

Wolf Tales

The Newsletter of
Gorton's Class of '65

'The strength of the wolf is in the pack'



November 2022, Vol 77



--Photo by Steve Tuers

Vietnam Veterans Memorial at Coyne Park honors 32 fallen Yonkers servicemen.



A Special Thanks to Our Veterans

By the time you read this, Election Day will have come and gone. A free people made their positions known and elected the candidates of their choice.

We enjoy this right, thanks in no small part, to the sacrifices made by our veterans throughout the years. So, whether your candidates won or lost, never forget to honor our veterans for the part they played in securing, among many other things, your right to vote.

THANKS, VETS!

Don Parry (C65) is a Vietnam War veteran.

Parry's Ponderings

Class of '65 Veterans

† (Deceased)

Tom Boynton USAF

Malcolm Brown Lt. Naval Reserve

† **Bill Camperlengo** Army Vietnam

† **Bill Cherkro** 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

CHARLES E. GORTON HIGH SCHOOL

CLASS OF 1962

60TH REUNION ONLINE



Alumni News

C62's Virtual Reunion Was A Real Success

Greetings Alumni and friends of Gorton. I am pleased to announce that the Alumni Association successfully sponsored the Class of 1962's on-line reunion and it was a resounding success on all measures.

"It was an absolutely wonderful experience for all of us," said Robert Schlegel. "Bill, et al, did a great job and the whole experience brought me back 60 years that I had mostly forgotten about."

Marie Einhorn Werner added, "Thank you very much for all the hard work and attention to detail that went into constructing this very lovely experience. The memorial section was quite poignant and the agenda worked out very well. It was an event to remember, with laughter and tears."

We helped in the creation of the event in its entirety. Using the Association's new Zoom account, we copied a template used for the 50th Reunion of the Class of 1964 that was a live, in person, brick and mortar affair. The plan for the Class of 1962 was as follows:

- Each grad submits a short bio (150-200 words) of their life since graduating from Gorton, along with photos of things important in their lives.

See ALUMS on Page 5

Ghosts of Halloween Past



Scary, scary nights in Malcolm Brown's neighborhood.



Norman Eaton's (Susan Dratch's husband) Jack O'Lantern.



--Photo courtesy of Mark Vergari/The Journal News

The Headless Horseman makes an appearance at the 20th annual Tarrytown Halloween Parade.



—Photo by Joe Mikulsky
Santa Cruz surfer statue.



Elaine London Glover's granddaughters, Emily and Hannah.



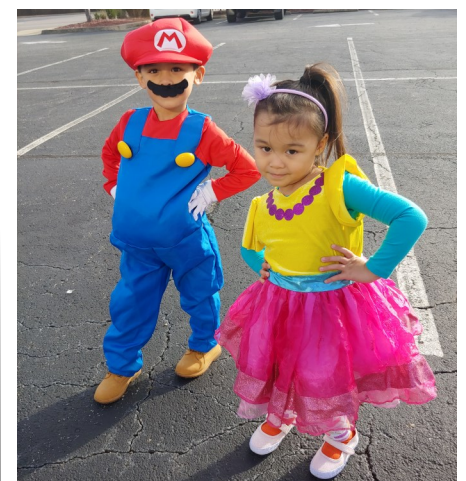
Yvonne Sullivan Price's Prairie Sky and friend.



--Photo courtesy of Kevin Henry
Sometimes you don't feel like a nut...



Joan Kennedy's grandsons Minecraft (Henry) and Tigger (Pace.)



Mario (Dimitri) and Fancy Nancy (Neleh) Poletsky.



Yvonne's bewitching granddaughter Aspen.



THEY SAY IT'S YOUR BIRTHDAYS—Classmates Phyllis Yatchie Benjamin and Elaine London Glover, along with husbands Kenny and Jimmy, celebrate their birthdays while keeping candles to a minimum because they're all young at heart.



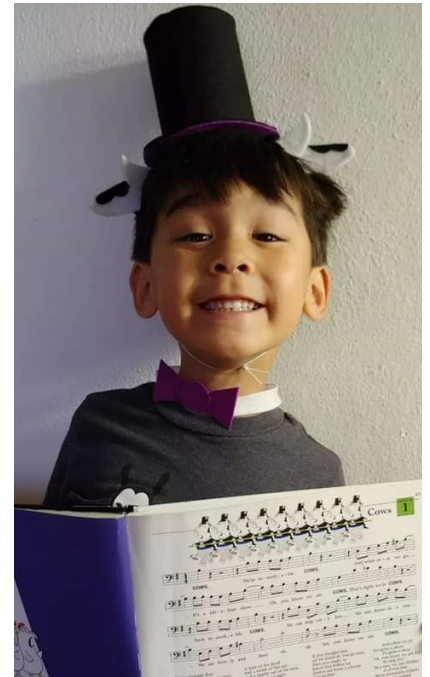
THE BIG 40—The Hanford clan (Janet and Beau at the far end) celebrate Mike's 40th (forefront) the best they could in between youth hockey, football and a Halloween parade in Easthampton.



BRAVO--Ava Belle (Ursula Belle's granddaughter) with Cousin Molly after Ava's performance in *Footloose*.

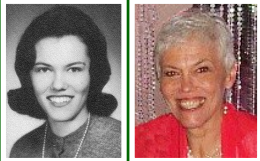


WELCOME BACK, MALCOLM—Malcolm Brown, who moved to California, always has a table when he comes to town. This time, the town is Patterson, NY. He's greeted by Alex Poletsky, Steve Tuers, Elen Freeston, Jo Harter Irish and Yvonne Sullivan Price.



