



**WHITE PLAINS
BEAUTIFICATION
FOUNDATION**

**Come celebrate Arbor Day on Friday, April 25, 10am
at Mamaroneck Avenue School.**



The native Eastern Redbud tree (*Cercis canadensis*) that memorializes Ruth Manecke was chosen by MAS. The tree was planted pro bono by Bartlett Tree Experts under the supervision of Certified Arborist Mike McGowan. Bartlett generously is providing native tree seedlings to students and guests.

Trees are important to our city. They help clean the air of carbon dioxide, provide shady areas during hot summer months, and play an important role in helping to retain soil, which otherwise might wash away during rain events. White Plains has been named Tree City USA each year since 1986 and plants approximately 200 trees annually on city-owned land and rights of way.



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Thank you!

White Plains Beautification is grateful to sponsors and other donors who share our vision and support us. Contributions can be made by mail and on our website.



Ruth Manecke and daughter
Mary Beth Gruber

Her work has inspired generations of children to pursue careers in science, conservation and veterinary medicine.

**You may make a donation by mail
WPBF, P.O. Box 1614, White Plains,
NY 10602 or via our website:
<https://wpbf.org/donate/>**

*White Plains Beautification
Foundation Presents*

ARBOR DAY CELEBRATION 2025



**ILLUSTRATION BY
SOPHIE SANCHEZ, GRADE 2**

**White Plains School District
Mamaroneck Avenue School
April 25, 2025**





MAS Nature Club Members Performing

Hunter Even, "Redbud," poem by Leah Even
Olivia Zappala, "My Tree," poem by Lenore Hetrick
Alexis Ruiz-Mohammed, clarinet, "Lightly Row,"
 "Hot Cross Buns," "Mary Had a Little Lamb"
Asher Saddiqui, "Climate Change," Unknown
 Author
Juliana Cerilli, "Trees," by Harry Behn

The MAS Nature Club was established as a recess activity a year ago at the recommendation of Alexis Ruiz-Mohammed, a lover of animals and all things nature. Now composed of 4th graders, the 10 members are led by parent volunteers, Leah Even and Dymarly Ruiz.

In addition to topics discussed at the Nature Club, including recycling, phases of the moon, pine tree life cycle, and creating bird feeders out of egg cartons, each with a related craft project, students also maintain a garden on the grounds. Other Nature Club members listed below contributed to creating a poster on display at this ceremony.

Alana Rogers Alexander Jones
 Georgina Klein Noah Monick
 Ryan Francis

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Schedule of Events

Welcome

Arbor Day Chair Nancy Giges
 Director, White Plains Beautification
 Foundation

Presentation of the Tree

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Terry Hanson
 President, White Plains Beautification
 Foundation

Presentation of Westchester County Proclamation

Ken Jenkins
 County Executive, Westchester County

Presentation of City of White Plains Proclamation

Thomas Roach
 Mayor, City of White Plains

Presentation of the Tree City USA Flag

Stefania Mignone
 Commissioner, Department of Public
 Works
 City of White Plains

A Word on Behalf of Mamaroneck Avenue School

Brendan McCarthy
 Assistant Principal

Poetry Readings and Musical Performance by MAS Nature Club Members

Hunter Even, *Olivia Zappala*, *Alexis Ruiz-Mohammed*, *Asher Saddiqui*, *Juliana Cerilli*

Special Remarks Honoring the Memory of Ruth Manecke

Mary Beth Gruber
 Ruth Manecke's Daughter

Closing - Nancy Giges



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DEDICATION

Ruth Manecke, director and supporter of WPBF for years, made remarkable contributions not only to our community but also to the education of American children about the importance of the natural world. Her love of animals, study of zoology, and extensive work in zoos with all kinds of animals led to her appointment in the 1960s as staff zoologist/producer of "Captain Kangaroo," children's TV show. The animals she provided taught the importance of empathy, respect, and care for all living creatures. Her ability to explain complex zoological concepts in a simple and engaging way earned her Emmy and Peabody awards. Closer to home, she was instrumental in supporting the White Plains YWCA during covid for which she was honored as a woman of achievement. She also received Proclamations from our Mayor Thomas Roach and former County Executive George Latimer.



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