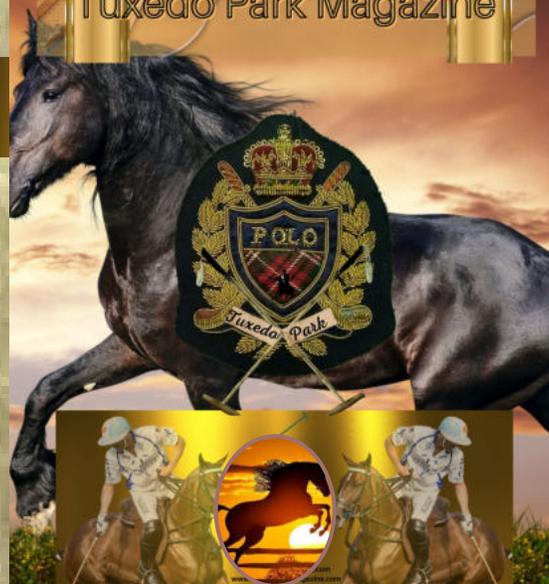


Tuxedo Park Magazine

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Issue # 108

Noble Prospects
*Tales from a Gilded Age Society...
Tuxedo Park*
From Diaries, memories, & social clippings

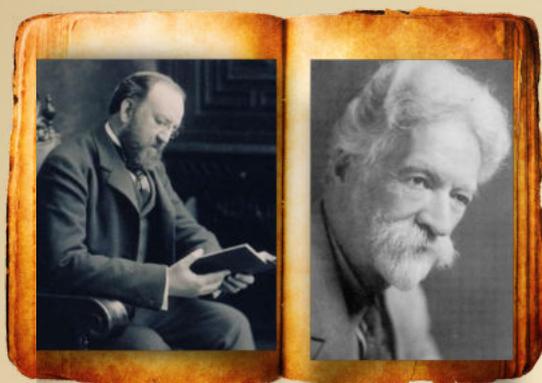
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Tuxedo Park Design Studios

Whispers from the first Gilded Age Society... Tuxedo Park

Part I A Noble Prospect



Spencer Trask George Peabody

President and owners of the New York Times during the Gilded Age

Tilted at noble prospects of marriage for their children, some of the very wealthy society conservatives during the Gilded Age and early years of Tuxedo Park, went to great lengths forming those unions.

Enormous dowries were pinned to many young women of the day whose fathers' had newly become icons of the financial world, enabling their new money to marry old money, and thus, balancing on this old money, became ripe by society's standards.

During the Gilded Age, consideration for those with new money was hesitant, and in society was whispered as, vulgar, and as such, many steps had to be achieved in order for the new money fortunes and families to land comfortably balanced into proper society.

Beneath the umbrella of comfort in Tuxedo Park during the Gilded Age, a royal union took place on a brilliant sunny day. Carriages came through the wide wrought iron gates at the foot of the hill and climbed around the serpentine curves, traveling to one of the grand mansions that graced the crest of the hill. The driveway led to the steps of a veranda that wound around much of the mansion, like arms wrapping around the proud display and achievement from the healthy rewards of fortune. The pillars of society opened their arms to aristocracy in Tuxedo Park.

Continued next page



The bride was given away in the living room in front of the large granite fireplace graced with gargoyles who stood witness to the world, and the wedding . Her father was a main partner in the J.P.Morgan empire, and it was said, the icon himself, J.P.Morgan, attended the wedding.

In addition to having a home in Tuxedo Park, the family also had a brownstone mansion on fifth avenue, close to Franklin Delano's mother, who was a young lady at the time and great friends with the bride. There was a ball held in the bride's home on fifth avenue. One of the few homes at the time in old New York that boasted a ballroom.

The bride was very much in love with her new husband. She had written in her diary that she fell in love with him the moment she saw him, despite the rigid rules of an arranged marriage, which this was.

A second ball was held for the daughter just before the couple left for their honeymoon. In those days many titled aristocrats were castle rich, but pocket poor. The bride's father had both, land, and pocket profit. The bride lived a sheltered life between her family's home in Tuxedo Park and Manhattan, but when she met her intended, this was true and honest love for her.

