



Wolf Tales

The Newsletter of
Gorton's Class of '65



'The strength of the wolf is in the pack'

October 2022, Vol. 76



—Photo courtesy of Frank Becerra Jr./The Journal News

Angel Aquino hauls in a touchdown pass for the Force.



--Photo by Dr. Michael J. Wszolek

The Force players celebrate their 4th Superintendent's Cup.

Our Cup Runneth Over

The Force Wins Intra-City Rivalry With a Three-Peat

The Yonkers Force came out firing on all cylinders and never looked back as they beat the Yonkers Brave, 64-8, to claim bragging rights to the Superintendent's Cup for the fourth time and its third straight year.

Playing before a packed house at Roosevelt High School, the Force scored on the first play from scrimmage and led 48-8 at the half. Led by their dual quarterbacks, Alvin Martinez and Atticus Oelkers, they outgained the Brave, 468-61 yards, for the game.

"If we need to put the ball in the air, Atticus is the man," Martinez told *The Journal News*. "I can throw, but my hat's off to him. He's a passer and he can run, so we got two dual-threats because I can throw



—Photo courtesy of Frank Becerra Jr./The Journal News

A packed grandstand at Roosevelt High watches the intra-city football rivalry.

and run too. It's hard for defensive schemes to adjust."

Martinez, who was voted the game's Offensive MVP, passed for 55 yards and

rushed for 87 yards on eight carries and three touchdowns. Oelkers completed 6-of-8 passes for 160 yards and two touchdowns. He also ran four times for 78 yards

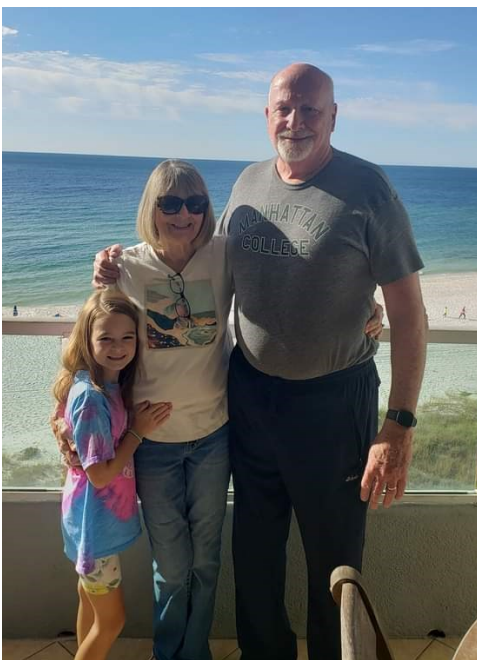
See **THE FORCE** on Page 6



A SPARKLING MOMENT—Lauren Koch Glassman gets treated to a birthday candle while dining with her daughter and friends.



TEXAS HOLD 'EM—It's a full house at Greg and Tracey Mikulski's wedding in New Caney, TX. Above, Joe and Anne Chandler stand next to their new daughter-in-law. Below, Nick and Makani hold their pair, Asher and Meleana, while the newly-weds have an ace in the hole, their son Everett.



ORANGE YOU GLAD?—Carolynn and Frank McGlinchey share their 52nd wedding anniversary with their granddaughter, Eleanore, on a family vacation in Orange Beach, AL.



CAROLINA COEDS—Lori Kohn Rowe and her granddaughter, Hailey, got the same dress code memo as they share a 19th birthday moment at Hendrix in Columbia, SC. Hailey is a sophomore at the University of South Carolina.



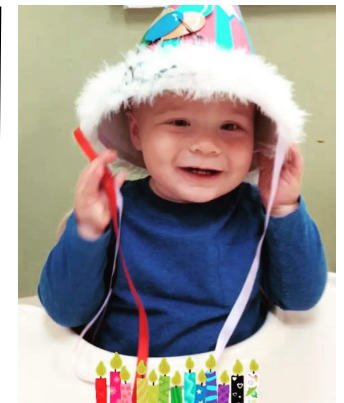
UN SERVEUR, S'IL VOUS PLAÎT—Gale Donnelly and Sam Fried enjoy fine dining and a table for two (and seating for one) at the Le Gourmand Restaurant in Montreal's West Island, the City of Pointe-Claire.



CUDDLE ALERT—Joan Lawless Kennedy’s granddaughters, Lane and Liv Kennedy, cuddle up with their brother Pace as the season’s chill reaches Virginia.



UPSCALE AT LASCALE-- Holly Zulauf Rodwick and her friend Ginny Granata join Ursula Belle Healy for lunch at Lascale in Greenwich, CT.



TWO FOR ONE DEAL— Ethan Clyde Paturynski (above) and Hudson Smith celebrate their first birthdays with a smile and a pose for their grandmother Susan Dratch Eaton.



TUCKER, OUT?—Meet and treat Tucker, Janet Guyon Hanford’s newest grandchild, an Australian Cobberdog (aka Labradoodle). In Australian slang, a cobber is a “mate,” and the name Cobberdog was chosen because it means “dog-friend.” Bred as a therapy and assistance dog, Tucker is also hypoallergenic and a perfect fit for Janet’s family in Massachusetts.



THE ICEMAN RETURNETH—You know the golf season is coming to an end when Steve Tuers laces up is skates at EJ Murray Skating Center. And who was there to greet him? Bill Borelli, who’s celebrating 61 years on the job handing out skates and advice.



WOLF PACK ON THE MOVE—Sam Fried and Gale Donnelly’s recent trip to see the gang proved that there are always rosy tomorrows—quite literally. Case in point: Party-planner Yvonne Sullivan Price’s oft-delayed and juggled meeting spot hit an unexpected snag—it was closed until dinner, despite booking Yvonne’s reservation for lunch at noon. She discovered that when arriving at an empty parking lot. Quick on her feet, or paws, a flurry of last-minute phone calls led the Wolf Pack back to Rosy Tomorrows, where they used to meet before the pandemic. From left, Steve Tuers, Yvonne, Sam, Ursula Belle Healy, Gale, Jo Harter Irish and Elen Freeston.

