

# Obama Names Yonkers a Model MBK City

Yonkers has been named only one of four school districts nationwide as a model of success by the Obama Foundation's My Brother's Keeper (MBK) program.

Joining Yonkers in the special honors conference on May 10 held in Chicago were Newark, Tulsa and Omaha.

Former President Obama launched the

MBK initiative in 2014 by challenging municipalities to address issues facing boys and young men of color in their quest of post-secondary education and careers. There are almost 250 MBK communities throughout the country.

In Yonkers, New York's only bilingual program, 2,600 students are in MBK and 11,000 students have participated since

2016. Gorton currently has 73 active MBK members and many others who have participated but not registered. Gorton's Assistant Principal Jason Baez joined the Yonkers contingent at the presentations and participated in planning workshops for the \$800,000 in grant money over the next five years.

SEE MBK on Page 4

## Wolf Tales

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

*'The strength of the wolf is in the pack'*



May 2023, Vol. 83

## Memories And Meanings Of the Day

By George Ampagoomian GHS '61

My earliest memories of Memorial Day were in the late 1940s. We loaded up the family in dad's 1948 Dodge for a long drive to Whitinsville, MA, where he grew up, to visit relatives, many of whom had served in WWII, and to place flowers on the graves of his parents.



There was always a parade through the downtown main street with bands and soldiers carrying their rifles, some in uniforms or pieces of them and hundreds of folks cheering and waving. The parade would stop near the center of town and a dignitary or two would make speeches that lasted too long. Then the parade would move on, the music would end and then, at last, we went to a big



**The Never Forget Garden at Gorton.**

park for incredible picnics and more music, dancing and families visiting and enjoying the day.

Memorial Day...where did it start and why did it not move me back then (as I gobbled down burgers and Cokes as fast as I could at the picnic) like it does today?

In a recent visit to Washington, DC, I went to Arlington Cemetery, then to the Tomb

See MEMORIAL DAY on Page 6

## Alumni News



Wall of Fame Inductee

## Meet the Man: Theodore Smith, Social Activist

In the April edition of *Wolf Tales*, we introduced Theodore H. Smith as one of Gorton's greatest athletes to ever compete. From his junior year in 1925 through the next decade, Theodore dominated the New York sports scene.



Recapping the last month's article, while he was a multi-sport athlete, Theodore excelled in track and field events. He set records in the pole vault, broad jump, 100-yard, 220-yard and 440-yard dashes, as well as their respective relay events.

At Gorton, he was a star running back in football and all-city selection in that position. At Syracuse University, he played football and competed in track and field where he was awarded the university's highest award for track and field. In his "spare time," he competed in local

See ALUMS on Page 4





**THE BREAKFAST CLUB**—Soon after our 50th reunion, Alex Poletsky, Malcolm Brown and Yvonne Sullivan Price began meeting twice monthly for breakfast at neighborhood diners. With Malcolm back in town after moving to California, the three amigos renewed their culinary conversations.



**C'EST CAMEMBERT**—Sam Fried was celebrating “best birthday ever” with Gale Donnelly in France until an Italian tourist, Mona Lisa, photo-bombed him at the Louve.



**OPENING DAY**—Malcolm Brown's grandchildren, Millie, Oliver and Henry are ready for centerfield.



**DOUBLE NICKELS**—Congratulations to Lorna Reynolds and Barry Jacobs on the 55th wedding anniversary.



**BELLES OF THE BALL**—Ursula Belle Healy poses with her daughter Ursula “Jr.” and granddaughter Ava Belle for outdoor dining on Mother’s Day.



**MAKE OUR DAY**--Ryan, a 7th Grader at Williston Northampton School, plays host to Beau and Janet Guyon Hanford during Grandparents’ Day at the school.



**A CAVALIER DECISION**—Caraline Kennedy, Joan Lawless Kennedy's granddaughter, will be attending the University of Virginia this fall.



**HOOSIER BOUND**--Ithan Zaslow, grandson of Elaine London Glover, will be a freshman at the University of Indiana.



**AUTHOR, AUTHOR**—Dimitri Poletsky stands by the display of his book, “Kitty Kat Has to Chat,” which he wrote and illustrated. He won first place in the kindergarten division of the children’s writing contest held by WHRO-FM in Norfolk, VA.





**GREENWICH TIMES**—Ursula Healy plays hostess at the Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, CT, to Rick and Emily Maher and their son Dylan. From left, Steve and Alice Tuers, Emily and Rick, Ursula and Dylan.



**QUEEN FOR THE DAY**—Susan Dratch Eaton and husband Norman are joined by children and grandchildren for Mother's Day in Westport, CT.



**THE BEST AT JOHN'S BEST**—The hostess with the mostest, Yvonne Sullivan Price, put together another gathering of Class of '65 grads to greet Rick and Emily Maher during their visit from Georgia to see their son in Connecticut. Front row are Emily and Alex Poletsky. Bringing up the rear, figuratively, are (l-r) Jo Harter Irish, Steve Tuers, Elen Freeston, Yvonne, Rick and Ursula Belle Healy.



**CHECK THE IDs**—Lori Kohn Rowe and her granddaughter Hailey Chase share good times together at Cola's Restaurant in Columbia, SC.



**TEE TIME FOR NINE?**—Centennial Golf Club in Carmel, NY, plays host at the 19th hole to the Wolf Pack. Standing, from the back nine, L-R, are Kevin and Priscilla Henry, Yvonne Sullivan Price, Harry Terbush, Ursula Belle Healy, Elen Freeston and Steve Tuers. Seated in front, Alex Poletsky and the guest of honor Tomm Robinson from South Carolina, who was in the area to see his Godchild graduate from Marist College.





**President Obama sits with representatives from four cities being named MBK Model Communities in Chicago on May 10, 2023. Left to right, Ashley Harris Philippsen of Tulsa, Newark Mayor Ras Baracka, Willie Barney of Omaha and Yonkers Schools Superintendent Edwin Quezada.**

### **ALUMS** (from Page One)

AAU events at the national level, winning multiple awards. It culminated in his selection to the U.S. Olympic Team in the running broad jump. He continued competing in local and national amateur events in his age group for the rest of his life.

But as impressive and impactful his sports career was, it is not the reason Theodore H. Smith has been highlighted to you over the past month. Let me introduce to you the real man through the recollections of Helen Jane Fried C62, life-long family friend of the Smith family.