BOOK 'EM DANNO—It was "Love a Book Day" at kindergartens from Norfolk, VA, to Woodbury, CT. A favorite of Dimitri Poletsky, dressed as a cow with class, is *Philadelphia Chickens* by Sandra Boynton that features remarkable cows. *Rosie Revere, Engineer* by Andrea Beaty is Prairie Sky Cintron's top-shelf choice and Yvonne's granddaughter dresses the part for a show and tell.





Marion Lynn
Adels Ahmed



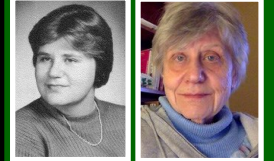
April Auer Mulley



Georgia Berkowitz
Heller



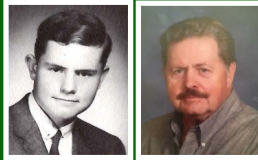
Mary Ann
Chomko Bernal



Irene Civinski



Gerry Croce Bonds



Ian Dahlgard



Deborah Daly Locurto



Gary DiMeo



Susan DiMeo



Marie Einhorn Werner



Margie Ellenson
Levenson



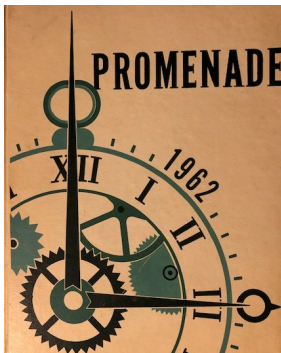
Linda Glass Laff



Helen Jane Fried



Linda Galda Johnson



The Class of 1962
members (then & now)
who participated in a
virtual reunion organized
by Bill Tolany.



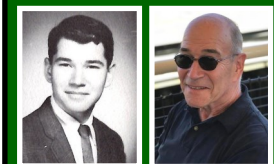
Jean Gartner Swezey



Anna Gombotz
Yedowitz



Matina Grammas



Robert Gurion



Sandra Hart McMullen



Susan Joseph Wolff



Mary Jane
Kelly Scotti



Joel Klein



Elaine (Rikki) Knesnik
Barker



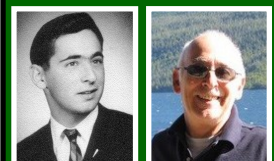
Janet Kyff Fine



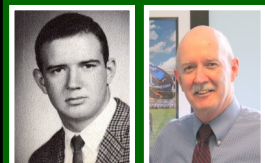
Claudia S. Lee



Rose Marie
Mercurio Carnes



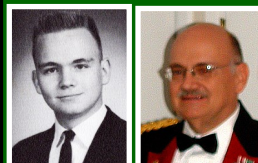
David Parker



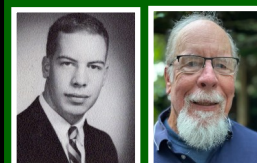
Thomas Reilly



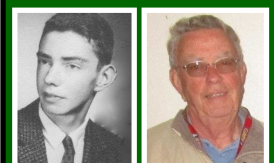
Rhona Saunders



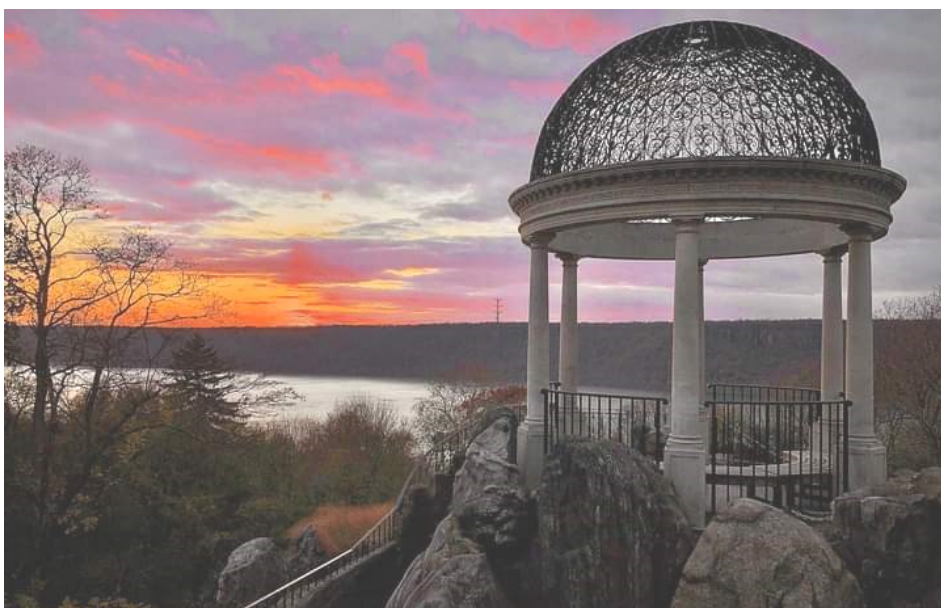
Robert Schlegel



William Sigafoos



Peter Traub



—Photo courtesy of the Untermyer Conservancy

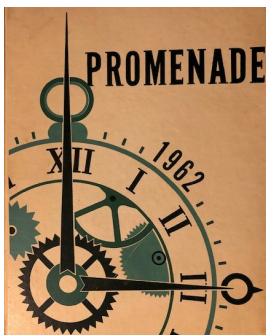
Sunset over the Hudson as seen from Untermyer's Temple of Love.

ALUMS (from Page One)

This could include pictures of family, travel, pets...anything meaningful to them. Pictures must include a fairly recent head shot of themselves.