THAT’S THE SPIRIT—Students and teachers let their hair down and have fun during Spirit Week with “theme days.” The festivities are meant to unite the student body and allow them to be creative while instilling a sense of camaraderie with their peers. Here’s the schedule: Monday (Pajama Day), Tuesday (Twins Day), Wednesday (Cultural Day/Unity Day), Thursday (Decades Day) and Friday (School Spirit Day & Pep Rally).



A TEACHABLE MOMENT—Twenty Gorton students joined 300 other participants in the Black Men In White Coats event sponsored by White Plains Hospital. The program, which began in 2013, showcased doctors and nurses of color in the medical field. The event was open to middle and high school students as well as parents and educators. There were speakers, a panel discussion and breakout rooms to demonstrate medical procedures.



Gorton grad Maureen Santos’ ELA class on Pajama Day.



Unity and Cultural Day features Makaylah holding a unity chain (with the traditional anti-bullying color of orange) and students dressed in clothing representing their heritage.



Gorton grad Zayna Marjeh and Wolf Tales liaison is with fellow teacher Peter Kremer on Twins’ Day.



Victoria, Marjorie and Junielys dress for the ‘70s on Decades Day.



Teachers Noelia Soto and Nicole Potter with our mascot, Wolfie.



It’s Pep Rally Friday before the big game.



—Photos courtesy of Danny Zygmunt

ON THE WATERFRONT—The Hudson River as seen from the Yonkers shoreline, including a composite photo of the majestic Palisades.

Will Virtual Reunions Become a Reality?

Greetings Alumni and friends of Gorton High School. We hope you are in good health, good spirits and if you live in or around the eastern seaboard, you weren't impacted too badly by Hurricane Ian.



Alumni News

Fall is upon us and that means football season and homecomings. For us, it was the annual Thanksgiving Day game between Gorton and Yonkers. Today, it's the Superintendent's Cup game between the Force and the Brave, which we won 64-8.

Back in the day, alums would pack the stands and reunite with former classmates. Today, graduating classes hold reunions at local hotels or restaurants. However, the pandemic and our aching bones make reunions tricky at best.

Enter the Alumni Association with a possible solution.

The Association recently purchased a ZOOM One Pro account for the intent of better communication within the Board and also expanding ways for alumni to do the same. As a result, we will Beta test our capabilities with the Class of '62 for its 60th reunion on Nov. 13.

Two of their grads, Jean Gartner Sweezey and Debbie Daly Locurto had been promoting the idea of an online reunion. I agreed to join in the effort, offering to create a presentation for interested grads and to host the event on our ZOOM One Pro account.

The presentation will feature post-

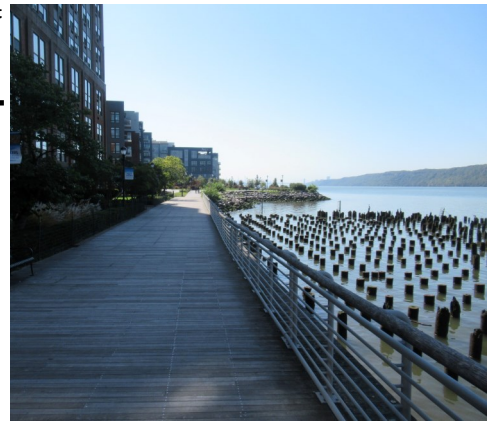
graduation bios of the 36 scheduled attendees plus a small intimate multiple-chat room setting where grads get to meet personally. There is no time restriction and we can host up to 100 grads.

To their credit, Jean and Debbie have worked extremely hard to make this happen...and if we are successful, it may be possible to replicate this type of effort to a much broader audience. We'll let you know how things worked out in the next issue of *Wolf Tales*.

As you are aware, other initiatives are under way and progressing nicely. Gorton Principal Jamie Morales is involved directly with our Wall of Fame school lobby display and installation. It will serve the alumni and the school quite well.

Last July, we announced the addition of two new Association members, C2013 Andrea Cordero (GHS'13) and Dan DeMatteo (GHS'94). We continue to look for additional candidates as we expand our capabilities. If you or anyone you know has an interest in being a Board member, please pass on their contact information to me.

See **ALUMS** on Page 6



THE FORCE (from Page One)

and had a pick-six touchdown on defense. Arturo Almengo of the Brave was named Defensive MVP of the game.

“I’m happy our guys came out and played four good quarters,” Yonkers Force coach Anthony Fava told *The Journal News*. “We had five really tough games in a row, got beat up a little bit and finally got back to full health.”

Every player got into the game and seven seniors scored touchdowns. It was the widest-margin of victory since both teams’ inception in 2018. The Force leads the series 4-1. The Yonkers Force comprises Gorton, Roosevelt, Yonkers Montessori Academy and Yonkers Middle High School students. The Brave draws its players from Lincoln, Palisade Prep, Riverside and Saunders.

“We’re two different teams, but we’re one city,” Fava told *The Journal News* after the game. “Their kids are our kids, and our kids are their kids as well. We always root for the other team, especially against other teams. The only time we root against them is on this day.”

“The goal of this merger,” Fava added, “was to reinvigorate Yonkers to the level they were at football-wise in the late 90s. I know they feel the same about us. That’s the most important thing about this game—although two different teams, we are one family.”

The Force now stands at 3-5 on the season while the Brave fell to 0-7.



GAME SUMMARY—Clockwise, from top, Alvin Martinez (Yonkers Montessori Academy) scrambles for yardage; Coach Anthony Fava (Gorton); and co-quarterbacks Alvin Martinez (Offensive MVP) and Atticus Oelkers (Roosevelt High School).



ALUMS (from Page 5)

Finally, it’s that time of year to make sure you capture all the tax benefits possible before year’s end.

Please consider the Gorton Alumni Association for that purpose. Money from an individual retirement account (IRA) can be donated to charity. What’s more, if you’ve reached the age where you need to take required minimum distributions from your traditional IRAs, you can avoid paying taxes on them by donating that money to charity. This tax break was made permanent in 2015. You just have to be sure to

follow the rules carefully.

Here are some things you need to know.

