entire Northeast, and easily accessible via plane, train or car. Twenty-six hotels and conference centers provide more than 4,500 guest rooms, and scores of special event venues. The common threads are excellent service and personal attention. Consider it 'big-city' service in a suburban environment."



Margo's favorite pastime: Golf! "I've played the new Hudson Hills Golf Course, just off the Taconic Parkway. Managed by Billy Casper Golf, Inc., it's a public course that looks and plays like a private one. The 9th hole is challenging, and the hilltop views are beautiful!" To arrange group tournaments on any of Westchester's six public courses, contact the County Department of Parks at 914-864-PARK."

Q: Kim, what can the hotels and conference centers here offer my organization?

A: "From impressive historic castles to first-class hotels, Westchester offers a lot more than you can imagine! Major national hotel brands, including Crowne Plaza, Doral, Hilton, Marriott, Radisson and Renaissance, have business-friendly properties in cities like Tarrytown and White Plains. We'll send out your meeting RFP to appropriate venues, arrange site inspections, and help set up group activities. A/V, teleconferencing and other high-tech services can be provided at nearly any site." See pages 8-23 for property specifics.

Kim's favorite places to bring groups after hours: "When I bring meeting planners to places like New Roc City, Playland and the new MYOWine School of Winemaking, they get excited about the possibilities for unique group entertainment like rock climbing, mini-race car driving, private beach barbecues and wine-making classes."



Just Ask Us... We Know Westchester!

We're glad that you are considering Westchester County for your future meeting, conference or special event. The staff of the Office of Tourism welcomes you to contact us with questions or requests for assistance in finding the perfect venue for your business meeting or reunion, etc.

Q: Traci, our group of 50 is looking for a non-traditional venue for our event. Since we don't need overnight accommodations, what can you offer?

A: "A lot! How about a meeting in a museum, a reception in a rose garden, a break-out session on a beach, cocktails in a castle, or a party in a planetarium? An array of unique sites can accommodate group events, including historic mansions, cultural and academic institutions, and catering facilities." See the "Unique Spaces and Places" section on pages 24-32.

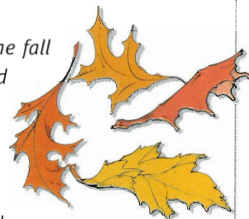


Traci's favorite restaurants: "I really enjoy going out for a fine dining 'experience.' When atmosphere counts, you can enjoy dining on the water, on a scenic hilltop, or even at a chef's table in a working kitchen. Many restaurants accommodate groups. See pages 24-32.

Q: Sandra, what can I expect when I contact the Westchester County Office of Tourism?

A: "Every year, we get thousands of phone calls and e-mails, and we personally respond to all of them. We'll take the time to recommend sites for your event. Plus, we can provide tourism brochures and maps for you to distribute. Call us toll-free at 800-833-9282, which is on 24/7 for your messages."

Sandra's favorite season: "I love Autumn! The fall foliage peaks here in mid-to-late-October, and plenty of scenic routes are perfect for fall foliage drives. I'm excited about a new event, the Jack O'Lantern Festival at Van Cortlandt Manor in Croton-on-Hudson." Historic Hudson Valley manages this and several other impressive sites in the region. HHV features a special group department. (Contact 914.631.8200 or www.hudsonvalley.org)



Have a question for the friendly staff at the Westchester County Office of Tourism? Just call them at 800.833.9282 or 914.995.8500, or e-mail Tourism@westchestergov.com.