

# Gorton is Back in Business



Banner greets students as they return back to Gorton after months of hybrid learning.

## In-Person, 4-Day School Week Begins

By Marilyn Rabadi

The four-day, in-person school week sprang into action following the Spring Break for all Yonkers schools and what a day it was for Gorton.

The students were welcomed back with banners, balloons, music, sweet treats, water bottles, and fun and engaging activities in all classes throughout the day. Students were encouraged to drop their books and focus on their social and emotional well-being. This is the first time in more than a year many students have stepped foot into the school building.

Last September, the Yonkers Public Schools adopted a hybrid education model in which students had the option to be fully remote or attend school twice a week and three days virtually. Students were divided into two tracks to limit in-classroom attendance per CDC guidance. On April 12, the student body assembled as one.

It has been so long since the halls were filled with students' laughter. Having missed friends that they have not seen in so long, the conversations with peers and teachers was light and seamless. The students were happy to be back, and we were so happy to have them back.

It felt like life came back into the building. That euphoric and jittery first day feeling that usually happens in September happened in mid-April and it was great. I had students carrying schedules and asking me how to get to their classrooms. One asked

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## Wolf Tales

*The Newsletter of  
Gorton's Class of '65*



April 2021, No. 60

*'Strength of the wolf is in the pack'*



Force players celebrate a touchdown in their 42-19 victory of the Yonkers Brave.

## The Force is With Us—Again

Two weeks after a COVID protocol abruptly canceled the home opener between the Force and the Brave, a last-minute schedule change breathed new life into the intracity football rivalry.

The scoreboard showed the Force winning 42-19 but it was a victory for all the student-athletes of Yonkers' beleaguered city football program. A scant four years ago, school officials took the bold step to save Yonkers football by transforming the eight-member

league into two viable football teams.

A lot of effort went into making this move, more than drawing Xs and Os. The total citywide effort was evident again prior to April's showdown.

"I am so proud and honored to be a part of the Yonkers Force," head coach Dan DeMatteo, Class of 1994, said. "The support that we receive is truly amazing."

See *FORCE* on Page 6



**CAN'T MASK THEIR HAPPINESS**—Yvonne Sullivan Priceless split their Easter weekend visiting both daughters and their families. From left, Prairie Sky with her easter basket; Felicity, Kira (daughter), Aspen, Yvonne and Greg, Aiyla and Ryan; and Prairie, Taryn (daughter) and Mike.



**LOVE FITS LIKE A GLOVE**—Joan Lawless Kennedy holds her newest grandchild, Pace Joseph Kennedy.



**EASTER MASS**—Janet Guyon Hanford and Beau (middle row, right), visit their family in Massachusetstts. Top row: Mike; middle row, Kyle and Lindsay, and bottom row, grandchildren Taylor (holding "Janay"), Ryan and Will.



**AFTER THE HUNT**—Marc sits between his mom and dad, Lorna and Barry Jacobs, after the egg hunt. Left to right: Dalton Potter and granddaughter Valerie Rhodes; Marc's son Tyler Jacobs and girlfriend, Macy. Marc's wife took the picture. There were 1,200 eggs filled with money, candy, and numbers redeemable for prizes!

## '65 Zoom on May 5

The next GHS 65 Zoom chat will be held on Wednesday, May 5, at 8 p.m., EDT, to accommodate more attendees. If you haven't received an invitation by May 4, and would like to be included, just Ask Janet at [jthanford@gmail.com](mailto:jthanford@gmail.com).

May the 4th be with you and you with us on the 5th! Grab your margaritas and celebrate Cinco de Mayo with your classmates across the country.



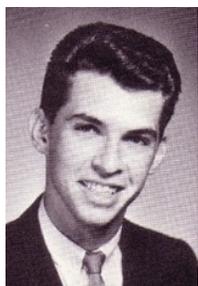
Missed an issue of Wolf Tales? Want to catch up? Click [here](#) for all our Wolf Tales issues.



**TIME FOR OLD GRANDDAD**—Frank McGlinchey gets a little Easter loving from his granddaughters Savannah and Eleanore.



**A NEW BEGINNING**—Trish Jenkins Zinn, who recently moved to California, celebrated her 74th birthday with a backyard tea with a friend, a mani/pedi with her granddaughter and birthday meals and cakes with her family.



## Alumni News

# The Birth Of Gorton

The construction of Charles E. Gorton High School, which began in 1922, was widely supported and desperately needed but that doesn't mean it wasn't without contentious challenges and controversies.

A combination of cost overruns, unplanned (or poorly planned) add-on expenses and a 30-day work stoppage by the stone layers union for an extra \$1 per day salary all brought the work on the new Gorton High School under financial scrutiny.

Even back in the day, modern era challenges took place. The \$590,000 construction budget included an additional \$100,000 for the purchase of the land, which was once part of the St. Andrew's Golf Club. Additional requests for capital started to flow in after previously approved estimates by architects and contractors proved to be woefully short of reality.

Before one shovel full of dirt was turned, the projected cost exceeded \$1 million.

The groundbreaking took place on Dec. 18, 1922 and the following year was marked by delays and underestimated expenses. The building was always planned for 800 students, with a planned expansion to 1,200. However, requests for additional funding included more desks and cafeteria equipment...items well-known in the upfront estimates. Then a classic delay set in...the green slate roof.

The vein of green slate being mined by the quarry ran out. The only available color vein

See BIRTH on Page 4

## NEW GORTON SCHOOL, OPENED TODAY



### Shoe Firm Pays \$85,000 For North Broadway Building

**A. S. Beck Shoe Company Purchases Three-Story Double Brick Building At 16 North Broadway, Assessed By City For \$62,000**

The A. S. Beck Shoe Company has purchased the three-story double brick building at 16 North Broadway, it was announced today by Samuel J. Tankoos, of Tankoos, Smith and Company, brokers, 11 John Street, New York City. The property was sold by Arthur Lindau, cloak and gown manufacturer of New York City, who was represented by A. M. Davis, 233 Broadway, New York City. The price is reported to be close to \$85,000. The property is assessed at \$62,500 in the 1925 assessment rolls.