- Funds from an IRA can be used for charitable donations if done correctly.
- Charitable donations made from an IRA are called qualified charitable distributions (QCD).
- Donations made from an IRA can meet all or part of the IRA’s required minimum distributions for the tax year.

Donors must follow the IRS rules for quali-

fied charitable distributions (QCDs) to avoid paying taxes on the donation. These are called charitable IRA rollovers to qualified 501(c)3 organizations. We are a qualified 501(c)3 organization and our EIN is 84-2711009. Please consider us for your charitable donations. And most importantly, contact your financial advisor for advice for making any charitable donation.

Thanks in advance for considering us.

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

Priceless Memories



Witchcraft? Let Me Spell It Out for You

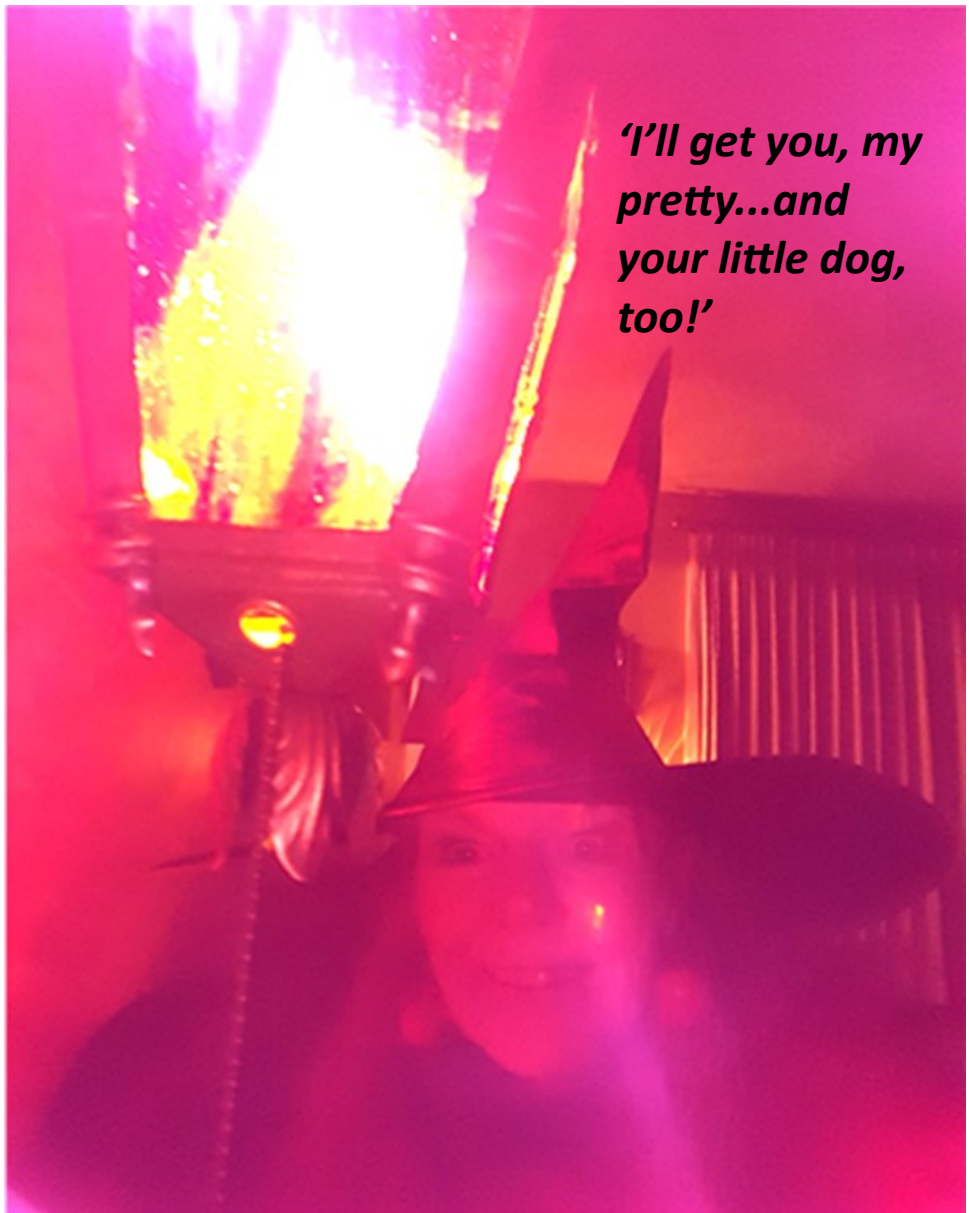
When was the last time you consulted a witch about a health issue, dropping by to let her take a look at your throbbing tooth, plead for relief from your pounding headache or wrangle a potion to make your warts disappear? I'm guessing never.

A few hundred years ago though, you may very well have called upon a woman in your village or more likely, on the outskirts, for treatment of many such ailments.

She was the one who was a bit different from the rest, an independent woman, a free spirit, not one to be constrained by the rules governing women. It was a time and place where female free-thinking wasn't considered a good thing, until she was needed and it was.

Women have historically been the healers and nurturers, the "gatherers," not the "hunters." But some certainly were hunters of a particular kind—of herbs, seeds, animals and insects that were essential to their abilities to soothe, fix and heal many in the community.

Sounds like the very ones you'd want to promote and protect. But then, we forget about envy and greed, with a good dollop of superstition and a huge induction of religious competition stirred in the pot. And faster than you can say, "Double double, toil and trouble, fire burn and cauldron bubble," there were witches in the air everywhere and being murdered by the



'I'll get you, my pretty...and your little dog, too!'

YOU RANG?—Yvonne holds a meet-and-greet with neighborhood trick-and-treaters.

tens of thousands in Europe and Colonial America from around 1450 to 1750.

If you have the urge to delve into the actual history of witches and witch hunts, as I did for this piece, a warning. It makes for awful reading, which is why I decided to aim my broom in a different direction.

We all recall the scary, bad witches, ones from our childhood stories, like the one who poisoned Sleeping Beauty and that one who tried to turn Hansel and Gretel into the candy house "early bird special."