#### **Theodore H. Smith 1905-1999**

*"Almost a century after his birth in 1905, Theodore H. Smith remains a shining star in the constellation of Gorton High School Alumni.*

*"An outstanding athlete in both high school and college, he is said to have received hundreds of awards for his performance in track, broad jump and indoor long jump. As a student at Syracuse University, he received the Tom Keane Award as 'the most versatile and valuable trackman' at the university. He was selected to attend the Olympics, but was unable to attend*



*because of the expenses involved and the lack of financial support from external funding groups.*

*"He is in the Yonkers Sports Hall of Fame and was an early director of the Yonkers Police Athletic League. Smith was also a Charter Member of "100 Black Men" as well as a co-founder of the Yonkers Black Community Center and the first Black member of the Yonkers Democratic City*

**See SMITH on Page 5**

### **MBK** (from Page One)

Yonkers was recognized specifically for its success with improving high school graduation rates for students of color. In 2016, when My Brother's Keeper started in Yonkers, the graduation rate of the district's young men of color was 75%, said outgoing schools Superintendent Edwin Quezada. Now it is 88%.

"The success of the community as a whole is dependent on the success of our young men of color," Quezada said. "We are just humbled and honored," Quezada added.

"To get that recognition shows that Yonkers is utilizing the resources that we have," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, who accepted Obama's 2014 challenge to communities to start the program. "Everyone has bought into My Brother's Keeper."

Graduation is one of six milestones for My Brother's Keeper. The others involve making sure children: enter school ready to learn; read at grade level by third grade; complete post-secondary education or training; are working if they're not in school; and are safe from violence.

Adren Wilson, executive director of the My Brother's Keeper Alliance, said the organization will provide Yonkers with direct coaching, peer-to-peer learning and more, so that "Yonkers will continue to serve as a beacon of hope and best practices for other communities to follow. Together, we can ensure our boys and young men of color have access to the opportunities they need, including the opportunity to graduate from high school with the skills and tools needed to advance to postsecondary education or training."

Spano noted how far Yonkers has come since the landmark federal case that resulted in the 1986 order to desegregate Yonkers schools. To be recognized by Obama "says a lot about where Yonkers was and where Yonkers is today," he told The Journal News.



## Gorton High School Alumni Association Wall Of Fame

Arthur Yedowitz C26  
Mae Morgan C29  
Fletcher Knebel C29  
George Giddings C38  
Anthony Clements C49  
Dennis Pryzgoda C49  
Warren Casey C53  
Eileen Hedy Schultz C50

Ben Ermini C54  
James Pitches C55  
Peter Kachmer C58  
Arthur Hellman C59  
Peter Morley C59  
Ron Petro C59  
Frank Forcelli C60  
Gayle Sourenian C64  
Ralph Johnson C65  
Paula Giddings C65  
Charlie Criss C66  
James Bostic C71  
Theodore H. Smith C26

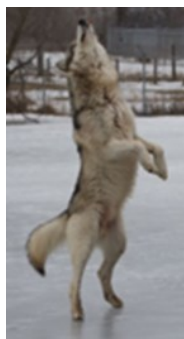
James Cavanaugh - Principal  
Gertrude Braslow – Faculty  
and C25 graduate  
George Foster – Faculty  
Mildred Streeter – Faculty  
Don DeMatteo - Faculty  
Sandy Siegelstein – Faculty  
Roger Sorrentino – Faculty  
John Juliano – Faculty  
Robert Foley – Faculty  
John Volpe – Faculty  
Muriel King Taylor – Faculty  
Mary S. Galda – Faculty  
and C32 graduate



Trumpet with her pups at the WCC.

## Trumpet in the News! 6 Pups Born at WCC

While moms across the country were celebrating Mother's Day, the Wolf Conservation Center (WCC) in South Salem, NY, had its special celebration a week earlier.



### Dancing With the Wolves

essential families.

Trumpet, a Mexican gray wolf, welcomed her fourth and largest litter yet—four males and two females. She and her mate, Lighthawk, had offsprings born in 2018, 2019, and 2022.

With only 241 wild Mexican gray wolves living in the U.S., each new arrival represents a priceless contribution to the recovery of their rare and at-risk species. The wolf parents and pups are not on public exhibit, but 15 live webcams, available on the WCC website (<https://nywolf.org>), give viewers a chance to see the private lives of these elusive and

Last year, one of Trumpet's pups, Crumbo, was successfully cross-fostered into a wild family to rebuild the wild population in Arizona or New Mexico.

### **SMITH** (from Page 4)

Committee.

*"Theodore Smith transferred to Gorton High School when it opened at the beginning of his junior year. He graduated from GHS in 1926. His three daughters, Carol Ann, Jayne and Barbara, also graduated from the school in the 1960s.*

*"His achievement in sport was only the first phase of his luminary career. After WWII, Smith returned to Yonkers and began his work in creating equity in housing finance. He worked to make access to housing finance available to returning Black veterans who were denied the same benefits as white veterans received. White vets received 2% government guaranteed loans to purchase homes. Black vets rarely received these loans and were generally unable to purchase property.*

*"He contributed to the efforts to create what we would now call "affordable housing" and to eliminate the practice of redlining, which allowed banks to deny mortgage loans to Black people.*

*"He also worked on affirmative action hiring in public construction. As an agent of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, he told a hearing committee that 'We need to see some*

*colored faces in construction and if they're not there, we want an explanation of why not.'*

*"Smith was an early activist and pioneer in desegregating housing in New York. He was the rent administrator for the Upper Manhattan Temporary State Housing Rent Commission. He retired as Director of Equal Opportunity for the State of New York as an official of the Department of Housing and Urban Development."*

Thank you Helen Jane Fried for introducing us to the man that Theodore H. Smith really was...a fierce defender of racial justice and equality. And when he came upon racial injustice, he exposed it at once, challenging government entities to correct it immediately.

Theodore H. Smith is the beacon of light for today's Gorton student. He is the perfect example of doing the right thing despite overwhelming odds.

It is for the reasons Helen Jane Fried outlined above that the Alumni Association Board of Directors on March 15, 2023, unanimously inducted Theodore H. Smith in the Gorton High School Wall of Fame.

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





The Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery.

### **MEMORIAL DAY (from Page One)**

of the Unknown Soldier, and then to the Vietnam Memorial to find the names of my fellow Marines who lost their lives in that conflict—young men from all over the country who I trained with, and fought with, during two tours of duty in that long war.