The A. S. Beck Company now occupies the first floor of the building. Half of the upper floor is taken by the Square Credit Clothing Company and the top floor by the North Apparel Co., Inc., dress manufacturers.

Mr. Lindau purchased the building about two years ago from the Schulte Cigar Stores Company.

The A. S. Beck Shoe Company will acquire title Dec. 1 and it is understood that the building will undergo extensive alterations.

Another New York store will locate in Yonkers the first of November when a branch of the Yardstick Store, of 736 Nostrand Avenue, Brooklyn, operated by Maxwell and Sijberman, will open at 13 Pallsade Avenue.

The firm, through Charles Wieland and Sons, real estate brokers, 11 1/2 Pallsade Avenue, has leased the premises formerly occupied by Jordan, the fruit dealer, for three years. Charles Kleme of Warburton Avenue is the owner. The store is on a plot of ground 25 feet in width and 70 feet long.

### Withdrew Charges Against Officers

### Only One Ossining Cop To Be Tried In "Expose"

OSSINING, Oct. 8.—The sensational "expose" of the Ossining Police Department which burst forth in a flare, a few weeks ago, with the circulated rumors that officers had stolen a quart of Scotch whiskey from the chief's room, weakly

### Schoolgirl Finds Aged Grandmother Overcome By Gas

### Sleeping Woman Rendered Unconscious By Fumes From Open Jet

Overcome by gas which seeped from an open jet in the kitchen range as she lay asleep at her home, yesterday afternoon, Mrs. Bridget O'Brien, 84 years old, who lives with her daughter, Mrs. Catherine Warren, at 49 Chestnut Street, narrowly escaped death.

When Mrs. Warren went out for the afternoon her mother said that she wished to take a nap. Shortly after 4 o'clock, Mrs. Warren's young daughter returned home from school and noticed the odor of gas. Instantly alarmed, the girl began to search through the rooms.

In a bedroom the school girl found her grandmother, apparently lying asleep. She tried to wake her but received no response from the aged woman. She ran to the front of the house to get aid just as her mother returned, the police reported.

Mrs. Warren called the police and opened the windows. Searching about the house for the source of the gas, she found that a jet in the kitchen range had accidentally been left open.

Patrolman Edward Thomas of the First Precinct was sent to the house

### Gorton School Opening Relieves Over-Crowding

### Mayor Stresses Citizens' Responsibilities In His Talk To Students

Relief from the crowding they suffered in the old high school building on South Broadway came for over 800 students today when they entered their classrooms in the new million-dollar Charles E. Gorton High School, which was opened with a program of speeches by city officials and members of the Board of Education this morning after a delay of six weeks.

The ceremonies, lasting over two hours, were held in the auditorium of the new school, which is at Park Avenue and Shonnard Place, and this afternoon the students were given a half holiday.

Though not yet complete, the building is now in a condition where full occupancy is possible there remaining to be finished only the gymnasium and a few rooms on the ground floor.

In the course of the addresses many of the speakers expressed their regret at the bereavement of the principal of the school, George L. Bennett, whose father died yesterday morning.

References also were made to the late Superintendent of Schools, Charles E. Gorton, for whom the building is named.

On the platform were Mayor Wiesendanger, Dr. Benjamin W. Stillwell, president of the Board of Education; Richard Edie, jr., vice-president; Isidore J. Beaudrias, Miss Lucie F. Vance, Mrs. Ruth Sites Brown, a former member of the board, Thomas Ewing a former member of the board, Superintendent of Schools Hodge, William Riley, Commander of Freedom Post, Grand Army of the Republic; Francis X. Donoghue, Deputy Superintendent of Schools Williams, and the Rev. Alvah S. Hobart, pastor emeritus of the Warburton Avenue Baptist Church.

The Yonkers High School Orchestra, under the direction of Victor L. F. Rebmann, Director of Music in the Yonkers Public Schools, rendered several selections during the course of the ceremonies which were

# A Raye of Hope While Serving In Vietnam

By Kevin Henry

Sometime in late 1967, I was fortunate to see *Hello Dolly* but it wasn't on Broadway and the star wasn't Carol Channing—it was Martha Raye and she was performing in a jungle clearing in Vietnam called Xuan Loc where I was stationed with the 11th Armored Calvary unit.

The comedienne/actress nicknamed “The Big Mouth,” was touring Nam with the USO along with Bob Hope and other Hollywood celebs. When she sang, “There's a world outside of Yonkers” in the song, *Put On Your Sunday Clothes*, I got teased by my buddies—“Hey Henry, ain't that where



LET'S HEAR IT FOR THE BOYS—Col. Maggie, center, poses with the troops in Nam.

you're from?”

Martha started entertaining troops during WWII and continued through Korea and Vietnam. She became an honorary Green Beret and visited U.S. Army Special Forces at their remote camps in Vietnam without fanfare. They called her Colonel Maggie.

It meant so much to us that we were in her thoughts because she could have stayed safely in Hollywood. She had a life-long fear of flying, so you can imagine what it was like for her crossing the Pacific. She was known to have “one too many” to muster up the courage to fly.

See **MARTHA** on Page 5

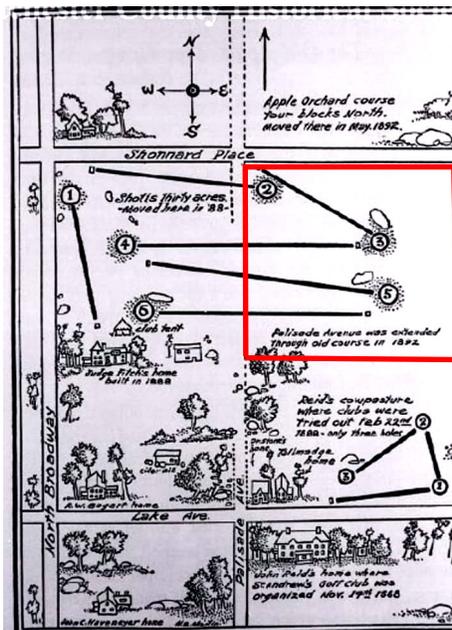
## **BIRTH** (from Page 3)

was purple; green would not be available until the purple vein was mined out. That delay snowballed down to other contractors and vendors who were unable to complete their work until the roof was finished.