To this day, for me, the best, BADDEST bad witch will always be the Wicked Witch of

the West, from *The Wizard of Oz*, played brilliantly by Margaret Hamilton. Everything about her screamed run for your life, from her green hue to her crazed cackle.

There have been many good witches we can take comfort in. That same classic Oz tale also gave us Glenda, a witch you could hang with, but not in a bad way and *Wicked* the Broadway play, redeemed Elphaba. Harry Potter gave us Hermione and Elizabeth Montgomery was bewitching as Samantha. I think of Mary Poppins as a good witch, who used an umbrella, rather than a broom, to get around.

See *WITCHES* on Page 10

Did You Know?



What's Boo In Yonkers' Old Haunts?

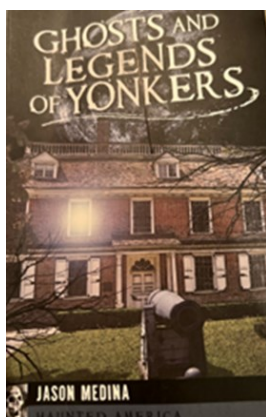
Long before the U.S. existed, the Algonquin tribe occupied lands they called Aquehung. This term has been interpreted to mean “high bluff,” “a river that runs along a high bluff,” or simply “a place on the river.”

Today we call it Yonkers.

Throughout the years, Yonkers grew and became a large city. Because it's such an old city, it's rich in history as well as its fair share of ghost stories and legends. In his book, *Ghosts and Legends of Yonkers*, Jason Medina shares several stories of paranormal activity in our “City of Gracious Living.” Along with his team, the Yonkers Ghost Investigators, he spent time in Yonkers looking into these claims. Below are just three of his investigations.

Iroquois Road Haunted House

Situated in the Mohegan Heights section of Yonkers, this home dating from 1931, is a two-story brick colonial home surrounded by a white picket fence. No street number may be divulged without the owner's permission.



According to a previous resident, a scary and threatening presence lived within the house from 1961-1978. The then-resident, along with her seven siblings, often felt a sensation of heavy breathing on the backs



LEAVE OUR FRIENDS ALONE—This 2006 photo purportedly shows three apparitions descending from the hill at Oakland Cemetery to ward off late-night vandals.

of their necks and heard footsteps even though no one could be seen walking. Family members avoided the basement as much as possible for fear of something happening to them.

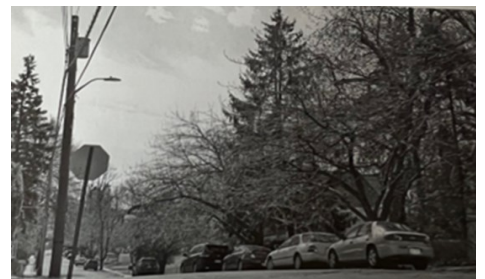
Lee Avenue Hauntings

Apparently there has been so much paranormal activity on this street that many residents felt it necessary to move.

Past residents said they could hear voices that sounded like people speaking backwards; names of neighborhood children were found written in marker on kitchen walls; and chairs had been knocked over in the homes. Donna Parish-Bischoff, a former resident of Lee Avenue, wrote of her experiences in a book titled *The Lee Avenue Hauntings*.

Old Public School 13

The original Public School 13 was built on the corner of McLean Avenue between Rumsey Road and Park Hill Avenue in 1900. The original building had five classrooms, an auditorium and an office.



Something wicked on Iroquois Road.



The haunting on Lee Avenue.



Scary lessons at the old School 13.

Dear Janet



**Hobnobbing
With Spooks
And Goblins**

Dear Janet,

I heard weird noises in the house last night. Do you think it's a ghost?

Ebenezer S. Crooge

Dear Ebenezer,

Since I wasn't there and you haven't defined weird, it's hard for me to say. So let's look at what a ghost is and isn't.

Ancient societies believed that a person's spirit was separate from the physical body and lived on after death. Halloween, the "e'en" before the Christian observance of Allhallows (hallow being holy person, now All Saints Day) is when "the dead come to life," so to speak.

The ancient Celts celebrated Samhain (sah-win), when it was believed that the spirit world opened to allow the "ghosts" to roam the earth to haunt the living. People lit bonfires and wore masks and costumes to ward off the evil spirits of the night. Sound familiar? It is believed that often people, real and fictitious, who died a violent death return to the scene of the crime.

But let's first assume that not all ghosts are bad, so don't worry about your ghost yet. Think of Casper, the Friendly Ghost.

Poltergeists (German for noisy spirits) are basically harmless supernatural beings that make loud noises and move or throw things, and are generally a disturbance, unlike ghosts who are hauntingly frightening. Poltergeists like to play tricks on peo-



MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL—Who's the scariest one of all?

ple, which is why I believe we have at least one in our house. It's the one who moves our car keys and hides our phones. What else could it be??? I may have captured his face on the bathroom mirror (*See picture above*).

According to Wikipedia, ghosts are part of the paranormal phenomena that are "beyond the scope of normal scientific understanding," including extrasensory perception (ESP), telekinesis, ghosts, poltergeists, life after death, reincarnation, faith healing, etc.

Years ago, I took an adult-ed course in paranormal phenomena and one night, attended a session at the home of

See SPOOKS on Page 10

TREAT US WITH YOUR PHOTOS
Halloween came too late for this issue so please send your Trick-or-Treater photos to alexpoletsky@gmail.com for the November issue.



SATANIC WORSHIP?—The Untermyer gate house near the aqueduct.

BOO (from Page 8)

When it was built, the area was considered to be very rural, which concerned parents of students who attended school there. During the early 1900s, there was a fire in the school and presumably some students and teachers were killed. There are no public records of a fire.

Later, a new School 13 was built three blocks south on McLean Avenue. The original building was later used as an annex and later turned into apartments. According to some residents, the ghosts of the past still linger on there. Children’s voices can be heard in the dark laughing or crying and shadowy apparitions have been seen.