- Upon receipt, the Bios were crafted with slight editing, and suggestions... all placed in a PowerPoint format. Each grad's GHS graduation picture was placed in the upper left-hand corner of the page, while the current headshot was in the upper right. The written bio was center page with the remaining pictures around the perimeter. It was sent back to the grad for questions, comments, suggestions, rework if necessary, and eventual approval. Our commitment, nothing goes forward without the grad's approval.
- As each is approved, they are placed in a master PowerPoint file to be shown in one continuous presentation on Zoom. As each bio with pictures was displayed, it was read aloud by one of two volunteers from C62 in a casual, conversational style.
- After the reading of the bios, the

grads were sent to six breakout rooms to meet fellow grads "face-to-face" for the first time since their last reunion, and for some since graduation. Through some vague memory of combinations and permutations from Algebra 2, three 15-minute sessions were conducted with six people in a room and no grad was ever in the same room or saw another twice.



Their responses were superb... they had an outstanding, moving experiences. The readers of the Bios (Helen Fried, Gerry Croce Bonds) were awesome. They each nailed it in making a very relaxed atmosphere. After each reading, the grad would have one minute to talk as well. It was definitely a group participation from start to finish.

Six grads (Robert Schlegel, Claudia S. Lee, Lynn Adels Ahmed, Sandra Hart McMullen, Robert Gurian, Matina Grammas) and two alternates (Linda Galda, William Sigafoos) served as Breakout Room leaders. Plus, they all served as advisors to the meeting development process and made outstanding contributions.

To pull this off took a great amount of preparation. First, was convincing C62
ALUMS on Page 6

Write a Check To Gorton Before Mailing Uncle Sam

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 qualified 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 you in advance for considering the Gorton Alumni Association in your charitable donations.

William A. Tolany
William Tolany
Alumni President

ALUMS (from Page 5)

leadership Jean Gartner Sweezey and Deby Daly Locurto this was a workable, doable effort. An online virtual reunion was all their idea...their issue was how to do it.

Second, have you ever tried to corral a large group of 78-year-olds? It took every bit of cunning and trickery by this 76-year-old, to do so. The challenges...reading emails and responding in a timely fashion; coaxing them to part with personal pictures and stories of their lives; teaching them about Zoom; working on PC and Apple iPad issues; prepping them (better said bombarding them) with email communication, especially in the final week before the show. Yet every man and woman made it through with flying colors.

It was a great learning experience for all, but especially for me in terms of the event. We know it can be done in a format no one else has really done before and that we can do it. Very importantly, we know what it takes to get it done...and to replicate it.

We (I) recognized our shortcomings and, one week before the show, brought on board two volunteer technology experts, one of which was a Zoom professional. Most likely, this was the smartest move I made in the entire process.

But it was also a personal learning experience. I reconnected with names, faces and people I knew 60 years ago at Gorton and had not seen or heard from since then. I experienced the personality of this group of the Class of 1962...a collection of extremely intelligent individuals who became educators, writers, journalists, broadcasters, performers, musicians and artists...great creative minds. They are not only leaders, they are do-ers.

They got the job done. They had a great time, stood up to technology, shared their lives with each other and recounted some of their greatest times at Gorton High School.

They were the stars of the show.

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

Welcome Back to Gorton

Editor's Note: The following is Principal Jamie Morales' welcome address to the Class of 1962.

I want to welcome you back, although through Zoom, to Gorton to celebrate your 60th Reunion. I want to give you a glimpse of what we've been doing over the last few years and what our vision is for the future.

We are now known as the Academy of Medical Professions, which includes programs such as P-Tech, Smart Scholars and a New York State Certified CTE program in clinical medical assistance. We now have a state-of-the-art medical room and an Empress EMT vehicle that was donated last year to Gorton to support all of our student learnings with hands-on experiences.

We are also happy to welcome a new

program which is sports and entertainment marketing where we look to leverage social media to teach students to create brands for athletes and celebrities.



I want to thank Mr. Tolany and the Alumni Association for all of their work, and always remaining engaged in what we do at Gorton. We look to celebrate our 100th Anniversary next year, and look to do so with the creation of a Wall of Fame to celebrate many individuals who have gone on from Gorton to do amazing things. Look out for more plans as we move forward toward our centennial.

And I want to say you are all welcome back anytime to come back to visit Gorton. Congratulations on 60 years...and of course...Go Wolves!

'Can't thank you enough Bill. Seeing all those happy smiling people was such a great experience. What a memorable three hours we had!'

—Jean Gartner Sweezey

'I had a wonderful time and it looked like everyone else did too.'

—Helen Fried

'I [want] to say a huge thank you to Jean and Debbie for their tireless efforts to keep track of as many of our class as possible. And, of course, to Bill who's seemingly never-ending energy, enthusiasm and time spent in helping all of us and tying all the ends together made it all happen.'

--Lynn Adels Ahmed

'It was an enriching and rewarding experience.'

—Gerry Croce Bonds

'Thank you all you did in pulling together a wonderful afternoon of memories and updates on the GHS class of 1962. A very enjoyable experience.'

—Tom Reilly

'I am sure you got the message from us, but have to give another big "thank you" for bringing Jean's desire for a reunion a reality.'

Linda Galda Johnson



Teachers Jessica Mercurio and Barbara Dailey selling snacks during Falloween.



Gorton's pumpkin patch put together by students from Gorton's Special Education Department.



Sophomore Omobolanle Akinduti handing out candy.



Teachers Peter Kremer and Zayna Marjeh (Gorton grad and alumni liaison) with their volunteers for the Falloween "Vampire Blood Drive."



Maureen Santos, a Gorton grad, who is instrumental in organizing Falloween!



—Photos by Zayna Marjeh
Principal Jamie Morales and his family during our Falloween.



Teacher Noelia Soto dressed to impress for the Haunted Hallways.

Haunted Hallways Filled With Our School Spirits
Falloween was back as Gorton opened its creaky doors to family and friends alike to enjoy the scare-free Kid Zone or the Haunted Hallway walk (or run) for the brave at heart. It was a frightfully good time.



Sophomores dressed up for Haunted Hallways.



Spooky student volunteers for Haunted Hallways.