Gorton's problems were not unique. Hawthorne Junior High and Roosevelt High School also started construction and were behind from the get-go. In Roosevelt's case, it started with the property. The surveyor made a serious error that wasn't discovered until a majority of the property was graded, setting that project back months from its intended onset.

In mid-stream of the Gorton construction, a similar high school was being constructed in Patchogue, NY. The planned student count—800—just like Gorton. The building size and land, just like Gorton. The Patchogue construction and buildout budget--\$500,000—was half of Gorton's budget. With no other facts or figures in hand, an inquiry began as to why there was such a discrepancy in these projects.

By early 1924, the furor of expense over-



Red denotes Gorton's site in relation to the old St. Andrew's Golf Course.

runs seemed to subside, even though additional expenses were still trickling in. The local headlines from early 1924 shifted to concerns about which school, Gorton or Yonkers, would represent the city in the WIAA (Westchester Interscholastic Athletic Association). Having two schools from the same city would give Yonkers an

unfair advantage in claiming the county-wide sports titles.

Finally, on Oct. 8, 1924, Gorton High School opened its doors. A two-hour ceremony dedicated the building and the Yonkers' commitment to education. Cost overruns, political squabbles and any remaining difficulties were swept under the rug. The banner headline read, *Gorton School Opening Relieves Over-Crowding*.

As a sign of friendship and goodwill, the Yonkers High School Band rendered several selections throughout the ceremony, which opened with the reading of the 23rd Psalm. Newspaper coverage proclaimed that overcrowding in Yonkers schools was coming to an end and that the record graduating class of 242 at Yonkers High School—the school's largest—would stand for years to come and may never be broken.

Little did they know, 100 years later, that overcrowding would continue to haunt the Yonkers school district.

**Bill Tolany is the president of the Charles E. Gorton High School Alumni Association and a member of the Class of 1964.**



**Martha Raye receives full military honors by the Green Berets in the Special Forces cemetery at Fort Bragg, NC.**

**MARTHA (from Page 4)**

She was married seven times. I guess she had one too many in other aspects of her life. Most of her marriages lasted less than two years, and her first marriage lasted only three months. Her marriage to Nick Condos from March 9, 1944, to June 17, 1953, resulted in the birth of her only child, Melodye Raye Condos on July 26, 1944.

She was featured in dozens of musical and comedy films spanning five decades beginning with *Rhythm on the Range* in 1936, *The Big Broadcast of 1937*, *The Boys from Syracuse* and *The Concorde: Airport '79*.

In addition to two stars on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, a year after performing in the jungles of Vietnam, she became the first woman honored with Motion Picture Academy's Jean Hersholt Humanitarian Award

In November of 1993, after a long and drawn-out series of illnesses, Martha was presented with the Presidential Medal of Freedom by President Clinton. She suffered from Alzheimer's and had lost both legs in 1993 due to circulatory problems. She died of pneumonia at 78 on Oct. 19, 1994, in Los Angeles. A great animal lover, Martha left a portion of her estate to PETA—another reason she's my hero.

In appreciation of her work with the USO during World War II, Korea and Vietnam, she was buried with full military honors in the Special Forces cemetery at Fort Bragg, NC, by the Green Berets who loved her. Col. Maggie, I salute you. I just may "have one too many" in your honor!

**Kevin Henry is a member of the Class of 1965 and a decorated Vietnam veteran.**



**A ROSY TOMORROW TODAY—A year after the start of the pandemic, the '65 gang reconvene at Rosy Tomorrows, fully vaccinated and sans masks with outdoor dining, to welcome Rick and Emily Maher to our Danbury hideout. From left, Steve Tuers, Jo Harter Irish, Yvonne Sullivan Price, Rick, Ursula Belle Healy and Emily.**

**OPEN (from Page One)**

me if I could show him the way to the gym. I did more than that—I gave him my personal escort.

It is no surprise that Gorton High School had one of the highest attendances for in-person instruction out of all eight high schools in our district and our numbers continue to grow.

The global pandemic has taken its toll on families and children. Children have not been able to engage in their normal routines, sit in a classroom with friends and teachers, visit extended family or participate in social activities without a mask. What might seem like a small step forward in actuality was quite huge.

Waking up and coming to school four days a week had these students excited about school, excited about learning and most importantly, excited to socialize again.

Yonkers Public Schools has taken extra measures to ensure the safety of our students and staff by installing plexiglass barriers on students' and teachers' desks. Our custodial staff has been working diligently to make sure all touch surfaces are sanitized following the health and safety measures put forth by the CDC and state Education Department.

As I walk the halls, I see students and staff following all the protocols that have been in place since September. Even with the masks on, you can see that they're happy to be back.

A school is not a school without children in it. We look forward to having all our students return and continue down this successful road and finish this school year on a high note.

**Marilyn Rabadi is a teacher at Gorton and a proud member of the Class of 2000.**



Coach DeMatteo confers with a player; takes the Ice Bucket Challenge after the game; and watches offensive star Elijah Cordero rush for a touchdown.



### **FORCE** (from Page One)

Some of that support included motivational speeches on Thursday night from YPD Keith Olson and Autumn Edwards as well as former Super Bowl Champion and Yonkers native Jimmy Kennedy (a Roosevelt grad) dropping everything to do FaceTime with a player who was struggling and needed to hear his inspirational message.

DeMatteo thanked the administrations of the four schools that make up the Force for their support of the program and his coaching capabilities. He also thanked Gorton Principal Will Shaggura for believing in him and giving him the flexibility to run such a complex program from Gorton while training at Roosevelt.

DeMatteo also singled out Roosevelt’s Principal Ed DeChent for allowing the game to be switched to Roosevelt at the last minute and took on the safety and security responsibility.

The Yonkers Police Department, which sponsors dinners before every game, arranged a fly over as the game started. All the board members and central office administrators were in attendance to show support. The NY Giants awarded both Force and Brave programs with a \$10,000 equipment grant prior to the game and rookie Giant cornerback Darnay Holmes spoke with both teams on Wednesday.