Interestingly enough, it seems the present School 13 building is also haunted. In 1995, there were some students who complained about the bathroom doors swinging open on their own. A few students reported seeing the ghostly apparition of a little girl wearing a white dress roaming the halls. It is not known whether there have been recent sightings.

Some Other Favorite Haunts

The list of other hauntings is very long—Boyce Thompson, Alder Manor, Oakland Cemetery, Glenwood Power Plant and Otis Elevator Co., to name a few. As of now, I can report no ghosts have been sighted at Gorton High School—yet!

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

SPOOKS (from Page 9)

someone I knew only through the class, which is the only way she knew me. She and her friend were really into this and said they often saw the figure of an Indian sitting on the refrigerator.

When I arrived that night, they asked what my grandmother’s name was. “Emily,” I replied. They said, no, that wasn’t the name the “spirit” had said. It was more like Margie, Maggie, or something like that. Holy ghosts! My other grandmother was Margaret. She apparently was glad that I was there and wanted to let me know that she’s OK.

There was someone else who they said called me something like Janny. Spooked again. My deceased uncle called me Ginny. He too was happy to contact me. I freaked.

You may not see Indians on your refrigerator, but you may see other shadowy shapes and hear things that go bump in the night. Is your house haunted? Maybe,

but probably not. You could be hearing creaking boards and groaning pipes as your house settles and adjusts to the changing temperatures, akin to our aching 75-year-old bodies that creak and groan both day and night.

So Ebenezer, stay calm and tell yourself, “I ain’t afraid of no ghosts.” Still worried? Who ya gonna call? *Ghost Busters*, of course.

If you’re not afraid of ghosts and want to immerse yourself in the land of the haunted, check out Vacasa’s vacation rentals for cities that have haunted activities. Too far away away or too scary? If the spirit moves you, take a midnight stroll through your local cemetery.

Am I going to visit any of these places, you ask? Not a ghost of a chance!

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

Janet Guyon Hanford is a former cheerleader and was voted Most Versatile by her ‘65 senior class.



A COVEN OF CUTIES—Yvonne’s granddaughters cast a spell for Halloween festivities. At left, Aspen Carsia poses with her mom Kira. Meanwhile, Prairie Cintron reads a bedtime tale to her dog, Shyner.



WITCHES (from Page 7)

There’s a group of activists in Connecticut who are working hard to clear the names of 11 people who were hanged as witches here in 1600, way before the more famous Salem debacle. Apparently, at present, there are no laws in place in Connecticut to pardon those already deceased.

Meanwhile, I will continue being the

good witch in our neighborhood and distribute candy to those who expect me to be at my door in full Witch regalia. I even have room on my broom for those who might need a lift home.

HAPPY HALLOWEEN!

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



A MIGHTY WIND BAG—Jim Cantore puts Darwin’s theory to the test—and fails.



Editor’s Note

Why Send in The Clowns? They’re Here!

This is about Jim Cantore, America’s favorite test crash dummy, and commercials that can’t get their products right.

First, Jim. During a hurricane, he hangs on for dear life to a street pole or stands on a boardwalk getting pummeled by 15-foot waves. In a blizzard, he’s in foot-deep snow skipping in delight to every clap of snow thunder.

Regardless of the disaster, he’s all by his lonesome. Why? Because there’s a state of emergency! Authorities on down to his network have said: “Emer-Gency! Emer-Gency! Everybody to get from streets!” (a famous line from the 1966 comedy movie, *The Russians Are Coming, the Russians Are Coming*.)

This time around, while doing show-and-tell like a first grader, a flying tree branch clipped his legs from under him (“Down goes Fraser; Down goes Fraser.”) The



LOOK MA! NO BRAINS—Nothing like mom’s home cooking after reaching into an oven **WITHOUT** a mitt (top) and then having the entrees switch places.

Weather Network control booth urged him, no, make that implored him, to seek shelter where his underpaid cameraman was wiping his lens and cleaning his pants.

Like a punch-drunk boxer, Jim said he would be all right once he regained his footing and then quipped, something to the effect, that he “shouldn’t have started his diet before the storm,” as if a few pounds more would have meant a difference to this meathead.

Speaking of meat, now a word from my sponsor, *Tovola* air fryer oven. It’s a smart oven with a dumb owner,

See **EDITOR** on Page 12

Wolves Leave Buckeyes Behind For Palmettos

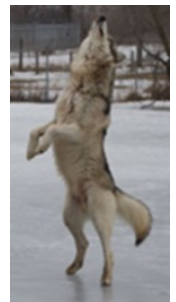
Endangered red wolves may soon be barking up the right tree after they take a road trip south.

Brookgreen Gardens, a nature preserve near Myrtle Beach, SC, is expecting to receive three red wolves from an Akron, OH, zoo in an effort to revive this species in South Carolina and other states. The plan is to breed these wolves in captivity for displays at zoos or even release in eastern North Carolina and, possibly, in the low country of South Carolina.

There are fewer than 300 red wolves left after being virtually wiped out in the early 1900’s by hunters and farmers from Texas to New England.

The initial three wolves going to Brookgreen will be young males, to be followed by two breeding pairs of wolves.

Only 21 red wolves are living in the wild at the Alligator River National Wildlife Refuge, which is located in five North Carolina northeastern counties.



Dancing With the Wolves

Another possible place for a wolf release includes the 259,000-acre Francis Marion National Forest in South Carolina. However, many fear that releasing these animals into the wild is problematic, since they tend to breed with coyotes.

“We’re going to make our coyotes about 25 pounds larger, your turkey and white-tailed deer population are going to be decimated and your bobcats are going to lose all of their prey species,” said David Strickland, a low county hunter and red wolf tracker.

Wolf Tales feels his pain.

EDITOR (from Page 11)

Tovala is an oven, NOT a microwave. It supposedly cooks your meal perfectly by running the bar code of your pre-made meal (preferably theirs) through the built-in scanner and hitting the start button. The warning label clearly states that the interior is hot. Hot, as in “Hot! Damn hot! Real hot!” as Robin Williams said in Good Morning, Vietnam.

But that doesn’t faze the commercial’s insipid millennial moron nor the script-writer who apparently got the job by answering a late-night TV info ad for Fred’s Creative Writing Academy.

“Now here’s the fun part,” says the proof that Darwin was right, “I’m not doing anything.” And that includes thinking or reading the warning labels.

Flash forward as our hero opens the OVEN door and grabs the aluminum tin WITH-OUT oven mitts. In the viewers’ minds, Buster Poindexter and his Banshees of Blue are singing, “Feeling hot hot hot...”

It gets better. After cutting the scene, we next see our astrophysicist reaching in with a mitt. But now the dish that was on the right is on the left and vice versa.

What do Jim Cantore and the Tovala tomale have in common? You pay them enough and they’ll do it. I’m fed up with Cantore’s capers and TV commercials that can’t even get their lies straight.

And, while I’m at it, why can’t jingles pronounce the names of the product the same way that the announcer does?

Ask yourself, is it Ric-O-LAH (when yodeled) or Ri-COLA (when spoken?) And what about Oh Oh Oh Ozempic? Is it O-ZEM-Pik (when spoken) or O-ZAM-Pik {when sung to the tune of Magic}?

You don’t need a weatherman to know which way the wind blows but we do need an editor or two when it comes to shooting commercials.

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

**Tuers
De Force**



**A Barber
That’s the
Wheel Deal**

One of the newest, and coolest, experiences you can have today is having your own personal master barber, cut your hair in his own custom-designed mobile van barber shop on wheels. And all this for only \$25.

But wait! There’s more!

On my way to the Number One subway recently, I saw on Broadway, curbside to Van Cortlandt Park in the Bronx, a beautiful customized van barber shop complete with barber pole. Needing a haircut and something to write about for *Wolf Tales*, I made an appointment with the owner, Gary Chimelis, for the following week.

As I was driving down the day of my appointment, I received a schedule reminder



A CUT ABOVE THE REST—Gary and his customer, Steve.

by text and if I was driving to please arrive early because street parking was limited due to alternate side of the street parking. I wonder how many of us have forgotten about that quirk of city life. Fortunately, I found a spot near is van.



Sitting in his leather chair, Gary told me that cutting hair was something he always wanted to do. For some time, he had this idea of a mobile barber shop and a year ago he made his dream come true by buying a used van once owned an electrical company.

After finding out it would cost \$40,000 to convert the van into a barber shop, he took on the ultimate DIY project, buying the necessary items and doing it himself saving about \$30-grand! The finishing product is something to behold.

We’ve all read stories about how businesses and people adjusted to the “new

NEXT?—Gary serves those on the go.

See BARBER on Page 13



Parry's Ponderings

Going Back To the Future

Carmakers today tout "Push-Button Start" like it's something new. If memory serves me correctly (and it usually does when it comes to cars, though rarely with anything else) my old 1947 Chrysler had a push-button start. It was a big chrome button on the left side of the dash that required a good deal of pressure to push.

No Horses Allowed

Speaking of cars, I came across this interesting bit of trivia while watching a documentary about cars on the History Channel. It was the Bronx River Parkway that was designated the first "Cars Only" roadway in America.

Ooh, Ooh, That Smell

People here in rural Virginia still burn leaves in the fall. The smell of burning leaves brings back many fond memories. Another smell that brings back memories of PS25 (I'm sure the other schools were the same too) is the smell the radiators gave off the first time the heat came on for the season. To me, it was that smell, not the calendar, that signaled the changing of the seasons.

What, Too Soon?

Many many stores are already beginning to display their Christmas merchandise. That brings to mind the holiday song, *It's Beginning To Look A Lot Like Christmas*, a cute little song that's quite fitting after Thanksgiving. Call me old-fashioned, but I don't think it should begin to look a lot like Christmas before Halloween.

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



Ian floods downtown Ft. Myers.

We Dodged Another Bullet

When it came to Hurricane Ian, it was all about location, location, location.

Class of '65 graduates contacted by Wolf Tales dodged the bullet from the storm's deadly and destructive path through Florida and up the eastern coastline. Many were far away and those who were there got a rinse with a blow dry.

Sam Fried and Gale Donnelly were vacationing in Canada when Ian swept past their home in Titusville, FL. "We had 14 inches of rain and 50-60 mile wind gusts," Sam said. "Neighbors say our house is fine, just a few branches down. Hope the pool didn't flood."

Snowbird Rich Whittaker reported that his Vero Beach, FL, home had tropical storm wind and rain and rode it out in New Jersey. Frank McGlinchey, who weathered Hurricane Dorian while vacationing in Navarre Beach, FL, in 2019, was in Orange Beach, AL, this time. "As usual, my yearly vacation is fine," Frank said.

"The storm stayed hundreds of miles away." Fellow Georgian Rick Maher stayed put. "I expected we might get a little wind and rain in Atlanta. We had nothing but beautiful weather."

Recently retired Bob Tallo reported
See IAN from Page 14

BARBER (from Page 12)

normal" caused by the Covid-19 pandemic. Gary's salon on wheels is one of the success stories.

Many of his customers didn't feel comfortable in brick-and-mortar shop because of the sometimes-crowded conditions and felt safer in an one-on-one setting. They can even request him to keep the side door opened for fresher air.

Gary is looking to expand by purchasing another van or renting out the chair or the van entirely. He's also patenting his slogan, "Bx Loyal Mobile Barber" in honor of the Bronx, where he still calls home.

My haircut lasted close to an hour. When he was done, he asked me if I was allergic to peppermint. I thought of my childhood when my barber gave me a piece of bubblegum after my summer crew cut.

No peppermint gum this time—just a splash of peppermint cologne around my ears and neck.

A nice finishing touch by my new friend, "The Master Barber."

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



—Photos courtesy of Alex Poletsky

TRUE COLORS—Autumn puts on a show at a nature walk trail at Heritage Hills in Somers, NY.

IAN (from Page 13)

that his North Carolina home and his place at Sea Pines on Hilton Head Island, SC, had high winds and rain but little if any damage. “I guess we got lucky on both fronts,” he said. “Lee and Kim and the grandchildren live in Orlando and did fine. They’re glad they moved from Ft. Myers about four years ago.”

Marti Moore Drummond and her husband, Greg, used to live in North Myrtle Beach, SC, where Hurricane Ian cut in half the city’s famous 1,000-foot Cherry Grove Fishing Pier. Fortunately, “we moved to Boca Raton [in June] to be closer to family. We had some tornado warnings from the outer bands but they missed us.”

When Ian (then a Category 1) made landfall in Georgetown, SC, many classmates thought of Tom Robinson who lives in North Charleston in the state’s Low Country, which is known for its beauty and historic flooding. Fret not. He and his friend,

Jane, who was in town for his church’s bicentennial celebration, “sat indoors, by my back windows, watching the rain fall and the water rise in the lake,” Tom said.

“We had a lot of rain,” he added, “but it only got up about quarter of an inch in my yard.”

The effects of Hurricane Ian were felt as far north as Vermont, at least for Lori Kohn Rowe. “We were heading down [to South Carolina] to see our granddaughter for her birthday,” she said. Instead, they cancelled their flight and hotel and headed down three days later. “It was a shorter trip but at least we dodged the storm and the debris,” she added.

Tom (GHS 65) and Lois Ackerman Paradiso (GHS 68) live in Port. St. Lucie, FL, about 40 miles north of West Palm. “We were fortunate. The storm passed us by” with some rain, 30-mph winds and scattered power outages but “not in our development. We hope everyone was lucky.”

Hurricane Ian’s heavy rains dumped 15 inches of rain in the Orlando area where Dotty Colello McFarlane lives. “Everyone in my family came through it fine,” Dotty said. “It started late Wednesday evening. We had a small leak in the upstairs bathroom and lost power Thursday morning.”

Due to extensive flooding in the area, she went to her son’s St. Augustine house on Friday where there was minimal damage and no loss of power. “We are very thankful that it wasn’t much worse as there.

Ursula Belle Healy, who lives in Connecticut kept a close eye on the storm. Her son and daughter-in-law are stationed at McDill AFB in Tampa, FL. He was in Montana when the hurricane neared and his wife evacuated before landfall. “They heard their neighborhood is OK,” a relieved Ursula said.

“Wind and rain damage but not destroyed, thank goodness. Florida will be a mess for a long time.”

Arthur Longden, '64, Retired Electrician

Arthur "Artie" Wright Longden, Jr. a neighborhood fixture of the North End in the late '50s and early '60, died on April 4, 2021, at the New York-Presbyterian Hudson Valley Hospital in Cortlandt, NY.

A 1964 graduate of Gorton High School, he was 75.

Born in Yonkers at St. John's Riverside Hospital to Arthur and Dorothy Longden Sr., he joined IBEW Local 501/Local 3 after graduation and worked as an electrician until his retirement in 2007.



He was a doting husband and a family man. His children and grandchildren were his pride and joy. He enjoyed Boy Scouts, family camping trips, family time on Lake Champlain, fishing, boating, kayaking, bicycling and traveling with his wife, Marilyn, and spending their winters in Florida.



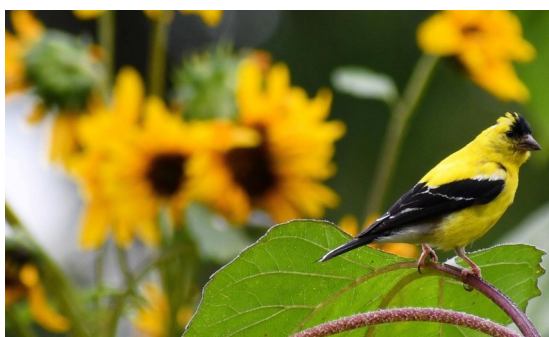
He was predeceased by his parents and grandsons Benedetto Nicholas Paonessa and Anotonio Paonessa.

He is survived by his wife of 52 years, Marilyn (Brown) Longden; a son Philip Arthur Longden (Karen), their children, Philip, Zachary, Timothy, Nathalie and Emily along with great-grandchildren Haven and Jax; his daughter Jeannine Paonessa (Benedetto), their children, Giuseppe (Joey), Dominick, Stefano (Stevie), and Nicholas (Nicky); and his daughter, Amy McKinley (Charles).

Also surviving are his sister, Arline Consiglio, and numerous nieces and nephews and a cousin, Greg Longden.

Misidentification

In September's article, 'Under Abraham's Tent' about parishioners from St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church welcoming war refugees and their sponsors, we misidentified the speaker. The speaker was Sophia Shchur.



FROM SEED TO FEED--Next up for the Untermyer sunflowers....bird food! Hearing the dozens of goldfinches, cardinals and several other types of birds in the morning is quite a treat, especially when it feels like they're in stereo surround-sound while walking the center path of the newly installed veggie garden.



Cleveland Guardians Lost in Yonkers

The Cleveland Guardians were caught off base and lost in Yonkers.

Before heading to Yankee Stadium for the final best-of-three series, Cleveland checked out of its mid-town hotel expecting to either charter a flight home or to Houston. The team didn't think they'd be in Yonkers after the rain cancellation.

Since they couldn't go back to their Manhattan hotel because it was fully booked, and needing to be close to the Stadium, they used its loyalty points and stayed at the Cross County Hyatt Place in Yonkers, next to the Major Deegan and a half hour away from the Stadium.

In the end, Cleveland lost, extending its nearly 75-year World Series title drought and the Yankees took up golf after being swept by Houston.

And Just Like Scat, School Has New Name

The Scholastic Academy for Academic Excellence now has a new name that really swings.

The city formally renamed P.S. 18 the Ella Fitzgerald Academy in honor of The First Lady of Jazz, who grew up in Yonkers and attended the same school when she was a girl growing up in Yonkers. Teacher Gwen Henderson said, "She's able to capture the song and make it her own, and I think that's what captivates everyone else."

Hater Pleads Guilty To Vicious Assault

A Yonkers man caught on video punching an Asian American woman more than 100 times in the vestibule of her apartment building has pleaded guilty to first-degree assault as a hate crime.

