

# SUSAN R. KATZ

Susan Katz, Class of 1965, has been bringing cultural excitement, education and the sheer joy of live concert and theater performances to thousands of children and families in Westchester for more than 30 years.

Ms. Katz has deep roots in White Plains. Her mother, Constance, graduated from the High School on Main Street and her dad, Sonny Katz, was the City Marshall of White Plains for 35 years. Ms. Katz attended George Washington School, Church Street, Eastview and was in one of the first classes to graduate from the “new” North Street High School. She then graduated from Berkeley School of Business.

From 1980 to 1982 she developed pioneering cultural programs for the White Plains Department of Recreation and Parks including the Noonday Festival of Live Music, the Pops in the Park concert series and the Fourth of July Celebration.

In 1979 Ms. Katz founded Westco Productions, a non-profit organization “to foster and promote knowledge, understanding and appreciation of live theater”. With Ms. Katz as Executive Director, Westco has more than fulfilled its mission. It has presented nearly 3,000 performances of more than 250 fully-staged productions. More than 600,000 people have seen comedies, dramas and musicals staged at such venues as the Westchester County Center, Rochambeau School, the Irvington Town Hall, the Tarrytown Music Hall and the Emelin Theater.

She has also conceived and developed Westco’s community outreach programs, including *Tickets for Tots* for children in Head Start programs, the *Magic To Do Players* workshop for developmentally disadvantaged children, and *Bedside Buddies* which brings costumed actors to hospitals, critical care facilities and special needs schools.

Westco was named Arts Organization of the Year in 2006 by the Westchester Arts Council and Ms. Katz received the Cab Calloway Lifetime Achievement Award from the Westchester Broadway Theatre for her contributions to the performing arts.

Ms. Katz is married to former ABC newsman Peter Katz. Her three siblings, Michael, Ronald and Deborah all graduated from White Plains High School, as did her daughters Georgette and Melanie.