The post-game ceremonies, which had the awarding of the Superintendent’s Trophy,

also featured an Ice Bucket challenge with Coach D taking the bath in memory of Pat Quinn, a Yonkers resident and co-founder of the Ice Bucket Challenge.

“He was important to me,” DeMatteo told *The Journal News*. “He was tremendous to us. He spoke to us twice. The kids had a real bond with him. This is a tradition we’ll carry forward.”

DeMatteo also thanked the coaching staffs as well as players of both teams who played with passion, toughness and respect. “Nobody has GRIT like a kid from Yonkers. It truly takes a village,” DeMatteo said.

For the record, the Force’s Elijah Cordero of the Yonkers Montessori Academy was the Offensive Player of the Game while the Brave’s Brandon Kane of Lincoln was named Defensive Player of the Game. The Force represents the Yonkers police; the Brave represent the city’s fire department.

Yonkers Force is made up by students from Gorton, Roosevelt, Yonkers Montessori Academy and Yonkers High School. Students from Lincoln, Palisade Prep, Riverside and Saunders make up the Brave.

***Coach Dan DeMatteo teaches at Gorton High School and is a 1994 graduate.***



**SOCCKER TO ME**—Steve Tuers, wearing a white hat in the rear, “photo bombs” a selfie taken by the soccer coach following the game against Lincoln.

## Priceless Memories



### The Old Man And the Sea

My eldest granddaughter face-timed me last week, to tell me that she was reading *A Farewell to Arms*, by Ernest Hemingway.

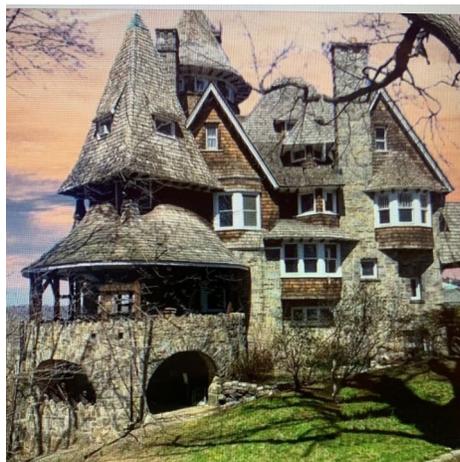
I responded enthusiastically and told her I would be interested to hear what she thought about it, once she finished. We often recommend books to each other, read some together and then discuss them. This one came as a surprise.

I have not picked up a Hemingway book since I was her age. It was also *A Farewell to Arms*, followed by, *The Old Man and the Sea*. I never liked his writing. If memory serves me, I found it to be too stark, too masculine and too brutal for my young, admittedly innocent-self back then. I also recall that there was something I disliked about his view of women, the ways he described them, how he had them speak and respond as characters. I cannot remember specifics, but I do recall that reaction. Perhaps it was simply from bits and pieces I had read about him, I can't be sure.

And here he was again, quite unexpectedly and serendipitously landing in my lap during that face-time; Hemingway himself. I say serendipitously because, as fate would have it, the very next week PBS aired a three-night, six-hour documentary by Ken Burns on, yes, Ernest Hemingway.

The first hour had me second guessing my literary intelligence. How could I have missed the genius, the incredible writing skills, including, but not limited to, the

See **PRICELESS** on Page 8



This Park Hill 31-room charmer offers a million dollar view of the Hudson.



## Did You Know?

### A 'Housing Project' Like No Other

Long before there was Levittown, Yonkers had its own planned community—Park Hill—and it was definitely more upscale.

In 1858, the Manhattan-based American Real Estate Co. began buying land in southwest Yonkers from one of Yonkers' leading citizens: Robert Parkhill Getty.

The company had plans to develop an upper-middle class residential neighborhood, built on a 300-foot plateau that would provide spectacular views of the Hudson River and nearby Manhattan. It would also be a short commute to downtown Manhattan.

In 1888, the neighborhood began to be developed as one of the first planned communities in the New York metropolitan area. The neighborhood's centerpiece was to be the Hendrick Hudson

Hotel designed by Bruce Price, the architect of the Chateau Frontenac in Quebec City. Unfortunately, shortly before the planned opening of the hotel, it burned to the ground. Despite the loss of the hotel, the area flourished.

The Park Hill Racquet Club was established in 1892 as the Park Hill Country Club. That too burned to the ground in 1962 but was soon rebuilt. Today, the club continues to be a vital part of Park Hill and Yonkers, bringing family and friends together.

Public School 13, located at the corner of Park Hill and McLean, opened in 1900. It originally had five classrooms, an auditorium and an office. Its "rural" location was originally considered as "out of the way" since there were no trolleys or buses to transport the students.

Today, Park Hill contains many vintage single-family homes—they range from large Victorians, Tudor Revivals, Arts and Crafts and Georgian Colonials. Recently a Victorian mansion, once the home of E.K. Martin, the president of American Real Estate Co. who developed Park Hill, came on the market.

See **PARK HILL** on Page 8

**PRICELESS** (from Page 7)

mastery of short sentences that hold a universe of meaning and pathos, ethos, and probably any number of other "thos."

Edna O'Brien, a favorite author of mine, declared that rather than denigrating women, he actually demonstrated a deep understanding of them, in some of his most controversial stories.

As I watched the first two hours, I admit to putting up roadblocks on this tarmac to adulation. He was a man fascinated by and drawn to blood sports and violence: wars, bull fights, big-game hunting. Definitely not my kind of man.

BUT, I have decided to revisit *For Whom the Bell Tolls*, so as to have a good discussion with my soon-to-be college-student-granddaughter. I also want to discover what I must have missed.

I will not be watching the last four hours of the documentary, until after those two things have been accomplished, the reading and the discussion. I don't want to be influenced by world-renowned writers and literary scholars, as they explain why he is the greatest author of modern times.

I am most excited to hear what my granddaughter thinks about the book. How might her generational and age perspectives compare to mine and will I be enlightened and convinced of his genius by revisiting him after decades?