Some special Trick or Treater guests.



Tuers De Force

Father & Son Are Out of This World

It's one thing to see your son pull out of the driveway in the family car; it's another thing to see him blast off into outer space.

On May 31, 2008, the STS 124 Discovery, was the 26th shuttle flight to the International Space Station. Yonkers-born Ron Garan Jr. was aboard as a Mission Specialist 2 for ascent and entry. Sitting nervously in a special viewers' stand a quarter-of-a-mile away from takeoff, was his dad, Ron Garan Sr., watching and praying.

Ron Sr. is a lifelong Yonkers resident and owned a popular scrap-metal yard that bore his name next to Torre Lumber off Saw Mill River Road. I met him at Coach John Volpe's 80th birthday a decade ago at Guilio's on Park Hill Avenue. Since then we have become good friends, meeting for lunch and playing golf. It has become one of my favorite things to do.

As liftoff took place, and Ron Jr. and the crew roared into space, tears were flowing uncontrollably from dad's eyes.

A couple of days later, Ron Jr. phoned home. Ron Sr. recalled, "I was watching a baseball game on TV and my phone rang. I said 'hello,' thinking it was John, my other son," he told me.

Instead, it was truly a long-distance call...a very long-distance call. Ron continued. "The voice said, 'Dad, it's Ron, calling from space.' I told him 'I can't believe it, how are things going up there?'"



Ron Sr. with a photo of his son.

I asked Ron if he ever worried about his son being in space? He told me once when he was watching his son live on a computer performing a space walk off the International Space Station and got very worried. The idea of his son drifting through space was very unsettling.

"I couldn't wait till he finished and got back to the space station. Once he was secured inside the space station, I stopped worrying."

"You know, ever since Ron was 7-years-old, he knew what he wanted to be," his father told me. "I remembered watching with him his first moon landing on TV. He shouted out, 'I want to be an astronaut!'"

When his son's dream became a reality, "I realized how lucky I was and very thankful," his dad told me. "I have great pride in him both as an astronaut and as a man. Very proud of his accomplishments as an astronaut, but I'm also proud of his character he has. He's a wonderful human being."

I can say the same about his dad!

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

Kevin Ducey, GHS'68, U.S. Air Force Retired

Kevin John Ducey of Atwater, CA, died Oct. 22 at his home at the age of 73.

A Yonkers native, he was born to John and Mary Ducey on April 5, 1949, and graduated from Gorton in 1968. He enlisted in the U.S. Air Force the following year and was stationed at Udorn Royal Thai Air Base in Thailand where he met his future wife, Saengchan Chantrasena.



He was later stationed at Castle AFB in 1979 where he later retired after 17 years of service. He was an active member of Atwater community as well as the Atwater Raiders Youth Football.

He is survived by his wife, Saengchan, of Atwater; sons Scott Ducey (Dawn) and Keith Ducey (Daria), both of Atwater; seven grandsons, Camron (Joanna), Scott Jr., Myles (Joy), Andrew (Mayela), Keith Jr., Julian and Davin; and six great-grandchildren.

Noreen Delaney Snyder, Class of '47

Noreen Delaney Snyder, 92, died Oct. 2, 2022, in Irvine, CA.

Born in Yonkers in 1929, she graduated from Gorton in 1947 and attended Champlain College in Burlington, VT. She worked for Vick's Chemical Corp. in New York City, the Veteran's Association in Buffalo, NY, and Immigration and Naturalization Services in Burlington, VT. She was also the food services supervisor for the Colchester School District in Vermont for 23 years.



She married Blake G. Snyder of Bethlehem, PA. She is survived by two sons, Brian (Jenn Struckholz) and Sean (Kellie) and two grandchildren, Vaughn and Delaney Duby.



Editor's Note

A Brief History Of the Times Of Our Lives

Let's face it, we're all running out of time and it's no longer on our side, with the exception of Keith Richards who will probably outlive nuclear cockroaches.

This is the Season of the Twitch (a pun for you Donovan fans)—Election Day and the end of Daylight Savings Time. The question is why now? Why the twofer? Let's start with the easy one—Election Day—not the concept but the day of the week.

Here's a brief history of time (a shout out to Steven Hawking). In 1845, there were 27 states, 28 if you count Texas, and they had different voting dates. Congress stepped in and enacted a single date so mega corporations, multi-billionaires and political action committees would know when it was time to fold up their wallets.

The U.S. was largely an agrarian society. Farmers were busy doing farmer things like planting, tending, harvesting and setting up roadside stands of produce and homemade pies and jams. Congress chose early November because the sod-busters didn't own winter condos in Florida. But why a Tuesday?

For most Americans back then, Sunday was a day of rest and worship as well as resetting their clocks and replacing smoke detector batteries. Since many polling places were miles away and required a day of travel and two forms of identification, Monday was a travel day, much like in baseball; Wednesday was Prince Spaghetti



Clock lends a hand to Harold Lloyd.

Day; and Thursday had far to go for TGI Fridays. By Saturday, everyone was so exhausted that they slept in and the cows milked themselves.

A century later, the idea of making Election Day a national holiday was proposed to increase audience participation but mail-in ballots put the issue to rest. If Election Day was a national holiday, there would be no mail delivery, there would be no ballots to count, no elections, just Taco Tuesdays.

Having solved the problem by not doing anything, Congress turned its focus on time as the fourth dimension and the changing of the clocks, something right in the wheelhouse of a group whose debate mantra is "I know you are, but what am I?"

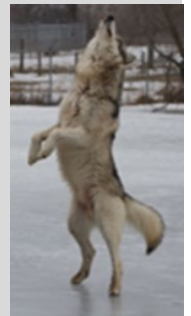
Two states don't observe DST—Arizona and Hawaii—because they have sunshine on a cloudy day; dozens of states want to have sunshine on their shoulders yearlong, Alaska has sun for two straight months. Farmers hate switching time because their animals don't wear Timex watches and moms hate it because their school-age kids' bedtimes are set to their cell phones.

See **EDITOR** on Page 10

'Tis the Season For Wolves to Do Their Thing

It's getting cold out there but things may soon heat up at the Wolf Conservation Center (WCC) in South Salem, NY—it's the beginning of mating season.

Home to 20 Mexican Gray Wolves and 10 Red Wolves, the WCC is part of a nationwide network charged with preserving one of the rarest mammals in North America. Only 10 Red Wolves exist in the wild while more than 200 live in Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) facilities that are responsible for research, oversight and coordinated releases into the wild.



Dancing With the Wolves

A recently born WCC pup was introduced into the wild in a process called cross-fostering in which a wolf pup is taken from its biological parents in captivity and placed with a wild pup litter.

This year, three wolf couples will have the opportunity to breed at the WCC:

- Mexican Grays Trumpet and Lighthawk. The couple had three pups in 2018, five in 2019 and three more last year. Two of their pups have been cross-fostered;
- Red Wolves Lava and Tyke, who lost a pup shortly after birth; and
- Red Wolves Jacques and Sage, who have been living together since Sage's arrival from the Wildlife Red Wolf Center in North Carolina.

So, what's next? Wolves typically breed in winter, anytime from late December to as late as April. The gestation period is about 63 days and usually birth four to six pups.

The WCC offers free Web cams of all the wolves at nywolf.org.

EDITOR (from Page 9)

Who put us in this mess? Ben Franklin, the inventor of electric kites and bad hairstyles for aging rock stars.

While in Europe, he noted that Parisians wasted their time in bed. “You’re burning daylight,” said Ben who was burning his candle at both ends as well as the midnight oil. After conferring with Albert Einstein, who told him time was relative, Ben proposed extending daylight to give him more time to cruise the singles bars along the Avenue des Champs-Élysées.

(Ben also proposed that the French fire cannons at sunrise to wake people up. Parisians surrendered, thus inventing the Law of Unintended Consequences. *Sacré bleu!*)

Later, energy savings, not Ben’s work ethic, became its go-to *raison d’être*, especially during times of war and presidential elections. But the general public grew weary. Years of giving up candles, then coal, then gasoline, then nylons was too much. Why get up at 2 a.m. when only ovens and cars needed re-setting?

Enter the Sunshine Protection Act, introduced by Sen. Marco Rubio. Regardless of your political persuasion, Republicans come up with the coolest names for legislation. Who doesn’t want to protect the sunshine? Anyone? Anyone?

While many of us were celebrating the Ides of March with a toga party, the Senate passed the act by unanimous consent, a legislative action usually reserved for approving three-week recesses. It then entered the black hole of impact studies in the House.

The Department of Transportation was put in charge and has until December 2023 to report its findings—one month after the law is, or should we now say was, scheduled to be enacted.

Another problem solved. Recess anyone?

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



Interior views of the renovations and new exhibitions at the Philipse Manor Hall in downtown Yonkers.



A \$20M Make Over for Philipse

There’s no place like home for the holidays and after 18 months and \$20 million, Philipse Manor Hall located near the old Larkin Plaza re-opened its doors to the public.

The State Historic Site had an extensive renovation of the building and grounds, as well as the addition of new exhibits. Some of the improvements include:

Architectural restorations; a new rear addition with bathrooms and an elevator;; multilanguage exhibits designed to meet needs of hearing and visually impaired and disabled visitors; and interactive exhibits that include languages heard in the colonial period.

“Philipse Manor Hall provides a unique window into early Colonial-era life in New York and lends itself to telling the first chapters of the nation’s path to independence,” N.Y. Gov. Kathy Hochul said at the Nov. 16 ceremony. “The people who lived, worked and traded at the Philipse family home in the 18th century had a tremendous impact on shaping the lower-Hudson Valley.”

The site’s new permanent, interactive exhibits focus on the history of the Philipse family, the indigenous people who once owned the Philipse land, as well as the enslaved Africans who allowed the family to prosper during the era before the Revolutionary War.



Ask Janet

Love & Peace Are The Reason For the Season

Dear Janet,
Christmas is coming and I can feel the angst building. So much to do. Any ideas on how to enjoy the season more?

N. Joy Holly-Day

Dear Ms. Holly-Day,

First of all, relax and smell the egg-nog. Here's a little poem I wrote that puts the season into perspective.

It's a month before Christmas. I'm just about ready.
I'm keeping it simple. I'm serving spaghetti.
This year I'll give gift cards. I don't have to guess,
About who would like what. It cuts down on the stress.
No more hours online or in line at the store.
Now there's more time for baking and so, sooo much more.
My cards will be e-cards all sent with one click.
So there's no need for stamps. No more env'lopes to lick.
I'll read holiday books and watch holiday shows.
I won't care if it's freezing. Won't care if it snows.
I'll be cozy indoors by the fire with my tea,
I'll have time to relax and just think about ME.

PING!

Wait a minute! What's that? It's my phone. Caught me napping,
When I should be shopping and baking and wrapping.

See **ASK JANET** on Page 12



FRANKENMUTH AND MYRRH(Y)—It's never too early for Christmas, even before Halloween. While traveling with Beau and their closest friends, Janet Guyon Hanford gets drawn into the holiday spirit at Bronners Christmas Wonderland in Frankenmuth, MI.



THE MORE THE MERRIER—Ursula Belle Healy is surrounded by granddaughter Ava Belle and her friends.



GOING TO BAT FOR JACKIE—After Steve Tuers' column on the Jackie Robinson Museum where he met the museum's curator, Jennifer Jensen, Steve was able to set up a meeting between Jennifer and Steve's childhood neighbor, Howard Siegel, who he's known for 50 years. Their meeting was a home run. A die-hard Dodger fan (his first date with his wife of 62 years was at Ebbets Field), Howard donated his Jackie Robinson memorabilia to the museum, including a Wheaties' commemorative box.



ALMOST A TRIATHLON—Margaret and Rich Whittaker take a break while bicycling with friends in Portugal. Meanwhile, their daughter, Annie, ran in the New York City Marathon where she finished in the top-third of the 40+ women division.

St. Michael's Church Continues To Aid Ukrainian War Refugees

St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church on Shonnard Place hosted another packed gathering for newly arrived Ukrainian refugees fleeing the Russian onslaught against their homeland.

The "Abraham's Tent" program is in partnership with the Westchester Jewish Coalition on Immigration and began when President Biden announced the United for Ukraine program.

According to parishioner and 1971 Gorton grad Sophia Shchur, "At first, we had to get an idea of how many of our

parishioners could accommodate refugees and how we could handle the needs of our displaced people.

"Shortly afterwards, we were approached by the good people of the Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration. Thanks to their organizational experience and human caring, together we have evolved into an amazing resource center," she said.

The church has expanded its outreach program to include a food pantry, diaper bank, as well as winter coats for the newly arrived families.



Donated items await refugees gathered at St. Michael's Hall.



ASK JANET (from Page 11)

All that part you just read was a dream,
it's not true.
That was all about ME, not much thought
about YOU.
Much like Scrooge who was stingy, but
woke with great fright
With the visit from Marley, the ghost in
the night
Who showed old Ebenezer his life to its
end.
All alone with his money. Not one single
friend.

He was shown 'tis the season of giving and
sharing
With people in need. Time for loving and
caring.

Now if only that spirit could last all year
long.
For so many, it does, so please don't get
me wrong.
It's the "Santa Effect" that we feel in De-
cember
That follows the "thanks" that we gave in
November.
You don't have to be rich to give aid to the
needy.
A used coat and hat are a start. They're
not greedy.
As for food, they're not fussy, quite easy
to please.
Something warm. Keep it simple, like Kraft

Mac and Cheese.

I look forward to Christmas. I shop
through the year
When I see things for family and friends I
hold dear.

I still like to send cards and receive them
as well
Sharing tidbits of news that we all like to
tell.
Not the bad news we hear every day. I
could scream.
Is it real or perhaps just another bad
dream?
Not a dream but a nightmare. Disease,
famine, war.
Storms destroying our homes as they
wash out the shore.

If the news gets you down, look for hope
in Ukraine.
At the trials they face. All the loss and the
pain.
Yet they plow through it all, they won't let
it defeat them.
They're fighting back troops and in time,
hope to beat them.

But for now in this season of love and of
joy
Think of what life was like as a girl or boy.
Decorations. Menorahs. The trees and the
lights.

All the presents you'd get at one time or
eight nights.

Whether Christmas or Hanukkah, Kwanza
or more
The true heart of the season's not found
in a store.
Sure, I shop all year long but the thing I
love most
Is to gather with family and friends for a
toast
To another year gone. To the blessings we
share.
May the Lord bless and keep us all safe in
his care.

And my wish for you all is for joy and good
cheer
May the love of the season be with you all
year.

Now I have to be going, my grandkids
await.
We have something to do. I don't want to
be late.
I'm excited for them and as well for myself
'Cause it's time that we look for the ELF
ON THE SHELF!

Happy Everything to all and to all a good
night.

**Janet Guyon Hanford is a former cheer-
leader and was voted Most Versatile by
her '65 senior class.**

Priceless Memories



Saying 'Nein' To a Nutmeg Nazi Camp

Up until the very moment I was beginning to write my column, it was going to be about fall, this beautiful season, perhaps most appreciated in New England, although I'm sure there are other parts of the country, where other folks enjoy the changing of the leaves into works of art as well.

I have to say, I wasn't expecting much this year, because of a litany of warnings about the droughts, climate change and the array of deadly insects, that destroy so many trees, making it impossible for them to produce anything but dead branches and sorrowful profiles.

But then, I picked up the morning paper to check on some election results and was captured by this front-page headline:

"Southbury Marks
85th Anniversary
Of Rejecting Nazi Camp"

SOUTHBURY! NAZI CAMP! WHAT???

Southbury, CT, sits two towns over from mine. My knowledge of it is framed by the existence of Heritage Village, a lovely senior housing development, by it having been a great place to get pumpkins when my kids were little and by the fact it has grown enormously over the years, offering a lot of stores, quaint little antique shops and various appealing restaurants. A typical town in the Nutmeg State.

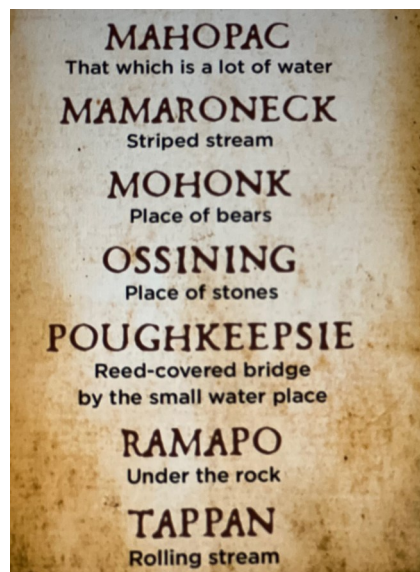
See **PRICELESS** on Page 14



Artist rendering of the Half Moon sailing up the Hudson.

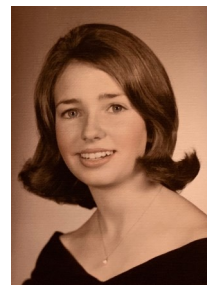


Bargaining was no Dutch treat.