Legend has it, the day of the second ball had been a glorious afternoon, stretching well into the evening hours. Although, suddenly, shock over-took the young bride, causing her to stagger and almost faint. She was overwhelmed with what she had just overheard.

She overheard two of her friends saying that the royal groom only married her for her dowry settled upon him, but he planned to soon divorce his wife over a trick scheme of public scandal he was to secretly leak to the society column in the New York Times where social gossip was often printed. They went on to say that upon the release of the printed, fictional scandal, it would enable him to seek a divorce but keep the money he had received in the dowry.

Continued next page



Some scandal at that time was grounds for divorce and entitled the harmed victim monetary reward. Although heartbroken, she soon shared the terrible news with her father who in turn called on his good friend and Tuxedo Park neighbor, Spencer Trask. Spencer Trask owned the neighboring estate called, "Tyraddo". He also was the largest share-holder in the New York Times, as well as its president. He and another Tuxedo Park resident, George Peabody, had just purchased the New York Times, where their motto was.. "All the news fit to print". Since this news was not fit to print, it would be headed off at the pass.

To everyone's surprise, the article was never printed, nor did it ever come across the editor's desk. It never existed. The husband actually doted on his wife, and they had a wonderful marriage for many, many years. The two women who had been overheard, were dangerously jealous of the bride, and purposely planned to be overheard. They were among many, during the Gilded Age, that were ruthless. The comfort of money also fueled flames for much envy among its class, and an insensitive blemish on their character. Legend has it that one of them became a spinster who eventually had to live with her ill-mannered aunt somewhere outside of Boston on a pig farm, and the other staggered through three marriages, losing a fortune in dowries, and her once youthful beauty, soured ungracefully throughout her lifetime.

End



Whispers From A Gilded Age Society... Tuxedo Park Footnotes

Many stories shared with us over the years were gleaned from diaries, memories, and social clippings from archival literature. Stories from direct descendants of the original Gilded Age Cottagers in Tuxedo Park.

Vocal memories accompanied a twinkle in the eye of several, as they unfolded their tales willingly. In front of grand fireplaces, on white wicker furnished veranda's, and formal gardens over one hundred years old, stories unfolded and carried a clear glimpse of life in the first Gilded Age Society known as Tuxedo Park.

Many of these story-tellers were direct descendants of captains of finance and industry in the Gilded Age. Legendary icons enabling this country to become strong and independent. Industrialists and philanthropists revolutionized industry and defined the structure of monetary gain. They walked through the finest clubs in America, where money was "aged", and "new" money balanced on that noble money, became ripe. The blue bloods of iconic industry, their gilded empires appeared like legendary fairytales of capital worth, and sent echoes of success down the corridors of Wall Street. The old clubs which still exist such as the Tuxedo Club, the Union Club, and the old Knickerbocker Club, where once these men shared visions of industry and wealth with one another over fine brandy and cigars. Some of the corridors of these clubs still display an old portrait or two of the club's founding fathers. These portraits are a tangible glimpse into the world of the Gilded Age, and the men who moved it.

Some of our stories were also told by women, and many women from Tuxedo Park were equally as grand as the men.

*By Tuxedo Park Magazine
& Design Studios*



Steven Piriano is an Emergency Medicine physician passionate about health, wellness, and helping others become their best and healthiest selves. He lives with his wife, Mayra, their sons Josh and Joey, and dogs Rocky, Buddy, Bailey, and Sky

He has authored two children's adventure books that impart lessons of good health and an inspirational memoir wherein he shares many of his insights on health and wellness. His books can be found at online retailers.

We are blessed to have a beautiful planet to call home. It provides us with the resources necessary for survival and inspires us with nature's miracles. There are times when I leave my home for work in the mornings and stop my car to admire the orange-tinted sky as the sun makes its way above the horizon. Forests, mountains, rivers, and oceans are teeming with an abundance of life, with each of the thousands or millions of individual organisms going about their daily activities without disturbing the overall balance of their ecosystems. Left to its own intelligence, nature will maintain equilibrium across the globe.