Whatever the outcome, I have removed the road blocks and proceeded ahead. It remains to be seen whether it ends up being my way, the highway, or the Hemingway.

***Yvonne Sullivan Price was queen of the '65 senior prom and is a retired school administrator.***

# Lovesick Lobo Checks Out Monterey

We owe this installment of *Dancing With the Wolves* to Joe Mikulsky (C65) who spotted newspaper reports of a gray wolf (OR -93) who made the scene at Monterey, CA, along with college spring breakers.



**Dancing With the Wolves**

According to reports, young wolves leaving Oregon for adventures and mates in California are nothing new but this is the first to travel this far southwest since the 1800s.

According to Amaroq Weiss of the Center of Biological Diversity, "It's like an 18-year-old kid leaving home for the first time, going off to college or wherever they are going and establishing themselves," he said.

The length of his pursuit of happiness and its perils make this adventure noteworthy. In 2016, the state published its wolf plan and



estimated it could sustain nearly 500 wolves in Northern California and the Sierras.

"OR-93 has stepped beyond the southern Sierra Foothills and come farther west, that's really remarkable," Weiss said.

As the male presses further south, toward civilization, his journey becomes ever more perilous. A GPS tracking collar showed the almost 2-year-old wolf had crossed Highway 99, one of the area's busiest roads.

"We don't know where this wolf will be going next," said Jordan Traverso of the California Department of Fish and Wildlife.

Because there's no natural prey base for wolves in the Fresno area (deer or elk) to sustain them, the threat to livestock becomes real. "Fortunately, California livestock producers are already worried about coyotes and mountain lions," Traverso said. "But we don't have a lot of ranchers in this state who want to go out and kill a wolf."



**Park Hill Racquet Club (above) was established in 1892 as the Park Hill Country Club; Public School 13 originally had five classrooms, an auditorium and an office.**

**PARK HILL** (from Page 7)

For a mere \$1.3 million you can become the owner of a 31-room, six-floor home with panoramic views of Manhattan and the Hudson River.

Dubbed "The Castle of Park Hill," the house sits on an acre of land including a buildable lot. The home has nine bedrooms, 6 ½ bath-



rooms, eight fireplaces, two wrap around porches, a chapel and four large living rooms.

However, the kitchen is rather small and there's no central air—a small price to pay for this one-of-a-kind home!

***Joan Lawless Kennedy (C65) is a member of the Yonkers Historical Society.***

## Ask Janet



# April is a Fool's Game

Dear Janet,  
Do people play April Fool's tricks anymore?  
Tom Foolery

Dear Tom,

April Fool's Day in our family can't come and go without playing at least one trick on someone. It happened this year at my son's house and mainly involved his children and his brother.

The day started off with Ryan, Will and Taylor offering specially prepared Oreos. They replaced the double-stuffed Oreos with double-purposed filling. A chocolatey treat filled with minty fresh toothpaste that prevented cavities with every bite. For a less telltale odor, they filled some of the Oreos with mayonnaise. They offered these cookies to their parents, neighbors and Uncle Mike, when he arrived for an Easter visit.

While the children enjoyed tricking others, Taylor was disappointed that no one had "April Fooled" her. This is where Uncle Mike jumped into action and offered a special concoction to his niece that she simply couldn't refuse. It was Princess Peach Juice that he told her is Taylor Swift's favorite drink, so she swiftly began to sip right through a straw.

BLAAAAHHHH!!! It was made up of juice, water and vinegar. April Fool!

Taylor, being the spirited young lady of six that she is, really liked this idea of playing tricks and had anticipated this day for months, so she set to work to get back at Uncle Mike. Her first trick was to simply  
**See ASK JANET on Page 10**



Top row, L-R: Canada Warbler; Black-throated Blue Warbler; Chestnut-sided Warbler; Middle row, L-R: Northern Parula Warbler; Golden-winged Warbler; Black-throated green Warbler; Bottom row, L-R: Black-and-white Warbler; Blackburnian Warbler.

## Nature's Tiny Bug Zappers

It is spring!

Not only does a colorful array of flowers appear with the warming weather, but also an army of insects. "Egad!" you say, "The horror!"

But wait, my friends, because to most of our avian friends, insects are a bonanza of food that makes it worthwhile to travel up to 5,000 miles for a good meal. If it weren't for all that miniscule flying, creeping, crawling protein, those migratory birds would simply stay at home in the tropics.

To our delight, among these migrants are waves of warblers, tiny jewels that somehow annually fly from as far away as South America to the temperate and boreal forests of North America. Thirty-five species of these colorful birds make that dangerous journey to eastern North America every spring simply to find good and safe places to breed and nest, all



with plenty of nourishment for their young.

How small are these warblers? You could put three of them in an envelope and mail it with one first-class stamp!

One final thought on why we need to protect these tiny adventurers and their wide variety of habitats; if we don't, all those insects they eat will be eating us!

Here's an assortment of warblers that annually migrate to the eastern USA from tropical America. Get out your binoculars and see if you can spot some where you live.

**Sam Fried (C65) has seen and photographed almost every bird species in North America.**

## Parry's Ponderings



### Better Than The Improved

Read the on-line reviews of just about any product and you will find that almost, without fail, the overwhelming consensus of opinion is that the original product, before it was "improved" or "updated," was better.

### Just for The Record

Many young people today don't know what it means when someone says, "You sound like a broken record"...CLICK!...broken record...CLICK!...broken record..."

But we know what it means.

**Don Parry (C65) was awarded Westchester's Safest Teenage Driver Award and is a Vietnam War veteran.**

## Tiger & Trebek Go On and On

A lot of things are up for debate but two things are certain—Tiger Woods can't drive and Alex Trebek is dead.

Before you light up the torches and sharpen the pitch forks, I don't hate Trebek. His nightly presence was as reassuring as seeing Guy Lombardo and his Canadians every New Year's Eve.

Our northern neighbors are like that, with the possible exception of Justin Beiber. They're the world's catnip, a soothing antidote. Think Gordon Lightfoot, Leonard Cohen, Lorne Greene, Neil Young and William Shatner. Without them there would have been no Edmond Fitzgerald, Hallelujah, Bonanza, Harvest Moon or Capt. Kirk chasing every female alien lifeform in the universe.