We went to serve our country as had every soldier from the Revolution to the present and many, like my buddies, did not return alive. For them I shed a tear and remember they were all someone's son, or daughter, or spouse or brother or sister. Tears fall remembering who they were and what they lost in service to our country. When did this day of observance start?

The earliest day of remembrance began after the Civil War by freed slaves who wanted to honor the Union soldiers who died in Charleston, SC. The town of Waterloo, NY, claims to be the birthplace of Memorial Day on May 5, 1866.

Years later, a Union general named John A. Logan, while serving in Congress, proposed a "Celebration Day" initially on May 5th that later was

moved to the 30th of May. Rumor has it the weather was better, there were no Civil War battles of note on the 30th and by then there were more spring flowers to place on memorials and gravesites.

After WWI, there was a movement to honor not just the Civil War dead but all who served this country and lost their lives in combat. In 1971, President Johnson standardized national holidays and since then, Memorial Day is celebrated on the fourth Monday of May to remember those who gave their lives while serving in combat for this country.

And on that special day, I feel quite lucky to be a part of the day of remembrance, to live in this great country and enjoy as many burgers and Cokes as I can gobble down after the parade!

***George was president of Gorton's Class of 1961. He is a retired USMC Lt. Colonel, having flown 236 missions while serving two tours in Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos. He is now retired from McDonnell-Douglas/Boeing after 28 years and hangs out in Laguna Beach, CA and Ogden, UT.***

## **Parry's Ponderings**



## **Remember Those Who Never Made It Back Home**

**M**emorial Day—the unofficial beginning of summer. A day for cookouts with friends and family. A day for hot dogs and hamburgers, soda and beer.

There's nothing wrong with enjoying yourselves, especially now that COVID is in the rear view mirror.

However, let us never forget that it is also a day for reflection and remembrance. I would ask each of you to do my job for me and ponder.

Take a few moments and quietly ponder what our lives might be like if not for those who gave their all defending the liberties we enjoy but all too often take for granted.

Offer up a silent prayer of thanks that such men and women have existed since the founding of our nation. See to it that their sacrifices are not forgotten and preserve their memory by taking the time to explain to the grandkids the meaning and significance of this day.

After you've done that, go have a hot dog and a beer and enjoy yourself. Have a wonderful summer!

**Full disclosure:** I believe I used a very similar one a few years ago but I like it and you have many new readers so I hope it's not a problem. Besides, at our age no one will remember anyway.

**Don Parry (C65) is a Vietnam War veteran and regularly contributes special tributes on Memorial Day and Veterans Day.**



## From WWII, to Korea, to Vietnam, to Afghanistan—Some of Our Fallen Heroes



William Petsche  
Class of 1943



Anthony J.  
Clemens  
Class of 1949



James Pitches  
Class of 1955



Ralph Johnson  
Class of 1965



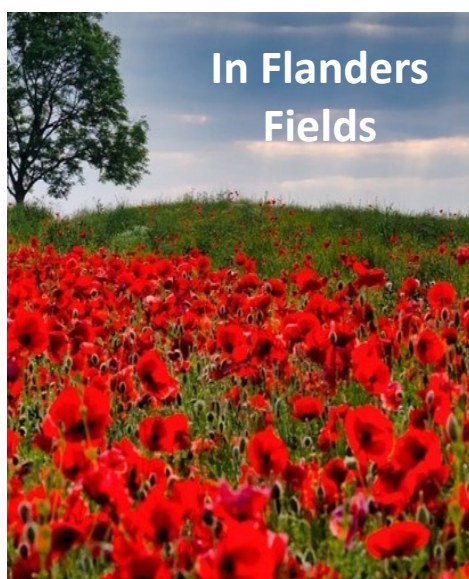
David Owens  
Harris  
Class of 1965



Lester Bracey  
Class of 1969



John Malone  
Class of 2004



### In Flanders Fields

*In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.*

*We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved, and now we lie*

*In Flanders fields.*

*Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep, though poppies grow*

*In Flanders fields.*

**A poem written during WW I by  
Canadian physician Lieutenant-  
Colonel John McCrae, 1872-1918.**



### Our Greatest Generation

Some were their parents' first-born sons; some were their only son. And some could have become the father of a classmate. Instead, they were part of our "the greatest generation" who served and died in World War II.

A plaque honoring 55 Gorton graduates stands proudly at the main entrance into Gorton. It reads: "In honor of the former students of Charles E. Gorton High School who gave their lives in World War II to preserve our liberties."

William John Bendetti  
William Nolan Berkeley, Jr.  
William John Breithack, Jr.  
William J. Breslin, Jr.  
John Gerard Carroll  
Thomas Francis Cielinski  
Francis J. Cleary  
George A. Goshal  
Robert J. Curran  
Edward A. Daly, Jr.  
Ricard E. Detwyler  
John Edward Dzentran  
Francis P. Fennell  
Edward J. Fitzgerald  
Aaron Fleischer  
Americo S. Galle  
James J. Gorman  
John Marshall Gray  
Dudley Guilmette

Edward J. Hackett  
Edward V. Handy, Jr.  
John F. Hermanspan, Jr.  
Raymond J. Johnson  
Milton Kaslow  
Seymour Keidan  
Robert A. Koeck  
Richard W. Kohler  
James Stewart MacKay  
Robert C. MacKeon  
Carl E. Martz  
Thomas A. McCarthy  
William J. McNamee  
Edward F. Meacher  
Francis A. Munsey  
John Joseph O'Brien, Jr.  
Bernard A. O'Hara  
William P. Petsche

Edward J. Quirk, Jr.  
David Aaron Rosenblum  
J. Alvin Ross, Jr.  
Walter F. Salinsky  
Hugh F. Scully  
Charles Blake Skinner  
Earl N. Smith  
William N. Snyder  
Gordon Bates Taylor  
William H. Thomas, Jr.  
William I. Tintera, Jr.  
Alvah J. Tompkins, Jr.  
William V. Trehey  
Donald Joseph Tynan  
William J. Vanca  
Edward W. Wagner  
George Watt, Jr.  
Arthur Frank Weber



# Class of '65 Veterans

† (Deceased)