The meaning behind our names.

Did You Know?



Algonquins: First to Call Yonkers Home

Long before European settlers arrived in New York, members of the Native American Iroquois Confederacy made their home in what was known as the Mohawk Valley.

Located in the north central region of New York, it was the only true home of the confederacy's five tribes (Mohawk, Oneida, Onondaga, Cayuga and Seneca.) They never settled in Westchester nor had any interest in doing so. They often traveled through the area which was occupied by the Algonquins. They came to trade, fish and hunt.

The Algonquin lived in a village at the confluence of two waterways, the Muhheakantuck (or Shatemuc) and the Neperah. They called their village Nappeckamack, which meant either "trap fishing place" or "rapid water" to the tribe.

See **ALGONQUINS** on Page 14

ALGONQUINS (from Page 13)

The waters still flow today but are called the Saw Mill River and the Hudson.

This location was very desirable; it protected the Algonquin from attack, offered good visibility, food supplies of fish, nuts, small animals, fresh water and ready transport in canoes or on foot. The Native people's settlement needs were the same as those the Europeans looked for in selecting their settlement locations.

In 1609, Henry Hudson and his crew sailed the Half Moon up the river (later to bear his name) and stopped at Yonkers to trade with the Native people. He noted the excellent location of the settlement and its resources.

Records show that he obtained oysters from the local tribe. He claimed the Hudson River and the surrounding lands for the Dutch.

Eventually, Europeans realized the beauty and vast resources of the new world and soon more and more settlements were



Signing of a peace treaty.

erected. In the beginning, they skirmished with the Indians but soon realized their survival rested on the Native people's help.

Years of relative peace ensued but as the need for more land and resources by the Europeans became greater, the Natives were gradually eased out to lands further west with offers of money, barter, and notoriously, by treaties that were neglect-

ed once the Natives had left their lands.

Today little remains of Yonkers' first citizens except for a few names and two rocks—the trading rock at Cross County and the Sigges Rock between Yonkers and Hastings, which marked the boundary between two tribes.

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



A Mansee warrior, 'Jacques', brought to Amsterdam by the Dutch and exhibited at fairs as a "wild" Indian.

PRICELESS (from Page 13)

But, almost the home of a NAZI CAMP?

Eighty-five years ago, some "person" bought up 200 acres of land in Southbury. Turns out, he represented an organization that espoused the teachings of none other than one Adolf Hitler.

It is hard to believe there existed, in America, in the 1930s, the German American Bund, an organization that allowed only people of German descent to join, which sounds okay on the surface. However, the main goal of their leaders was to present Nazi Germany as a positive model of behavior and ultimately create a Nazi ruling party in the U.S.

These camps were set up for children ages 8 to 18. They wore Nazi uniforms, learned how to march, were taught the German language and were groomed to accept Nazi ideology. They were modeled after the Hitler Youth Camps that existed in Germany at the time. When the Bund

bought the land in Southbury in 1937, there were already more than 20 such camps throughout the U.S.

Enter two reverends, Mark Lindsay and Felix Manley.

When they learned of this acquisition, they were alarmed enough to make their respective Sunday sermons on Nov. 21, 1937, about the dangers of these camps and the Bund organization. People listened. Even though they were not yet aware of Hitler's master plan, they recognized the danger this group represented and acted upon the information.

Those sermons provided enough red flags not only to make headlines, but to motivate the Southbury zoning commission to create a town policy which forbid using any land in Southbury, with the exception of the U.S. military, for any kind of military training or drilling.

It worked. The Bund left town. It abandoned the land and the plan.

It is important to learn about and always remember, that these things happened. Our past holds important lessons.

This month, in which we have created a holiday to remind ourselves of all we have to celebrate and be thankful for, would be a good time to recognize and be grateful for those that once fought and those that are in the fight now, for justice for all and resistance to those that would threaten our values.

Fall is a season of many beautiful shades and hues. It is a good metaphor for some of the faces we encounter each day in this country. Nature gifts us with autumn splendor. Let us gift each other with an appreciation of our respective unique and individual beauty.

Happy Thanksgiving.

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

Council Extends Term Limitations

Mike Spano is getting a chance for more sequels than the *Godfather* series.

The Yonkers City Council approved extending election eligibility to four terms for the offices of mayor, city council president and city council members.

The vote was 4-3. One member suggested a public referendum after the 2023 elections that would give voters the opportunity to decide on three or four terms.

Two-term limitations were first enacted in 1994 in a public referendum but extended to three terms by the Council in 2018.

President Biden Stumps in Yonkers



—Photo by Chip Barnett
Biden disembarks at Westchester County Airport.

President Joe Biden held a "get out the vote" event at Sarah Lawrence College two days before a tightly contested gubernatorial race between Gov. Kathy Hochul and Republican challenger Lee Zeldin.

The president arrived a week after his wife, Jill, headlined a New Castle fundraiser for Rep. Sean Patrick Maloney.

Once a routine stop for presidents and party hopefuls, Yonkers had taken the seat of a distant cousin at the campaign table.

Teddy Roosevelt did a whistle stop here; Harry Truman got into the gubernatorial mix with speeches in Larkin Plaza; JFK and Richard Nixon held downtown motorcades in 1960 (Nixon returned eight years later)



DIGGING THE BEACH—Joan Kennedy's grandson Henry and Maizie dig the last days of summer at Sandbridge, VA.

and Gerald Ford signed legislation at the steps of City Hall.