We watched Trebek for more than 30 years and saw his fight against pancreatic cancer in tabloids and on TV. We lost Barbara Blodgett Lutkenbach (C65) and Jeff Lohrfink (C59) to that dreaded disease. Trebek died on Nov. 8, 2020. His last show



## Editor's Notebook

was aired on Jan. 8, 2021. You do the math.

For some reason I'll never fathom, he taped 25 shows an hour to continue a legacy that was already richly deserved despite his snarky know-it-all attitude to the answers written out before him.

Since his TV death, there have been a host of tryouts sandwiched between glowing tributes to Trebek. He's had a longer sendoff than King Tut. Please, enough. He didn't invent the cure for polio. Pick someone (not Dr. Oz or Ryan Seacrest) and move on. And, while we're turning a page, that leads me to Tiger.

Unlike Don Parry (C65), who won Westchester's Safest Teen Driver two years running, Tiger is the last person you want to see behind the wheel of your Uber. His latest venture down life's highway almost killed him. They had to pry

**See EDITOR on Page 11**

### ASK JANET (from Page 9)

draw a dark black spider on the toilet paper roll, a very deceiving replica for sure.

Lindsay soon joined in the fun to help her daughter retaliate. They prepared the piece-de-resistance...chocolate covered cake pops, complete with rainbow sprinkles that they served for dessert that night. The pops had a bit of crunch to them since they were actually chocolate covered Brussel sprouts!!!

Throughout the day, Taylor jumped out of nowhere to surprise us with a loud "Boo.. The potential adrenaline surge makes this not a good trick to play, especially on aging hearts. I nearly killed my grandmother doing that when I was four.

It was time to retaliate, but how?

It was time for Kyle to take revenge on his daughter and brother. He resorted to the trick that worked every time. He rubber-banded the sprayer at the kitchen sink so it was cocked and ready to "attack" when the water was turned on. Kyle asked his "innocent" little daughter to wash a dish that she had used and she reluctantly obliged, not because she suspected anything but because she's six and that's what they do!

Gotcha! Of course we all laughed and she laughed the loudest of all. He had outfoxed the fox.

With playing tricks still on her mind April 2, we had to tell her the scary boos weren't a good idea.

April 4, Easter Sunday, brought another

round of tricks. It seems that the Easter Bunny had help filling the plastic eggs. It was Taylor and Uncle Mike back in action.

This time they filled six eggs with "special" treats...an old penny, dry leaves, a slice of shriveled cucumber, a little packet of soy sauce and as Ryan discovered... "I got freakin' mustard!"

I must say that everyone had fun playing these tricks. Taylor just has to learn to keep a poker face. In the meantime, I think I'll teach her how to play poker on her allowance day! What a mean "Mimi" am I! As Bugs Bunny would say, "Ain't I a stinkuh?"

**Janet Guyon Hanford (C65) is a former cheerleader and was voted Most Versatile by her '65 senior class.**



**GOLDEN COUPLE**—Alice and I celebrate our 50th.



## Tuers De Force

# Golden Years We Remember

*“The richness of life lies in the memories we have forgotten.”*

On March 27, 1971, Alice and I tied the knot. After celebrating 50 years of marriage this year with the family, we took a nostalgic look back at that year.

As an avid golfer, I remember astronaut Alan Shepard’s golf shot on the moon in February. In March, I was one of the patrons at RKO Proctors in Yonkers to watch undefeated Joe Frazier defeat then undefeated Muhammad Ali in the “fight of the century” on closed circuit. It cost me \$20 then. Today, with inflation, it would have been \$130 and still worth it.

What other 1971 memories? CBS had one of my favorite shows, *All In The Family*,

**See TUERS on Page 12**

# Ellen’s Job Helps Us Stay Awake

Ellen Datlow’s job is to keep you awake at night—and she’s very good at it.

She’s won numerous awards for her editing including Hugos, Shirley Jacksons, Bram Stokers, and Life Achievement awards from the World Fantasy Convention and the Horror Writers Association.



Her journey into the macabre dates back to her childhood and through high school at Gorton where she graduated in 1967. “I mostly preferred fiction with weirdness in it,” Ellen said, citing Eleanor Cameron’s “mushroom planet” books, *Bullfinch’s Mythology*, *The Odyssey* (not the *Iliad*, too boring) and short stories by Hawthorne and Poe. “I then moved on to Harlan Ellison, Ray Bradbury, Richard Matheson, and H.P. Lovecraft.”



**Where are They Now?**

**ELLEN DATLOW, Class of ‘67  
Albany State, Fiction Editor**

TV shows such as *The Twilight Zone*, *The Outer Limits*, *One Step Beyond*, *Thriller* (hosted by Boris Karloff) and *Alfred Hitchcock Presents* also helped fan her flames for the genre.

For more than 40 years after graduating from SUNY at Albany, she’s been editing science fiction, fantasy, and horror short fiction as fiction editor at OMNI Magazine and editor of *Event Horizon* and *SCIFICTION*. She currently acquires short fiction and novellas for Tor.com. And if that’s not enough for you to keep your lights on, she’s edited almost a hundred science fiction, fantasy, and horror anthologies.

**See DATLOW on Page 12**



## **EDITOR** (from Page 10)

him out of the wreckage and then the facts of the crash from authorities. Spoiler alert: He was speeding. Doh!

Some suggested that he may have hit the wrong pedal. Tap the brake, he’s 45. Mistaking the gas with the brake is our generation’s excuse for ending up in a shoe store while still behind the wheel.

At least they gave up trying to compare Tiger’s self-inflicted accident with that of Ben Hogan’s horrific 1949 crash when a Greyhound bus hit him and his wife head-on in a dense Texan fog. Hogan suffered a double-fracture of the pelvis, a fractured collar bone, a left ankle fracture and near-fatal blood clots.

Tiger’s crash left him with multiple leg

fractures, a shattered ankle and a bruised ego. Fortunately there are doctors, or in Tiger’s case, spin doctors. With Tiger missing the Masters, it was Code Blue.

