

# Record crowd shows up for chat (or maybe it was the coffee)

It must have been the free coffee.

When we invited you to come and meet some of the reporters and editors from The Reporter Dispatch and Tarrytown Daily News at the Sea Star Diner Restaurant in White Plains on Thursday, we figured that maybe a dozen people would show up.

At least 75 of you managed to drop by, making it the most successful diner chat Readers' Editor Gayle Williams said she ever had organized.

Sheesh.

Who would have thought that a bunch of editors, a photographer and a couple of reporters would



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draw such a crowd?

Certainly not me.

It turned out to be a fun, interesting morning. There were lots of questions, story tips and a few complaints, but I think everyone who came enjoyed them-

selves.

Senior Editor Milt Hoffman, Local Editor Nancy Blair and Business Editor Mark Land were pretty much surrounded all morning and probably didn't get a chance to drink much coffee. Photographer Frank Becerra Jr., White Plains reporter Leah Rae and I answered a few questions, too, and had a lot of fun referring the hard stuff to the editors.

What struck me was the variety of people who came.

Some represented organizations and wanted to find out a little bit about how we decide what gets into the paper and how to go about getting in their news.

Others had individual stories to tell or axes to grind.

Some just stopped by to say hi and drink a little coffee.

My favorite piano player, 98-year-old Anna Adams, was there, along with the Rev. Frederick Schumacher, pastor of St. Matthew's Lutheran Church. Margo Jones, executive director of the White Plains Business Development Corp., showed up, too.

Other visitors included Dan Griffin of the Vietnam Veterans Association, Katherine Canaday of the YWCA of White Plains and Bill Sudderth of the Greenburgh Housing Authority.

We even got a few fellow jour-

nalists, who, much to our surprise, came to interview us.

Danny McHale, Colin Minte and Kevin Abels are ace reporters for the OLS Times, the newspaper of Our Lady of Sorrows School in White Plains. They asked us a few questions, gave us a copy of their fine publication and said they planned to feature the diner chat in their next issue. We're all looking forward to reading that.

Anyway, we want to thank all of you for coming and letting us know how we can do our jobs better.

We'd also like to thank Steve Hatzigianakis and Wolf Knob-

lauch from the Sea Star Diner Restaurant. They let us take over a room in the diner during a busy Thursday morning, provided us with good coffee and great muffins, and refused to let us pay for it. They wouldn't take our money, but they agreed to let us make a donation in their name to the White Plains YMCA.

By the way, if you weren't able to make it last week, plans are being made to hold another diner chat soon. We'll keep you posted.

*Richard Liebson's column appears Mondays. Call him at 694-3534.*