Unfortunately, that picture changes when human beings enter the equation. With our superior intellect and reasoning capabilities, we have built civilizations and developed technologies that have allowed us to become the dominant species on Earth. However, in the process, we have disturbed the balance of nature. Please don't misunderstand me—I am a fan of progress. Over the past decades, advancements have allowed innumerable people to live better lives. More people now have clean water, electricity, mobile phones, and internet access. According to Hans Rosling in his book "Factfulness," over the past 20 years, the proportion of the world population living in extreme poverty has almost halved. These are remarkable achievements, and I am elated that we have come so far.

I hope that modern societies will learn from nature. We have figured out ways to care for our growing population, which is wonderful. However, we must maintain balance. We are not the only species living on this beautiful blue and green sphere—we share it with trillions of other beings.

We have already begun moving in the right direction, as countless dedicated people are working on solutions to the many environmental imbalances that we have created. In the meantime, I know there are so many seemingly small things that I can do to help out. A few things that come to mind are planting a garden, picking up litter, turning off the lights when I leave a room, and not leaving the water running continuously while washing dishes. I have faith, and I look forward to a better and healthier planet in the future.

Dr. Steve Piriano

Private Varnish

In the Gilded Age, wealthy people had finely appointed private cars custom built to their specifications. Additionally many cars built by Pullman, Budd, and other companies that were originally used in common carrier service as passenger cars were later converted for use as business and private cars. There are various configurations, but the cars generally had an observation platform, a full kitchen, dining room, state rooms, secretary's room, an observation room, and often servant's quarters.

George Pullman did not invent the passenger or sleeping car, but he perfected it. Founded in 1867, the Chicago-based Pullman Company produced a range of railroad car types, from dining cars and parlor cars to freight cars.

Pullman offered more than just a standard railroad passenger experience. He wanted to cater to his high-end clients with luxurious, hotel-like accommodations.

While he made a variety of cars with high-end finishes, the Pullman Company also became known as a purveyor of private rail cars, an accommodation of choice for the very wealthy who wanted privacy and comfort.

These private cars, which attached to commercial passenger trains, were rolling mini mansions. The layout followed a general pattern. The back of the car had an observation deck followed by a parlor and the parlor connected to a cluster of staterooms.

A dining room usually followed the staterooms, and beyond the dining room, at the back of the car, were service areas like a pantry and galley. The cars would also be staffed by a team of people, including a steward, chef, and potentially a personal assistant.

Private cars would generally sleep eight to twelve people. The staterooms could have queen-sized beds, and they often opened to bathrooms with marble showers and highly polished metal sinks.

Some private rail cars featured Cuban mahogany, along with brass light fixtures, zinc sinks, and rich upholstery.





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1900...Mrs. Dana Gibson Visits Tuxedo Park

For the second annual squash tournament for the
championship of America

Mrs. Dana Gibson visits Tuxedo Park for the second annual squash
tournament for the championship of America February, circa early 1900's

New courts at Tuxedo Park.

"The second annual national squash tournament for the championship of
America held under the management of the court tennis and racquet club
of Tuxedo, developed much interest, owing to the entries of nearly all of the
best squash players in the country.

The match between T. Suffern Tailer and Charles L. Hyde was an excellent
match; Tailer had a slight advantage owing to his experience at court
tennis. Among the many spectators was Mrs. Dana Gibson of the famous
Gibson Girls" ...The New York Times

Gibson Girls...Charles Dana Gibson's elegant drawings captured the spirit
of an age.

Charles Dana Gibson entranced turn-of-the-century New York with his
deft sketches of the habits of the upper class, and those trying to get
there. He made a small fortune by having a signature image, often of a
willowy, aristocratic young woman with a hint of mischief in her eyes.
Gibson was born in Massachusetts in 1867, and as a child, would cut
silhouettes of animals. His family moved to Queens, and by the age of 15 he
was training as a stockbroker on Wall Street. His passion for art prompted
him to leave Wall Street to study illustration at the Art Students League.

He launched his career in the early 1880s by knocking on all the correct
doors; Scribner's magazine, Harpers and other well know publishers. He
sold his first drawing to the old "Life" magazine for \$4 in 1886. Many more
commissions followed. He soon published the first of what became his
series of "Gibson Girls", pen and ink portraits of aristocratic young
women. Attractive, intelligent looking and apparently single. They were
usually at summer places, horse shows or fancy dress balls.

Continued next page



The demand for Gibson's distinctive sketches grew frantic and he was soon living very well at the old Life building at 19 West 31st street. The former Irene Langhorne joined him after their marriage in 1895. Mr. Gibson also began moving in social circles, which included the author Richard Harding Davis and the architect, Stanford White. It was said that in 1902 Gibson produced a famous sketch of a young woman entitled, "The Eternal Question." Taken from a portrait of Evelyn Nesbit. It was Nesbit's Husband who later shot Stanford White over a scandal involving his wife.

Gibson had become wealthy and quite restless. In December 1905 he left New York to travel through Europe to study painting. Around 1920 Gibson purchased a controlling interest in the old "Life" magazine and ran it for a decade, but the market for its arch observations of society was dwindling and he left the magazine in 1931.

Gibson was rewarded as an artist, and social commentator, with the greatest adulation ever seen up to that time for an illustrator. His great granddaughter, designer Dana Gibson, launched a line of furniture in 2014, with a couch in the foreground named, "The Tuxedo Park Sofa".

Written by Tuxedo Park Magazine.

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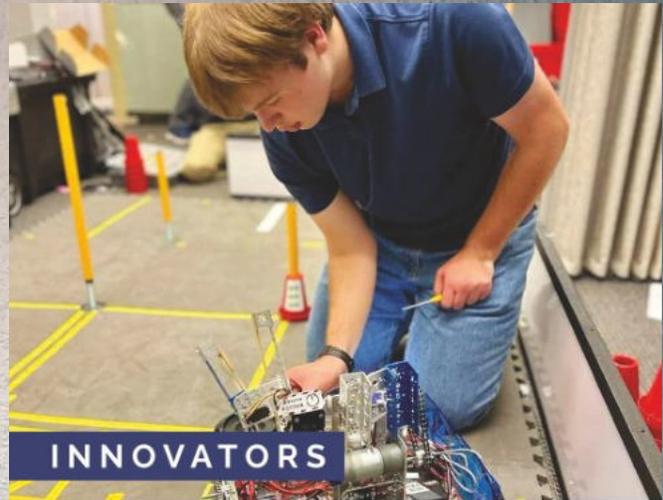


Beyond Boundaries: New Saddle River Day Center for Technology & Computer Science (CTCS)

Explores Global Virtual Reality Learning Environments

Typically, when someone references a classroom, we imagine, at the very least, a physical space with walls, windows, a ceiling, desks, and an instructor. But classrooms aren't what they used to be and at Saddle River Day School, the newest classroom can only be found in a virtual reality headset.

The inaugural Virtual Reality Classroom is the first initiative of our new Center for Technology & Computer Science (CTCS), headed by Dr. Kevin Merges, SRDS's Chief Global Impact Officer. Dr. Merges has been at Saddle River Day School since July 2023, and has over 25 years of experience working with and for independent schools. His work over the last decade has focused on revenue generating programs and international projects. At SRDS his responsibilities include identifying and cultivating international partnerships with compatible institutions around the world. Saddle River Day School's first partner school is with the American EduGlobal Schools in India. Plans are under way to share curriculum and educators in a way that is beneficial to current and future students. There will also eventually be reciprocal study opportunities for students from both schools.



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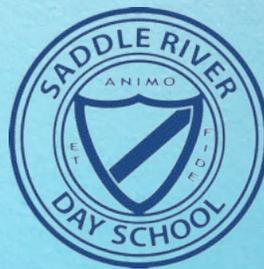
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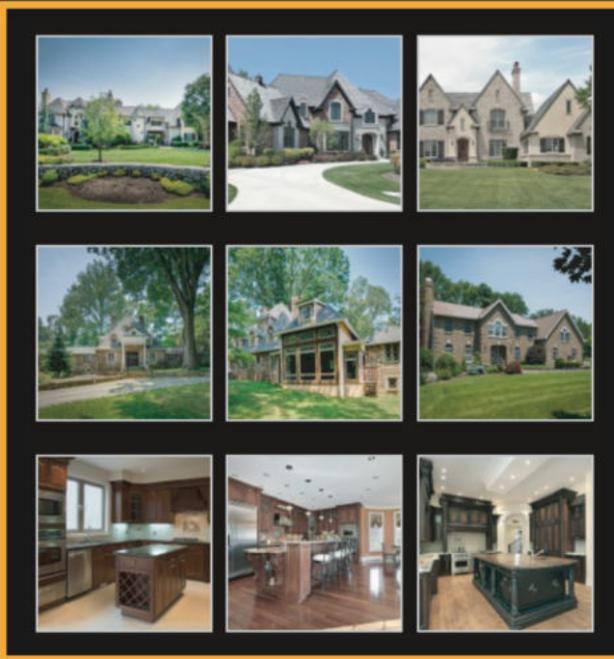
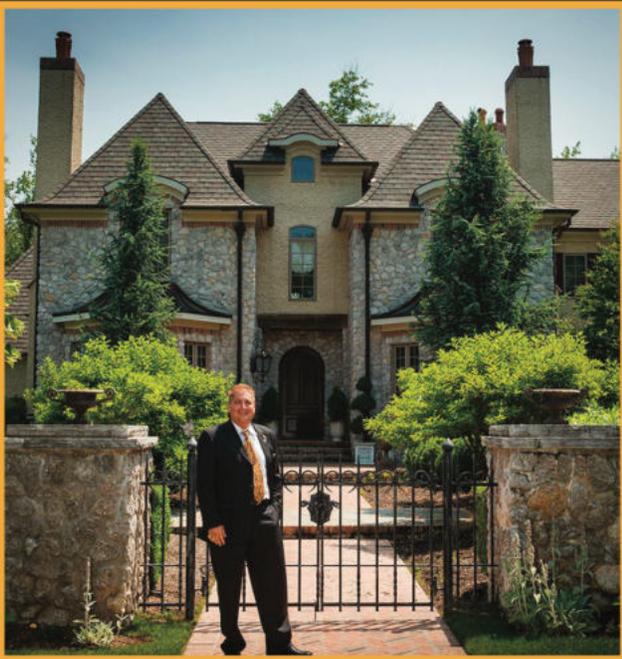
However, for students who don't want to travel back and forth, or for students for whom travel isn't possible, the development of virtual reality classrooms will enable students to have access to online courses taught by a wide range of instructors with expertise that is both diverse and comprehensive. The Center for Technology & Computer Science at SRDS, supported by AI teaching assistants, will enable students to have flexibility around when and how they access these courses. So, if students in the U.S. want to attend a class taught by an expert in their chosen area of study who happens to reside across the globe, affording them opportunities to travel to remote locations like UNESCO World Heritage sites or the ancient forums of Rome, they will no longer have to set their alarm clocks or discover a fondness for coffee in order to access that content. Rather, they will find everything they need in their VR headsets. Science labs can also be taken to another level because unlike in an actual lab, in virtual reality, students will have the option of conducting experiments involving higher risk where clean-up is a breeze with the reset button and no students will be harmed in the process.

in addition to these VR classroom and AI opportunities, the development of a robust Center for Technology & Computer Science will also enable instructors to identify areas for growth, as well as remain at the forefront of emerging technologies and new competencies. Course offerings such as Python, Quantitative Finance, Data Science, Natural Language Processing, Web Application Development, Quantum Computing and Game Development fulfill the SRDS mission to integrate technology in ways that support the highest academic, aesthetic, and behavioral standards, and to develop students into leaders and innovators, guiding them to use AI and other new technologies in ways that are ethical and responsible.





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The Church in America

From simple meeting hall to architectural splendor

Ever since man believed a higher power was responsible for the creation of life, religion began to form its roots in the world. In early societies, these religions needed a place to worship. And so from the beginning, these places were just that, places. They were mostly outdoors locations (an unusual cluster of trees, a special shaped outcropping of

stone and even the foot of a beautiful lake). These locations were identified as significant not only because of the religious groups assembled there for worship, but because each place's attributes created its own unique identity by its distinct characteristics.

Over time, society developed religious

building styles that were trying to be interpretations of what was "Heaven on Earth". These buildings paid homage to numerous ideologies and forms that were believed to be divine in origin.

As explorers traveled to America, a new type of religious building was developed. This was the congregational meeting place. These buildings were very simple structures, similar to barns, which formed the center of social and political activity for the small growing communities starting up in America.

The American Church as it is known today started out as a meeting hall, a large open space with high ceilings and lots of natural light. As American society began to mature, the architectural styles of these religious buildings transformed into a reflection of the times and the materials that could be used to construct such buildings.

Even today, these structures represent the mixed expression and symbolism for each religious community, whether as a town center or a building on the hill.

During my 30-plus years in Architectural practice, I have had the pleasure of designing and renovating numerous religious projects for many different faiths. It is quite a challenge to meet the demands of each individually special religious community. I do enjoy the various challenges of creating a design that manifests a unique place of worship and reflects the religious identity of each community. I feel a great sense of satisfaction and pride at the end of each design project. And when the building construction is complete and I enter for the first time to participate in the premier opening ceremony, it is both overwhelming and humbling. ☪



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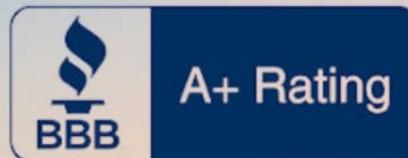


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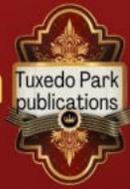
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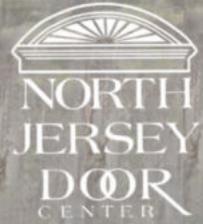
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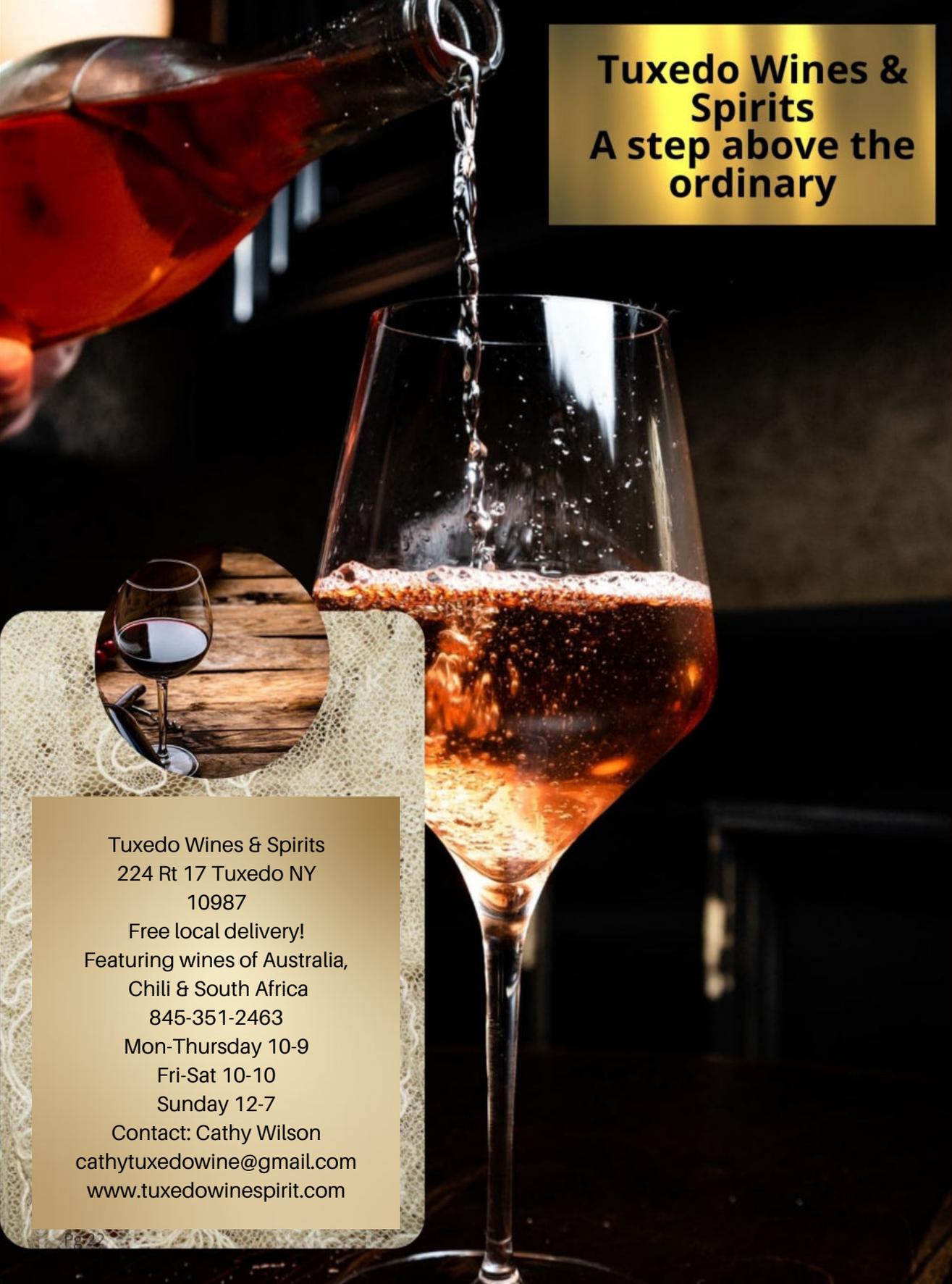
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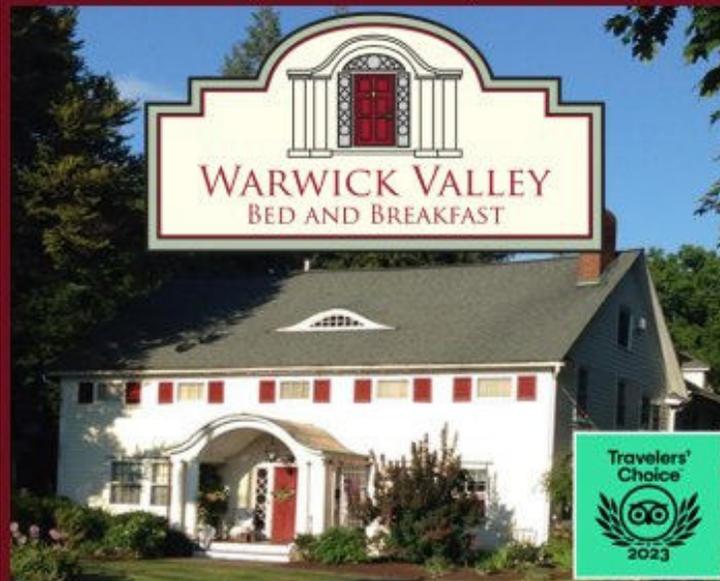
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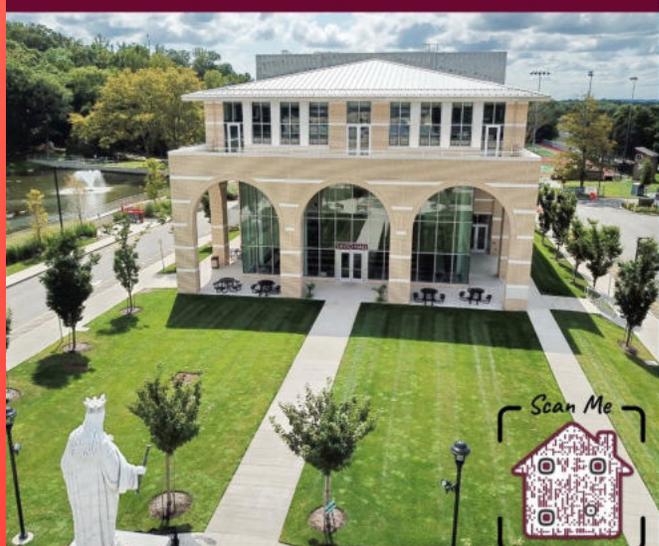
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