There were video highlights and pre-packaged tributes. During a weather delay, CBS rolled out footage of Tiger’s 2019 Masters victory, ignoring Gary Player’s 50th anniversary victory (the first international winner) or the 35th anniversary of Jack Nicklaus’ 1986 win (the oldest winner.)

Tiger will eventually play golf again and Jeopardy will eventually have a new host. Meanwhile, we’re burning daylight living in the past.

**Alex Poletsky (C65) is a retired journalist and managing editor of Wolf Tales.**

—Obituary—

**ALLEN CREWS (C'67)**

**Sept. 21, 1948 - March 11, 2021**

Allen Crews of Yonkers, a member of the 1967 Gorton graduation class and the school's basketball team, died March 11 at the age of 71.

He was a retired employee of Verizon Wireless.

Deana Solomon said he "mentored me during my teen years in Runyon Heights as a basketball player. He believed in me and that made me believe in myself. My son then played for Crews. He was a great man."



Classmate Joel Leffler wrote, "I had the pleasure and privilege to be a classmate and teammate of Al at GHS and witness his incredible skills and artistry on the basketball court. I

remember him fondly and he will be missed."

Donna McKinley Kennedy called him a "fellow coach and friend, I can never forget the days we coached teams throughout the city of Yonkers. We disagreed about calls, but in the end we laughed it off until the next game, remaining friends for over 40 years."

A fellow classmate, Neil Ginsburg, added these thoughts: "Allen and I were friends in high school. I always felt good after we would talk to each other. He was a good friend (and) a kind man."



**Sonny Winstead C73 (second from right) and Dr. Jim Bostic C71 (center) are joined by colleagues at the Nepperhan Community Center before services for Allen Crews.**

**DATLOW (from Page 11)**

When she's not reading for work, she enjoys reading James Lee Burke, Elizabeth Hand, Jonathan Carroll, and William Gibson.

Ellen recently copped an East village apartment with an elevator after living in 3- and 5-story walkups on the west side for 40 years. "It was time. I've got too many friends and colleagues who have died from falls."

If you want to get into the Halloween spirit this fall, Ellen has a trilogy of terror in store: The Best Horror of the Year, Volume Thirteen, all reprints of stories originally published in 2020 (Night Shade); When Things Get Dark: Stories Inspired by Shirley Jackson, all new stories (Titan); and Body Shocks: Extreme Tales of Body Horror, all reprints (Tachyon).



**TUERS (from Page 11)**

and The Odd Couple was on ABC. The Ed Sullivan Show, which I watched faithfully with my family, was cancelled. Its last musical guests were Gladys Knight and the Pips.

The Pittsburgh Pirates won the 1971 World Series victory. It brought back bitter memories from 1960 when the Bucs beat my Yanks in the 1960 World Series on a Bill Mazeroski walk-off homerun. Coach Volpe let us listen to the game during Junior High basketball practice in the girls' gym.

We bought a 1971 Ford Torino, two-door hardtop for \$3,200 and we were paying around 40 cents a gallon of gas. I was a huge milk drinker. Alice says a gallon ran about \$1 or a little more.

Did you know the singer Mary J Bligh, a Yonkers girl from the Schlobohm Houses, was born in January 1971?

Speaking of music, there was You've Got a Friend by James Taylor and I Feel the Earth Move by Carole King. I still hear myself humming those tunes.

In 1971, I was playing shortstop for the Brothers, a Lake Avenue Slow-Pitch Men's Softball Team that won multiple state and regional championships. Alice and I later "celebrated" by taking in The French Connection at RKO's.

Luckily for us we haven't forgotten 1971 and all those wonderful years that followed.

**Steve Tuers was a member of Gorton's championship basketball team and is a lifelong resident of Yonkers.**



HEY, YOU NEVER KNOW WHEN—This has nothing to do with the story below but it does, somehow, fit. Thanks, Joan Kennedy, for sending it our way.

## Sam's Daughter Gives Ailing Cat Another Life

It was a Sunday morning and the medical team at Dakin Humane Society in Springfield, MA, had a very sick kitty on their hands.

Enter Sam Fried's daughter, Dr. Becky Fried Carroll.



Shiloh, a 2 ½-year-old longhaired, hadn't eaten for several days and suffered from a possible uterus infection. She was given pain medication and the plan was to remove the uterus via spay surgery two days later due to staff scheduling.

An X-ray, however, showed that Shiloh needed help--STAT.

Veterinary Technician Meg Delaney sent the image to Sam's daughter, the clinic's medical director who was shopping with her son, Ryan. "The X-ray showed that the uterus was just about ready to rupture," Dr. Carroll said. "I knew the surgery had to be that day."

An ongoing snowstorm ruled out any chance of finding a babysitter, so Dr. Carroll and her son began their hour-plus ride to

See **SHILOH** on Page 14

## Glory Days, Time Slips Away...



**THE KING AND HIS COURT**—Coach John Volpe (right) is joined by friends at Dom and Vinnie's. From left, Jim Joyce, Dave Balun, Anthony Vozzella, Mike Gianzomenito, Connie Hayduk, John Ventura and Steve Tuers.



**KEEPING THEIR MARBLES**—Back in the '50s, marbles teams and tournaments ruled the playgrounds. Several city kids went on to be national champs. Posing here are, standing: Coach Angelo Rauso; Bobby Millen; Paulette Theret; future NBA star Charlie Criss; and Debbie Webb, the national girls' champ at 13. Front row, Dominick Vergalitto; Garrett Millen; and Gloria Webb.



**OLD-STYLE GORTON FOOTBALL**—Members of the 1926 football team included John "Jerry" McCue (bottom row, second from left). Five of his children also attended Gorton: Jerry and Sean ('57); Terry ('61); Mary Ellen ('66); and Connie ('67).



Ryan helps mom and Meg, left, help Shiloh.

**SHILOH** (from Page 13)

Springfield to treat Shiloh. The surgery was a success and Shiloh pulled through. Dr. Carroll's son rejoined his mom to check on the patient, post-surgery. "He helped 'recover' the kitty," she said.