Tammel Esco admitted attacking the 67-year-old Filipino woman as she entered the Riverdale Avenue building on March 11. Westchester County Judge Anne Minihan promised Esco a 17 ½-year prison term at his formal sentencing on Nov. 29.



Columbus Parade Sets Sail Again

After a two-year hiatus due to the pandemic, Yonkers hosted its 95th annual Columbus Day Parade on Midland Avenue.

"There's a lot of spirit here. A lot of happiness and it's a celebration. What better than a celebration of Italian Americans here in Yonkers," said Mayor Mike Spano. The Parade Grand Marshal was School Trustee Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio.

P.S. 13: A New Year, Name and Principal

School 13, a K-8 magnet school with Pre-K classes located in Park Hill, has been renamed the Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School. The school honors the memory of three Dominican Republic sisters who opposed the dictatorship of Rafael Trujillo and were assassinated in 1960.

In addition, Dr. Robert Vicuña has been named the school's new principal and Madeline Guzman has been named assistant principal. Principal Dr. Vicuña former-

ly served as principal at School 9 and then Palisade Preparatory School.

2 Plead Guilty To Gun Trafficking

Two Georgia men face 5-10 years in prison after pleading guilty to gun-trafficking charges.

The duo was arrested following an Elm Street shootout in which an accomplice was killed and a Yonkers cop shot.

Det. Brian Menton, just one week shy of retirement, was shot in the stomach and rushed to a Bronx Hospital by his twin brother, an NYPD detective who was part of the FBI task force. Menton has fully recovered.

The Georgia men were arrested with four weapons, including a ghost gun.

City Schools Take a Breather

Yonkers is one of 31 county school districts that will receive purifiers in an effort to protect students, teachers and staff from COVID-19.

The Westchester County Department of Health purchased the air purifiers, shown to remove 99.9% of air-borne COVID particles with \$5.2 million in federal funding through a contract with S&B Computer and Office Products.

You're Safe at Home Living in Yonkers

There's no place like home, especially when it's safe and according to a WalltHub study, Yonkers ranks 3rd overall in home and community safety.

The website compared 182 cities, which included the 150 most populated, plus at least two of the most populated cities in each state.

In addition to safety, the study also measured natural disaster risk and financial security data. Combining all three categories, Yonkers ranks 6th.

City Schools Cited For Anti-Unionism

The Yonkers school district has been ordered to stop threatening, denigrating and undermining members of the Yonkers Federation of Teachers (YFT) after a conflict over a "cultural diversity walk" at one school.

The 2018 incident occurred at the William Boyce Thompson School, which serves grades pre-K to 8. According to the New York Public Employee Relations Board, several teachers contacted a YFT vice president over security concerns related to an abruptly organized "cultural diversity walk" at the school, with parents invited.

The YFT vice president contacted an assistant superintendent over safety concerns caused by large unescorted numbers roaming the halls during instruction time. The then-principal lashed out at union members for taking the matter outside the school and, in doing so, dismissed union rules protected by law, PERB ruled.



The site of the old Longfellow Junior High School.

City Thinks Green And Seniors' Needs

The site of the former Longfellow Junior High School, located in the Hollow section on Mulberry Street, will become a 60-unit senior citizen apartment targeting households with income less than 60% of the average county median income.

In addition, the La Mora Senior Apartments will feature high-efficiency heating and insulation to meet the greener "passive house" standards. It will have high efficiency windows and doors, extra

insulation, an individual unit heat exchanger regulating air intake and exhaust and roof-mounted condensers and individual fan-coil units in each apartment.

The \$44 million project, funded mostly by state government tax-exempt bonds and public/private subsidies and grants, is estimated to be completed in two years.

Funding Earmarked For City Water Facility

The Yonkers Joint Water Resource Recovery Facility is on tap to receive \$46.1 million for improvements as part of County Executive George Latimer's proposed capital budget that includes \$662.5 million in new appropriations.

The budget, now under review the Board of Legislators, also includes investments in affordable housing, electric vehicles, recreational facilities and flood mitigation projects.

Yonkers Cops Gifted E-Bike for Downtown

Yonkers cops will be cruising the downtown with an e-bike, courtesy of a \$4,500 donation by the Yonkers Downtown/Waterfront Business Improvement District.

The new e-bike joins two others that the 4th Precinct utilizes to help enhance community policing and help response time.

The e-bike can reach speeds of up to 30 mph, maneuver through tight spaces and puts police face-to-face with members of the community.

City Snuffs Out Illegal Pot Shops

Yonkers police shut down three local smoke shops after they discovered them selling unlicensed marijuana and THC products.

The shops were located at 186 Ashburton Ave., 850 Bronx River Road and 15 Palisade Ave.

Michael Morrone, Camille Gigliotti's Husband, Dies

Michael F. Morrone, 76, of Springfield, VA, died on Oct. 23, 2022. The husband of Camille Gigliotti (GHS65), he was born on July 15, 1946, in Mount Vernon and grew up in Yonkers.

At his cousin Kathleen Morrone's 15th birthday party, he locked eyes with Camille, who he swore looked just like Natalie Wood. Later that night, he told his parents he would marry her one day and in 1969, he did.

A 1964 Roosevelt High School graduate, he was awarded a full scholarship to



Colgate University and graduated with honors in 1968. He remained dedicated to Colgate and served on the Alumni Board and was awarded the Maroon Citation. He was an active member of the reunion committee and was looking forward the 55th reunion next May. He celebrated every Colgate Day and his three children graduated from Cornell as well.

While attending law school at Georgetown University, he received his draft notice for Vietnam. He married Camille on July 20, 1969 and left for Vietnam 11 days later.

Upon his return and finishing his service with the Army, he completed his law degree at Georgetown in 1974 and accepted an associate position at the law firm of Keller & Heckman, LLP. He retired from the firm 42 years later as a managing partner and headed the company's compensation committee.

He is survived by his wife, Camille; his daughter Michelle DiPietro (Michael); son Peter James Morrone (Sarah Johnston); son Michael Morrone (Michelle); and his grandchildren Ryan, Fiona, Halston, Sloane and Bo.