Tom Boynton USAF  
 Malcolm Brown Lt. Naval Reserve  
 † Bill Camperlengo Army Vietnam  
 Bill Cherko Army  
 George Conway USAF (husband)  
 Dennis DeLillo Army  
 Ray Debenedictis Navy (husband)  
 Capt. Michael DiPietro  
 Army Active (son-in-law)  
 John Eberhart Navy  
 Bob Edie Army Vietnam  
 † Capt. John Esau Army 2½ tours  
 Vietnam, 173rd Airborne Brigade  
 David Farr Army Vietnam (brother)  
 Ric Farr USAF  
 † Wayne Ferguson Army Italy  
 Dean Hamilton USMC Vietnam  
 † David Owen Harris Navy  
 John Harter Army Korea (brother)  
 Jerry Healy Army Vietnam (husband)  
 Maj. Russell Healy USAF Active (son)  
 Kevin Henry Army Vietnam  
 Barry Jacobs Army  
 † Jim Johnson Army  
 † Ralph Johnson Army  
 † Terry Kennedy Navy (husband)  
 John E. Knox Naval Reserves  
 Petty Officer, 3rd Class  
 Dan Laino USMC  
 Mark Laino USMC (son)  
 Mike Lekhmus Army  
 Afghanistan (son-in-law)  
 † Capt. Donald Leonard USAF, Vietnam  
 Rick Maher Navy  
 Des Mas Army, Vietnam  
 † Jim Masterson Navy  
 Michael Mauro Army 101st Airborne  
 Nick Mikulsky Army Ranger  
 Afghanistan and Iraq (son)  
 Ricky Milnarik Navy  
 † Mike Morrone Army Vietnam (husband)  
 Jack Nicholls Army  
 Joe Paretti USMC Dang Ha, Vietnam  
 11th Engineers (husband)  
 Don Parry Army 101st Airborne Vietnam  
 Vincent Policelli USAF (husband)  
 Dennis Porucnik USAF Thailand  
 Ron Trautvetter USAF (husband)  
 Dennis Wasiczko USAF Thailand  
 Rich Whittaker Army National Guard



—Photos by Joe Mikulsky

## In Stillness, the USS Arizona Rests

As Memorial Day approaches, we need to honor and remember not only those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country, but also those who honorably served in our armed forces.

The USS Arizona Memorial is one of the many places dedicated to those who died in service to our country but it is unique—it marks the resting place of 1,102 of the 1,177 sailors and Marines killed on the USS Arizona during the attack on Pearl Harbor on Dec. 7, 1941.

As part of the Pearl Harbor National Monument, the visitor center houses a museum and several outdoor exhibits. A shuttle boat brings you out to the memorial, which is built above the harbor waters and straddles the sunken hull of the Arizona.

As visitors talk in hushed tones, you

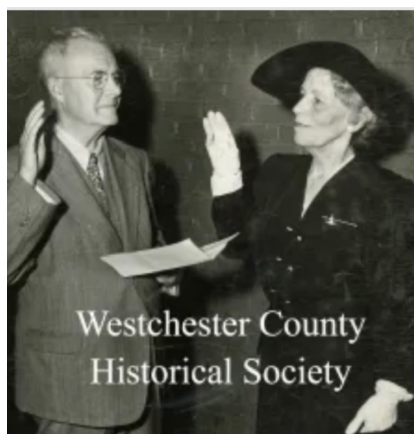
can view the list of all the names of those lost on "the date which will live in infamy" on a marble wall. There are seven windows on each side of the memorial as well as seven skylights above. Some say this is a reference to a 21-gun salute.

The crystal-clear waters of the harbor reveal the outline of the hull. Some protruding parts of the vessel are still leaking oil and are referred to as "tears of the Arizona." Nearby, the battleship Missouri, where Japan surrendered to the U.S., is docked to spiritually protect the monument.

The shuttle boat ride back to the visitors' center was a lot quieter than the ride out.

—Joe Mikulsky





Edith Welty sworn into office.



Mayor Welty awards key to the city to Jean Crane, Miss Westchester, and Ed Sullivan.



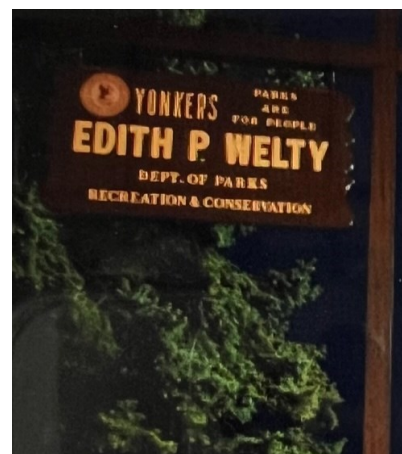
Mayor Edith Welty, 1940.



Edith and the rest of the City Manager's League.



Her home on 92 Normandy Road.



The park named in her honor.

## The City's First, and Only, Female Mayor

**E**dith Parmenter Welty was a pioneer woman—she was the city's first, and only, female mayor as well as the innovator of the city's fledgling city manager form of government.

She didn't start out to become a politician. She came late to this office at the age of 52. Up until then, Edith lived at 92 Normandy Road where she raised her family.

A friend convinced her to attend a meeting of the League of Women Voters in 1934, and the rest is history! She became interested in local issues and began studying them. Soon she was leading committees and was an expert in many areas of city government.

Like today, the two-party system was



### Did You Know?

more in opposition rather than trying to change things for the better. To challenge this mentality, "The City's Manager's League" was formed with Edith Welty at the helm. Its goal was to completely reshape how the government operated in Yonkers with a city manager government that had proportional representation and a non-partisan ballot.

Having the power distributed among citi-

zen representatives on a council, which worked with the city manager, was meant to curb corruption and waste that was growing in the city due to partisan wheeling and dealing. This revolutionary idea was passed in 1939.

The influence of Edith Welty's commitment and leadership to this endeavor came with many accolades. She won the "Most Outstanding Woman" award from the Business and Professional Women's Club of Yonkers in 1938. She also won a seat on the Yonkers Common Council, now called the City Council.

Despite making progress and receiving recognition for her work, Edith felt that not much had changed in the government.

See **MAYOR** on Page 10



## MAYOR (from Page 9)

Edith had no serious political party allegiance. Initially she had been endorsed by the Republicans, then fell out of favor and identified as an “independent” Republican in 1947.

On Sept. 1, 1940, Mayor Curtiss E. Frank resigned from office after serving six years. He left to pursue his legal career in publishing and advertising, leaving four months to his term. Given the newly populist-style of government, the new mayor was to be appointed by a recount of the previous election’s candidates. By a margin of 277 out of more 40,000 votes, Edith Welty became the first female mayor of Yonkers when she defeated John Whalen, who became vice mayor.