Shiloh was kept at Dakin afterward so she could receive extra treatments to build her strength. Days later she was able to go back home and be reunited with her family.



**CHRISTOS VOSKRES!**—Dorothy Stefanik Appleton and her three daughters crafted these traditional and colorful Eastern European Easter eggs. You still have a chance to duplicate their efforts—Eastern Orthodox Easter isn't until May 2. Patterns are drawn on the egg with wax, which then protects the covered areas from the dye that is applied. By repeating this process with different colors, a multi-colored pattern emerges. It's a time-consuming process, which explains why Eastern Europeans have long life spans—to finish the eggs.



**IN THE PINK**—Joe Mikulsky (C65) captured this spectacular shot of April's super-moon as it emerges from behind the branches of one of the tallest redwoods in the Henry Cowell Redwoods State Park in California. It's called the Pink Moon because it traditionally coincides with the flowering of a pink moss or creeping phlox.

**Yonkers Hikes School Funding**

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano's proposed 2022 budget holds the line on property taxes, maintains city services and provides its largest contribution to Yonkers Public Schools.

It is the first time in two decades there was no call for a property tax hike.

The proposed \$1.15 billion budget that includes city and school spending, decreases city spending while upping the schools' ante by \$6.2 million.

**X2O Xavier's Remains Open**

Chef Peter X. Kelly has put his Restaurant X in Congers up for sale but both that eatery and his X2O Xavier's Restaurant on the Yonkers waterfront will remain open.

Kelly, who filed for bankruptcy protection in the fall of 2019, is asking \$2.3 million for the 5.1 acre parcel. "I'm just trying to survive," said Kelly, one of the region's most celebrated and beloved chefs. "We

went through the worst of the pandemic and we're just trying to get to the other side. It's not easy."

**State Hikes School Foundation Funds**

Armed with grant money from two federal stimulus bills, state leaders have added \$4.2 billion in "foundation aid" to the state budget for school districts outside of New York City. Yonkers received a 10% increase in funding.

**Cops Celebrate Their Centennial**

April 10 marked the 150th Anniversary since the Yonkers Police Department was founded.

Mayor Mike Spano said, "The Yonkers Police Department has evolved tremendously over the years and has demonstrated tremendous professionalism and respect with all they encounter. When you see a police officer in your neighborhood, stop and say thank you. Due to their efforts, Yonkers is a safer city."

## A Sanctuary City —For Butterflies

Mayor Mike Spano must have read Yvonne Price's column on butterflies. Yonkers has taken the National Wildlife Federation's Monarch Pledge to stem the tide of the declining monarch population.

Spano said: "Yonkers is committing itself to the conservation of the monarch butterfly by planting milkweed and other plantings across the city." Looks like he also read Sam Fried's story on butterfly farming.

The city has selected nine sites.

## City Honors Rapper DMX

Musician DMX, who was born in Mount Vernon and raised in Yonkers on School Street, died April 2 at White Plains Hospital following a heart attack. He was 50.



'Slightly modified' Ford-150 carries the coffin of DMX to Barclays Center.

More than a week later, red balloons filled the air and red candles lit the sidewalks outside the School Street complex to celebrate his life. On April 24, a motorcade carried the coffin of the three-time Grammy nominee from Yonkers to the Barclays Center in Brooklyn for a memorial service.

The hip-hop star, born Earl Simmons, never forgot his roots and often participated at Yonkers Police Athletic League events, community food drives and at the Nepperhan Community Center where he spent his youth.

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "Growing up in the School Street public housing complex and



WELCOME TO LUDLOW PARK—Mural by SignatureSavage; photo by Rick Ngoc Ho.

sharing his painful childhood through his music has always kept him connected to Yonkers, along with his visits to the Nepperhan Community Center to give back to needy families."

## Clearwater Festival Goes Virtual Again

For the second consecutive year, Clearwater's Great Hudson River Revival, also known as the Clearwater Festival, will be held virtually.

The 2021 Clearwater Festival will be held June 19, livestreamed on Clearwater's website, [clearwaterfestival.org](http://clearwaterfestival.org), YouTube channel, [youtube.com/channel](https://www.youtube.com/channel/), and Facebook page, [facebook.com/sloopclearwater](https://www.facebook.com/sloopclearwater). The festival will run from 11 a.m. until 11 p.m. and is free, though viewers are encouraged to donate.

The festival features musicians and storytellers such as Tom Chapin, Thomasina Winslow, Tiokasin Ghosthorse, the Trouble Sisters, Betty and the Baby Boomers.

## Indian Point Cleanup Approved by State

New York and Holtec International have reached a tentative agreement on the decommissioning of the Indian Point nuclear reactor located in northern Westchester near the Putnam border.

In 2017, Entergy, the plant's owner, agreed to close the last two operating units. Unit 2 powered down last April and Unit 3 is set to close this month.

Under terms of the agreement, Holtec will keep at least \$400 million in a decommissioning trust fund for at least a decade

along with half of the money it gets from the Department of Energy for spent fuel management costs.

## Playland, County Pools Will Re-Open

Westchester's pools and amusement parks will be open this summer following last year's shutdowns due to the pandemic. Playland Beach and Saxon Woods, Sprain Ridge, Tibbets Brook, and Wilson's Woods pools will be open seven days starting June 25; Croton Point Beach will be open Wednesday through Sundays beginning June 25.

Playland Amusement Park will open from noon to 4 p.m. and 5 p.m. to 9 p.m. on Wednesdays through Sundays beginning June 26. Reservations are recommended. The two time slots limit capacity and provide time for cleanup.

## Astorino May Run Again for Governor

He's baaaack!

Rob Astorino, who lost the 2014 gubernatorial race against Gov. Andrew Cuomo; then lost a third term as county executive against George Lattimer; and also failed to unseat state Sen. Pete Harckham last year, has thrown his hat into the ring as a GOP hopeful in next year's gubernatorial race.

Astorino joins Rep. Lee Zeldin of Suffolk County, Lewis County Sheriff Mike Campanelli; Dutchess County Executive Marc Molinaro, who lost to Cuomo in 2018, and Andrew Giuliani, son of former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani.