

# Ang Lee Speaks to Packed House at Center for Continuing Education

On January 14, Hollywood came to Mamaroneck, when two-time Oscar winning director Ang Lee joined instructor Dr. Michael DiGennaro at The Center for Continuing Education's Notable Neighbor event at Mamaroneck High School.



The evening began with a montage of scenes from Lee's movies, including Life of Pi, Crouching Tiger/Hidden Dragon, The Ice Storm, and others. According to DiGennaro, the theme of "the outsider" can be found throughout Lee's work. Lee, a native of Taiwan, reflected on his own life as an outsider, first as a son of immigrants who fled to Taiwan after the war, then as a student more interested in the imaginary world than that of the classroom, and then as a non-native English speaker at college in the United States. He also explained that his directing technique relies less on language and more on gestures and calling upon his own experience as an actor.

Lee spoke about his landmark film Brokeback Mountain. He had read the short story and it haunted him for three years. He envisioned the movie as a love story, not just a story about gay cowboys. He said he had no idea the impact the movie would have and how popular it would become.

According to The Center's Executive Director Blythe Hamer, "We are so grateful to Ang Lee, one of the country's most renowned film directors, for sharing his time and unique perspective with the community. We are delighted that more 600 people attended this event."

To learn about courses offered at the Center, visit the website, LMCCE.org, or call 914-698-9126."

# Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty Welcomes Six New Associates to the Firm's Larchmont Brokerage

Julia B. Fee Sotheby's International Realty announced that six real estate agents including Joan Capaldi, Alexandra Filipov, Danielle Longhitano, Martha Rubio, Cat Runcie and Heather Stone have joined the company and will be based in the firm's Larchmont brokerage. These agents, who are new to the industry, possess a wealth of varied skills and professional backgrounds, and are all recent graduates of the Larchmont Brokerage's "New Agent Academy" training program, which aims to hone agent skills when entering the business.



Danielle Longhitano Martha Rubio Joan Capaldi



Cat Runcie Alexandra Filipov Heather Stone

The "New Agent Academy" is a six-month program designed by Carolyn Fugere to fully prepare real estate sales associates who are brand new to the business with necessary skills and training in the field. Topics cover all aspects of the industry including marketing, prospecting, legal understanding, conducting open houses, ethics, client representation and finance.

Joan Capaldi has an extensive background in the financial industry, throughout the years holding a variety of positions at an investment firm in Boston. She later went on to receive her MBA in marketing, and moved to Westchester County, where she pursued a career in brand management. Now a Larchmont resident of 17 years, Capaldi is a professional who offers a wealth of community knowledge to potential clients.

Cat Runcie, a current resident of the Orienta neighborhood of Mamaroneck, also has a broad professional background to enhance her real estate career, with more than a decade of marketing and advertising experience. She is recognized for her "hands-on" interactions with clients, and works closely with them to deliver the smoothest transactions possible.

International expertise is second-nature to Alexan-

dra Filipov, who was born and raised in Normandy, France, and involved in the travel and tourism industry for over 12 years, working for both Walt Disney World and United Airlines. After marrying an American in Paris, Filipov relocated to Westchester County, where she purchased a home in Larchmont and became greatly involved in the local community.

Martha Rubio, who was born in Mexico, also boasts an abundance of global knowledge that is ideal for supporting an international clientele. Rubio speaks English, Spanish, French and German, and has past experience in the hospitality industry as well as diplomacy. She moved from Manhattan to Westchester County in 2007, and has since gained vast familiarity with the area. This asset, along with her strong negotiation skills and diverse background, allows Rubio to connect with both local and international clients.

A Larchmont resident of over 25 years, Danielle Longhitano brings a passion for both her work and native Westchester County community to the firm. Longhitano has a degree in school psychology and a master's in Therapeutic Interventions, as well as hands-on experience in the housing

industry through her family's commercial and residential real estate firm, where she developed the passion and foundation for her current career. She now resides in Larchmont with her husband and son, and welcomes clients to the surrounding neighborhoods she knows so well.

Heather Stone, who is originally from Harrison, also settled down with her family in Larchmont, and serves as a second-generation Westchester County real estate broker with intimate knowledge of the neighboring historic towns. Stone additionally possesses legal skills as an attorney and active New York State Bar member, securing a competitive advantage for her clients throughout every step of the home buying and selling process.

"The incredible skills and versatility that has entered our Larchmont brokerage with this new graduating class of sales associates is remarkable," said Fugere. "Our brokerage's new agent training program allows their true potential to shine through, and after witnessing it first-hand, I am certain that they will be a valuable asset to our team. I am thrilled to welcome them, and can't wait to see their positive contributions to the firm."

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