During her brief term of office, Edith was praised for her leadership, ability to bring people together and her commitment to the community. She earned the nickname “Public Energy Number One” from The Herald Statesman.

The few months that Edith served as mayor under the proportional representation was to be the city’s last. While Yonkers retained the “city manager” for many years to come, it reverted back to a ward-based map of representation. Initially she had been endorsed by the Republicans, then fell out of favor and identified as an “independent” Republican in 1947.

After her term as mayoralty, Edith continued to be active in community affairs. She was a trustee of the Salvation Army, a member of the YWCA and the Chaminade Club.

Yonkers named a park after her, which is located on the east side of Mile Square Road. It has a playground, baseball field, and tennis courts—a nod to her love of that game. Edith Welty passed away at St. John’s Riverside Hospital on Dec. 31, 1957, at the age of 76.

She was a true trailblazer in Yonkers politics.

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



—Photos courtesy of Seth Harrison/The Journal News

**Immigrants arrive at the Ramada Inn on Tuckahoe Road in Yonkers.**

## Asylum Seekers Arrive in Yonkers

The first of an expected 100 asylum seekers arrived at the Ramada Inn on Tuckahoe Road as part of New York City Mayor Eric Adams’ plan to send some migrants to nearby counties.

Only Yonkers has opened its doors and arms. Putnam, Dutchess, Rockland and Orange counties have filed various suits to prevent hotels from housing New York City’s spillovers.

“Yonkers is a city of immigrants,” said Mayor Mike Spano. “We are compassionate to the plight of asylum seekers. “However, the sheer lack of communication and planning from New York City on this crucial matter is unacceptable.”

According to Spano, the plan is to house the families for up to a year but that no provisions are in place to fund the schooling, public safety and health services that would be needed.

Any child is entitled to a free and appropriate public education in New York, with school attendance compulsory for all children between 6 and 16. Yonkers facilitates placements in pre-K and “3-K” programs for any family who wants it. Yonkers Schools Superintendent Edwin Quezada said the district will have to be prepared to provide for the children’s academic and social-emotional needs, as well as to figure out if more building capacity is needed.

## How Many Spanos Does It Take...?

It appears someone has had enough of the Spanos, not just Mayor Mike Spano but also 14 of his relatives with city jobs.

Westchester D.A. Mimi Rocah has asked the state comptroller and two city oversight agencies to determine if a criminal inquiry is warranted. In addition to the mayor, there are eight nephews, two brothers, a sister, niece, cousin and sister-in-law. Lobbyist Nick Spano, the mayor’s brother and a former state senator, represents several clients who also have business before the city.

Yonkers Inspector General Liam McLaughlin, a Republican, told *The*

*Journal News* that he sees nothing wrong with the Spano family’s devotion to public service. Spano is one of 16 siblings.

## Wait Until Next Year To Rename the Mario

It don’t come EZ for the TZ.

The state Assembly’s Transportation Committee voted not to take action in restoring the Gov. Mario M. Cuomo Bridge back to the Tappan Zee Bridge.

Assembly Member MaryJane Shimsky, who represents Sleepy Hollow and is a member of the committee, said there are other transportation issues that are ahead of the name-change bill.



## Priceless Memories



## Hey Morons! Those Jokes Were On Us

One afternoon a little while ago, I was waiting for my kindergarten-age granddaughter, Prairie, to get off her school bus. When it pulled up, she jumped down and ran to me at full speed, landing on my feet. This was what followed:

**Prairie:** "Gaga, knock knock!"

**Me:** "Who's there?"

**Prairie:** "Bool!"

**Me:** "Boohoo?"

**Prairie:** "Aw, don't cry, Gaga."

**Me, laughing:** "Where did you hear that one?"

**Prairie:** "On the bus!"

Knock-knock jokes. It's good to know that some things from my own childhood are still "knocking" around, although I am aware that some words have changed to protect the innocent and to establish some social mores that apparently were thought unnecessary back then. I was also reminded that school buses are like extended classrooms, because the kids learn a whole lot of "stuff" while coming and going, most of it never part of any curriculum.

School buses were not part of my education. From the time I started kindergarten myself, until my graduation from Gorton High School, I mostly walked to and from school, even at 5 years old.

When it was time for my girls to start school, they took the school bus and they too learned some new things on those

See PRICELESS on Page 12



**Bell Fruited  
Mallee-Eucalyptus.**



**California Poppy.**



**Bull Banksia.**



**Blue Fan Flower.**



**Hibiscus.**



**Bottlebrush.**



**Monger Chittick.**



**Scarlet Honey Myrtle.**

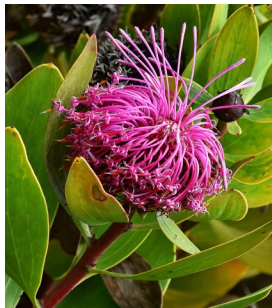
The Arboretum at the University of California, Santa Clara, is a walking favorite spot of Joe Mikulsky and Annie Chandler for nature photography.



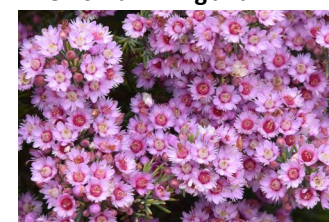
**Spotted Towhee.**



**Allen's Hummingbird.**



**Coneflower.**



**Pink Lace Feather Flower.**



**Pearl Bluebush.**



# I Finally Made the PGA Tour

Dear Janet,

Tell me about the PGA Tournament at Oak Hill.

Dear Olive:

What comes to Rochester, NY every 10 years or so, since 1980? It brings lots of visitors and money to the area and thousands of TV viewers.

Why, the PGA, of course, one of the four major golf championships in the world. It's estimated to bring \$3.42 million in sales tax and all event-related tourist taxes to Monroe County and \$4.66 million to the state.

I was able to find cheap tickets (\$33) on SeatGeeks for Monday's practice round and was given an Oak Hill Country Club member's ticket for Thursday. I was thrilled to be a part of the crowd watching



## Ask Janet

Olive Golph

today's best golfers in action, up close and personal, on two beautiful spring days in Pittsford, N.Y. at one of the most beautiful golf courses on the tour.

Anyone who has been to a tournament knows there are at least three ways to enjoy the game. I chose to do all three...sit and wait for the players to come to me, walk with one group at a time, or watch from home on TV. I walked more than 11,000 steps both days.

Beau was a volunteer marshal on the 18th hole and had "free" admission all week, after he purchased the volunteers' required hat, jacket, two golf shirts and meal tickets for more than \$250. At least they can be worn again, unlike most

See **ASK JANET** on Page 13



The Wanamaker Trophy at Oak Hill.

## **PRICELESS** (from Page 11)

journeys. Occasionally, I had to develop some re-education programming to counteract some of the new vocabulary that landed on innocent ears.

Which brings me back to other standard jokes from my childhood that have probably gone out of favor.

We all remember the "moron" ones. Why did the moron do any number of things, like throw a clock out the window? None of us back in the 1950s laughed at these jokes and repeated them because we were insensitive, mean or rude. I didn't think about the definition of that noun at the time, or realize it could be offensive to anyone. I just laughed.

They weren't that funny, they were a bit clever and probably more accurately described as corny. But hey, we kids were corny back then and so lucky to be so. I

haven't heard any new takes on those particular old standbys as yet. I think they are likely gone with the winds of war, but I have a few ideas for a good replacement name for moron, should those jokes make a comeback.

I would be remiss to end this without mentioning the elephant in the room. In the '60s, I'm sure many of you remember preying on pachyderms, making them the butt of jokes for kids a bit older. We were more sophisticated by that time and so we stepped up our game. I know this because none other than the prolific writer, Isaac Asimov, declared they were "favorites of youngsters and unsophisticated adults."

Here is one I remember as one of my favorites. Why did the elephant sit on a marshmallow? Answer: So he wouldn't fall into the hot chocolate.

I know, I've just shown myself to be

"sophistication challenged."

I've started teaching both my young grandgirls some of these old jokes, the ones that are colorful, but not-off color. You know the ones, what's black and white and red ( or read) all over, etc. They like trying to come up with the answers. It's like our own little quiz show, but funnier and without a cash prize or a trip to Disney World. I've encouraged them to share these with their friends, while on the school bus. This is how, in some small way, I am teaching history to a new generation, but fun history, the kind they will remember.

To be more effective, I may start riding the school bus myself. Relax, it's a joke, you morons!

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





Rory McIlroy works on his short game.



—Photos by Janet Guyon Hanford

Cart paths only for golf enthusiasts at the PGA Championship in Rochester, NY.



Frost gives golfers the cold shoulder.



The leaning oak at the 12th hole.

## ASK JANET (from Page 12)

bridesmaids' dresses!

His job was to “control the crowds,” which at golf tournaments basically means asking people to stop talking and to silence phones and clicking cameras while the player is hitting the ball. His job was to raise a yellow flag, indicating the direction of the driven ball, and find those, like sheep, that went astray. The “raucous” Waste Management Phoenix Open makes an exception to the “quiet rule”.

The volunteers are offered snacks while “on duty” but were told not to take the bananas because those are the players’ favorite snacks and they didn’t want to run out.

What I loved about watching is that they putt like I putt, missing the hole sometimes by a lot and sometimes by a fraction

of a fraction! The biggest difference in the comparison between them and me is that they get paid big bucks for what they do and I get nada.

Did I say biggest difference? Well, the fact that they can blast rockets down the fairways and... let’s just say, I can’t, is right up there with the other #1, the money.

Rochester weather can be mighty fickle. There was a frost delay one day followed by near 80° the next. We were blessed with mostly sunny, albeit windy days, but the rain poured down all day Saturday. The tournament continued. Play it and they will come. And they did.

Golf has evolved over the years as almost everything in life has. Scientifically altered clubs and balls, redesigned courses, multiple coaches and new rules, to name a few. Several PGA players broke away to form a

Saudi-backed LIV league.

But there are other changes that directly affect the public. Paper has gone the way of the dinosaur. Everything is electronic. QR codes replace paper tickets and course maps. The beautiful glossy-paged souvenir programs were nowhere to be found. Championship + tickets entitle you to unlimited free food and non-alcoholic drinks all day. Wrist bands are imprinted silky ribbons.

While I enjoy playing and watching golf, I’m much better at watching than playing! And there’s nothing that can compare to an 11,000-step walk around a beautiful golf course, watching the greatest golfers on earth.

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





—Photo courtesy of Brian Harrod

**UP THE CREEK WITH A PADDLE**—A kayaker glides past the Yonkers Recreation Pier, the only turn-of-the 20th century pier still in use on the Hudson River. The restored first-floor pavilion of the pier provides public recreation space, access to the waterfront and serves as the landing for the river ferry service. The second level holds X20 Xaviars on the Hudson.

## Apartments Breathe Life Into Ludlow St.

Yonkers took a major step toward transforming the Ludlow neighborhood with groundbreaking ceremonies for an \$11.5 million four-story building that will house 36 market-price apartment units.

When work is completed on the four-story development near the Ludlow train station, tenants will be a stone's throw away from midtown Manhattan (14 miles) and less than 1½ miles from the Bronx.

The 70 Pier St. property was formerly an office and garage used by the Yonkers Parking Authority.

## City Opens Center For Day Laborers

Cardinal Timothy Dolan gave his blessing to the opening of a day-laborer center designed to expand the skill sets of day laborers and provide educational workshops and leadership training.

Since 2009, Catholic Charities has been helping men and women earn a living and become part of their communities through the United Workers programs in

Yonkers. The new center offers regular trainings and programming, including course construction certified training.

## 2.2 Quake Hits Yonkers/Hastings

Residents along the Yonkers and Hastings-on-Hudson border had an early wake-up call when a 2.2-magnitude earthquake hit at 2 a.m. on May 19.

According to the U.S. Geological Survey, the earthquake is considered mild.

## United Ends County Flights to Chicago

United Airlines will end its sole flight out of Westchester County Airport to Chicago's O'Hare Airport on June 30, according to the airline industry website [\*The Points Guy\*](#).

## Lax, Soccer Pitch Coming to Odell

City officials broke ground for a new soccer and lacrosse field at North Broadway and Odell Avenue, the first of its kind for northwest Yonkers. The city has two other such dedicated playing fields.

The park is expected to be completed in 2024 and be available to Yonkers Public Schools and local boys and girls clubs.

## X20 Xaviars Still Waiting Tables

X20 Xaviars, the iconic Yonkers four-star restaurant on the pier, is still on the dining menu after a brief closure over tax debts.

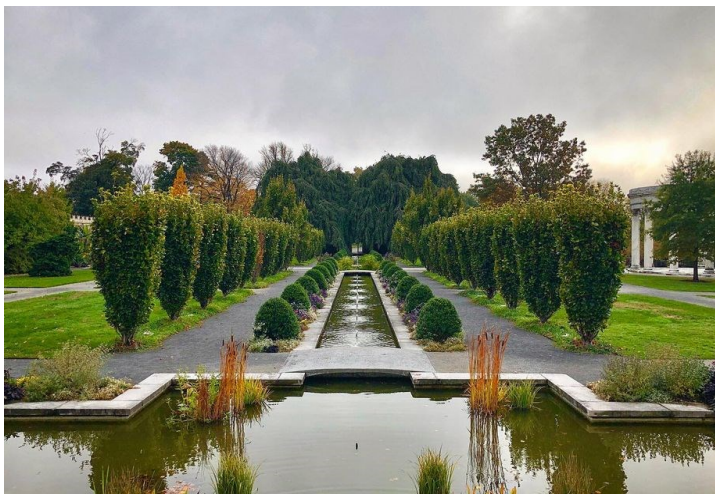
According to Yonkers native chef/owner Peter X. Kelly, who grew up in the Schlobohm Apartments, X20 was temporarily shut down for lunch on May 5 but quickly reopened after he filed for bankruptcy court protection. The Yonkers restaurant reported owes \$695,000 in taxes.

## Yonkers Marathon Set for September

The 96th running of the Yonkers Marathon will be held on Sunday, Sept. 17 and will include a half-marathon and 5K events.

The Yonkers Marathon is the 2nd oldest marathon in the country and is considered by runners to be the toughest due to the hills. It is also a qualifying race for the Boston Marathon.





--Photos courtesy of the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy

THEN AND LAST YEAR—Untermyer’s Walled Garden in the fall of 2011 and in the spring of 2022.

# Talking About Not Sounding Tooooo Stupid?

Let’s face it, we all talk funny. There’s the Southern drawl; the Nashville twang; the Flori-duh. In some places, single-syllable words such as “thanks” become “tha-hanks.” When people “ask” you a question in one region, others “axe” you the same thing somewhere else. “Let me axe you...”

“Do I look suicidal? Axe someone else, I’m busy.”

New England pronounces Worcester as Woosta and gives us chow-da; Manhattan ruins its chowder (accent heavy on the second syllable) with leftover tomato sauce from peet-sa, which you fold when eating and not eat with a knife and fork.

Jo Harter Irish never lost her Yonkers accent when ordering caw-fee; Cindi Lauper just wants to have fun with her Queens’ accent; an Australian’s “a” sounds like an “I,”



## Editor’s Note

turning “rating” into “writing.” I went to college in upstate New York where my name, Al, which sounded like “owl” in Yonkers, sounded like “ale” in Syracuse. When they said my name, I thought they were buying.

Accents, based on socio-economic upbringing, are conversational fodder and the British have it down to a science. In a passing of a dangling participle and a scone, they can spot if you’re a Geordie, Scouser, or Brummie. They have no idea where their empire went but know where you went to school or, more importantly, where you didn’t.

Today, the way we speak lies not with us but in the stars, the stars of cyberspace. Say goodbye to Elmer Fudd, say hello to “voice fry.” Say goodbye to the yellow brick road and Glinda the Good Witch; say hello to “uptalk.”

See **EDITOR** on Page 16



Kim Kardashian



Miguel Almaguer



Nicole Wallace



—Photos courtesy of Danny Zygmunt

**AND NOW**—From top, work is under way on the Persian mosaic pool; repairs are complete on The Temple of the Sky as well as the rock garden fountain.



**EDITOR (from Page 15)**

These mannerisms of speech annoyed me so much that I had to look them up and whom did I find? Kim Kardashian.

The self-proclaimed important person has more than 300 million Instagram followers. She's worth \$1.2 billion and has a luxury cosmetic line called SKKN, which reminds me of the Terry Bradshaw insult that he couldn't spell "cat" if someone spotted him the "C" and "T".

If *Grease* is the word, she's the master of the vocal fry, a raspy way of ending words. It can happen anywhere in a sentence but definitely comes at the end of a sentence to prolong the agony of listening to her.

She's barely on basic cable but *NBC News'* correspondent Miguel Almaguer has also caught the vocal fry virus. When he cues back to anchor Lester Holt, he also adds another dynamic—uptalk ("Lesterrrr?")

Uptalk is a style of speaking in which declarative statements become questions. It's a self-generated? and a contrived way? of speaking? It's a way to stand out in a crowd. So is sticking your finger into a power outlet.

Nicole Wallace, host of MSNBC's *Deadline: The White House*, recently developed the annoying up-talk but only when reading *Washington Post* news clips. For example, "the senator then responded? by denying the accusations? that he was guilty of fraud?"

I won't get down on her too hard since she's got solid creds—she was President George W. Bush's White House communications director and a senior advisor for John McCain's 2008 presidential bid. She's not an airhead but her newly adopted speech pattern makes her sound like one.

I leave you with his: Life is a more than a box of chocolates—it's also a TV remote. You never know what you're going to see or hear but you have the mute and closed-caption buttons plus channel selector so you can be spared the agony of listening to it.

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

## Tuers De Force



## Yogi Wallops A Homer On The Big Screen

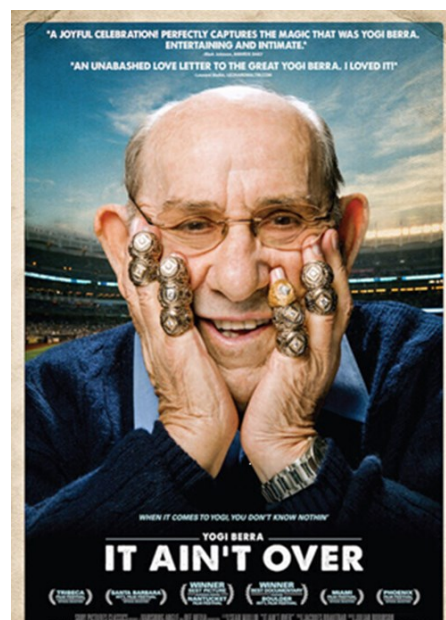
**L**awrence Peter (Yogi) Berra passed away in 2015 at the age of 90. But after seeing the new film documentary, I realize he is very much still with us.