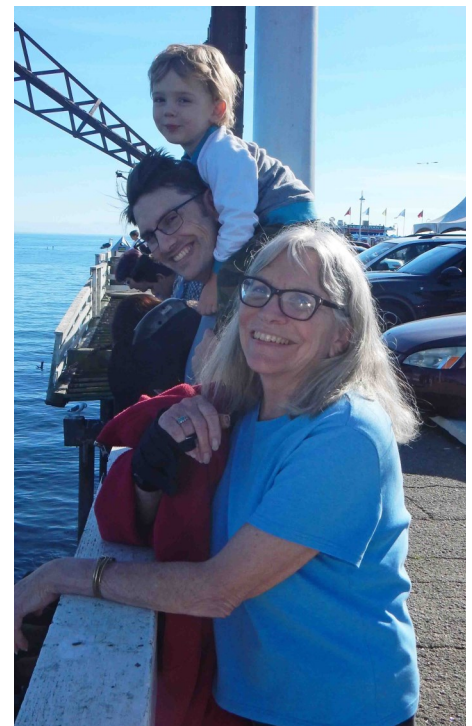
Long before the first presidential visits, Samuel Tilden retired at the Greystone Estate (now Untermyer's) after his 1876 presidential election defeat.

City's Debt Ratings Raised By S&P

S&P Global Ratings raised Yonkers' long-term debt rating to 'A+' from 'A' with a stable outlook and raised the city's general obligation bonds and school debt ratings to 'A+'. The upgrades lower the cost of the city's borrowings to finance capital improvements.

"Given the fiscal challenges that Yonkers has faced, I am pleased with the latest bond ratings as they continue to be the highest Yonkers has received in 40 years," Mayor Mike Spano said.

S&P cited improved management conditions, several years of balanced-to-positive budgetary performance and bolstered reserves to the highest nominal amount in recent history.



AT WHARF SPEED—Annie Chandler with son Nick Mikulsky and grandson Asher at the Santa Cruz Wharf, CA.

City Hospitals Barely Get Passing Grades

According to a report by Leapfrog Group, a national nonprofit watchdog that advocates for safety in hospitals, only one county hospital got an "A" rating—and it wasn't in Yonkers.

White Plains Hospital was the sole "A" recipient. Meanwhile, St. Joseph's Medical Center (Yonkers) and St. John's Riverside Hospital (ParkCare Pavilion, Yonkers) each received a "C."

St. John's Riverside Hospital (Andrus Pavilion, Yonkers) was rated "D."

Store Donates \$5G to School

The opening of a Burlington clothes store at the Mall at Cross County meant more than another place to shop—it meant giving back to the community.

To celebrate the grand opening, the store announced a \$5,000 donation to the Cesar Chavez School on Cedar Street.



School Re-named For Barack Obama

Yonkers seems to change school names more often than most of us rotate our tires.

For the third time this year, we have a new school name—the Barack Obama School for Social Justice, a 7-12 school that replaces the Palisade Preparatory School, aka the College Board School, and perhaps best known as Commerce High School.

Earlier this year, official ceremonies were held for the Ella Fitzgerald Academy for Excellence (formerly P.S. 18) and the Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School (formerly P.S. 13).

City Names First Female Historian

Mary Hoar, a board member of the Yonkers Historical Society since 1988 and its chairperson emeritus, has been named city's first female historian. A volunteer position, she is tasked with encouraging residents to learn about the city's history and how it shaped Yonkers today.



A fourth generation Yonkers resident, Mary is an educator and currently teaches computer literacy to adults at Pathways to Success. In 2014, Mary was named the Yonkers Public Schools' Adult Education Teacher of the Year.

Bowman Re-Elected To 16th C.D. Seat

Rep. Jamaal Bowman, D-Yonkers, won his second term defeating challenger and former Scarsdale mayor Dr. Miriam Levitt Flisser. Bowman garnered 57% of the vote.

The 16th Congressional District includes Westchester County south of I-287 and a section of north-central Bronx.

Senate Majority Leader Defeats Yonkers Pundit

U.S. Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-NY, defeated Yonkers-born Joseph Pinion for his fifth term by a 55-45 margin.

Pinion, raised in the Lincoln Park neighborhood in Yonkers, is a conservative commentator for cable network *Newsmax* who argued that the senator had simply been in office too long with too little to show.

County Taxes Cut In Proposed Budget

Westchester homeowners will get their fourth-straight property tax reduction if the proposed \$2.4 billion budget is approved by the Board of Legislators.

The \$6 million tax cut is accompanied with a \$260 million allocation for public safety (a record amount) along with \$220 million in community health and \$60 million in parks and recreation.

Yonkers Ranks 10th In Metro Rental Costs

Life in Yonkers isn't cheap but it's better than White Plains.

According to a recent survey by Zumper, a privately owned rental platform, the two Westchester cities rank in the Top 10 most expensive cities in the New York Metropolitan Area.

White Plains ranks fourth with an average \$2,590 monthly one-bedroom rent and Yonkers ranks 10th with a \$1,900 monthly one-bedroom rent.



Yonkers Mansion Stars in 'Watcher'

The Alta Manor, built in 1912 in the Park Hill section of Yonkers, makes a cameo appearance in Netflix's limited-series, *The Watcher*.

Director Ryan Murphy, Westchester resident, has also used a Rye house and a Larchmont supermarket for scenes depicting a young couple who move into a suburban New Jersey home and are terrorized by a mysterious person.

It stars Naomi Watts, Bobby Cannavale, Mia Farrow and Jennifer Coolidge.

Yonkers Man Wins \$925G at the Slots

A Yonkers man hit it big at the slots at the Empire City Casino, raking in a \$925,488 jackpot on a \$20 bet at the IGT Wheel of Fortune Triple Stars slot machine.

Walter (no last name please) is the casino's biggest slot winner this year but not even close to an Ossining woman's \$2.9 million payout in 2018.

The big question: What's he going to do with all those quarters?



Thanksgiving gatherings and greetings from Janet, Yvonne and Joan (top to bottom) and from the youngest children as well.