When I first heard about the new Yogi Berra movie, *It Ain't Over*, and found out there was going to be a special preview screening taking place in Yogi's hometown of Montclair, NJ. I made an urgent call to the Yogi Berra Museum to see if I could buy a ticket. But time waits for no man—it was sold out in an hour! As Yogi might say, "ilt gets dark out there early."

However, and a lot closer to home, it was playing at the Showcase Cinema de Lux Ridge Hill in Yonkers. I made sure to be in the lineup the next day.

The movie opens with Yogi's oldest grandchild, Lindsey Berra, sitting with her dad and discussing why, during the 2015 All Star Game, her grandfather wasn't chosen as one of the four greatest living ball players of all time? (Willie Mays, Hank Aaron, Johnny Bench and Sandy Koufax were chosen.) She turns to Yogi and asked him, "Are you still alive?" He says he is.

If you put Yogi's statistics against all of those Hall of Famers, Berra's are better! One of the perceptions that hurt him was his physical makeup. He stood only 5'7" and wasn't the best-looking guy on the block. When Ted Williams first saw Yogi he commented, "Are you kidding?"



But no one made fun of him when he was hitting line drives and home runs. Naturally, most of his famous "Yogi-isms" were talked about in the movie.

"When you come to the fork in the road, take it;" "You can observe a lot, just by watching;" "Always go to other people's funeral, or they won't go to yours;" "Never answer an anonymous letter;" and, of course, "It ain't over till it's over." As illogical they sound, when you stop and think about them they make perfect sense.

A powerful moment in the movie came when his son, Dale, who played for the Pirates and Yanks, talked about his drug and drinking addiction. When Yogi heard about this, he summoned Dale to their home. His two other sons were there along with their mom, Carmen.

Yogi made it clear that if Dale continued on his self-destructive and deadly path, they would stop being his father, mother and brothers. This may sound harsh, but Dale said, "It was as tough I was struck by a thunderstorm bolt!" Dale has been clean for 27 years! I had to hold back my emotions.

Another emotional part in the movie was footage of when Yogi returned to Yankee Stadium 14 years after George Steinbrenner, who vowed that Yogi

**See YOGI on Page 17**



## YOGI (from Page 16)

would be the Yankee manager throughout the 1985 season, fired him after just 16 games. Yogi swore he would never return to Yankee Stadium again.

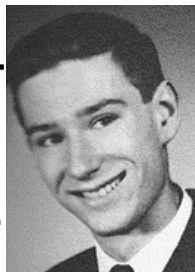
Fourteen years later, Steinbrenner went to Yogi's Museum in New Jersey and personally apologized. Yogi came back to the Stadium for Yogi Berra Day on July 18, 1999. Don Larsen, who pitched a perfect game in a World Series with Yogi behind the plate, threw out the opening game ball with Yogi once again behind the plate. David Cone then took the mound and pitched a perfect game. The baseball gods must have been looking down on the Stadium.

When coming out of the movie, I heard one movie-goer say, "I hate the Yankees, but I loved the movie." Like Yogi himself, the movie is easy to love. He was ridiculed for his appearance and he laughed it off. He fought for his country in WW II and beside Jackie Robinson against prejudice. He won 10 World Series rings, three MVP awards and the girl of his dreams—Carmen—his wife of 65 years.

Make sure you see the movie. "You can observe a lot just by watching."

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

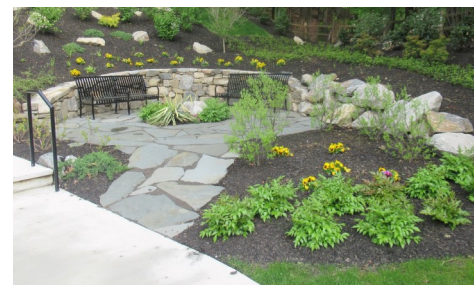
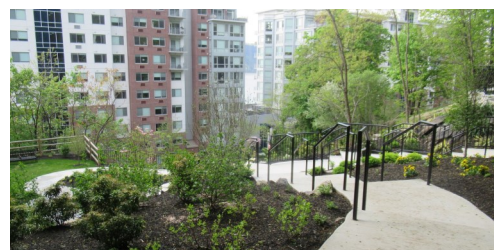
## Parry's Ponderings



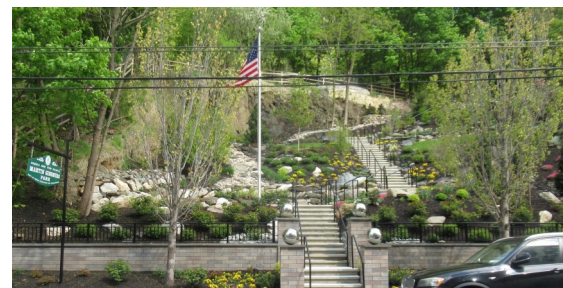
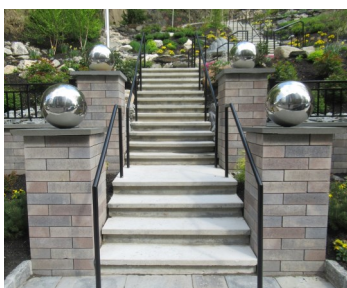
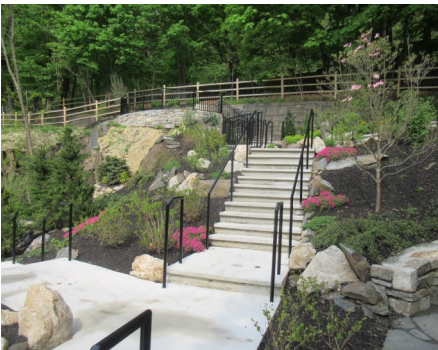
## My Horse Sense Doesn't Makes ¢

**E**arlier this month I watched the Kentucky Derby. The horse that I picked to win was so good that it took 10 other horses to beat him.

*Don Parry (C65) was awarded Westchester's Safest Teenage Driver Award.*



—Photos courtesy of Danny Zygmunt



## Park Links Warburton to the Aqueduct

Yonkers unveiled its 81st public park, the Martin Ginsburg Park, which links Warburton Avenue to the Old Croton Aqueduct State Trail in the Greystone section of the city. The park honors Martin Ginsburg, founder of GDC, a property development company that has built six hi-rise apartment buildings in the area. The park features a stairway and paths that wind through the landscaped areas featuring benches, gardens and shrubs.