

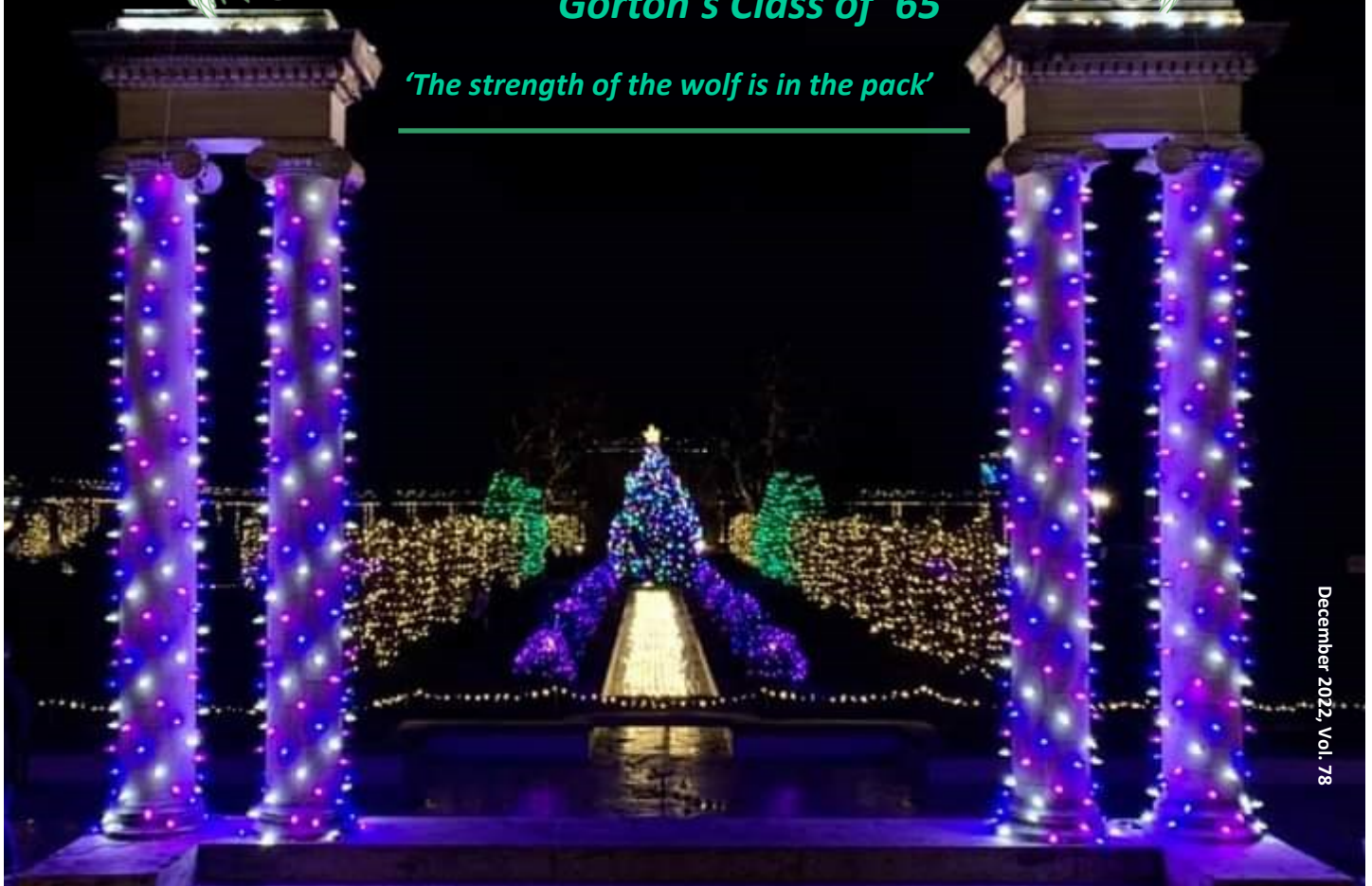
Happy Howl-idays



Wolf Tales

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

'The strength of the wolf is in the pack'



December 2022, Vol. 78

—Photo courtesy of Untermyer Park Conservancy; Special effects by Alex Poletsky

An overview of Untermyer Park Conservancy's 8th Annual Grand Holiday Illumination.

Our Garden Shines for All to See

Untermyer's Grand Holiday illumination has been the crowning jewel of the holiday season since 2015 and it keeps improving with each passing year. Thousands of visitors enjoy the spectacular display within the Walled

Garden—more than 100,000 lights aglow and holiday music filling the night air.

I was greeted by the smiles and laughter of the two volunteers at the garden's entrance. It was a cold and chilly night, but that didn't seem to bother them. They pointed out to me a nearby tent, where two other volunteers were serving hot chocolate.

As I wandered around the garden with colorful lights adorning plantings and structures, in the background was some traditional music associated with Christ-



**Tuers
De Force**

mas. But there was also unfamiliar and equally poignant music.

As I continued my stroll, I happened upon

See **LIGHTS** on Page 2



LIGHTS (from Page One)

Stephen Brynes, founder and president of the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy. He happily informed me that some of the music I was hearing was from the traditions associated with Indo-Persian gardens. He gave me a playlist of the music that was representative of Jewish, Muslim, Christian and Zoroastrian religions. New this year was music associated with Hinduism.

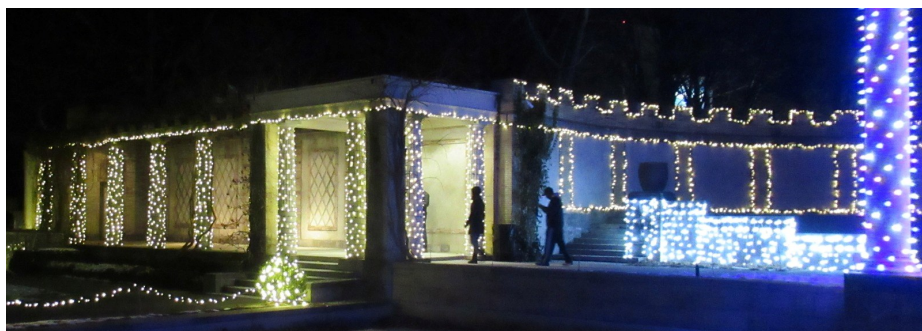
With the music serving as an historic reminder, I was drawn into Samuel Untermyer's vision of ancient gardens dating back a thousand years! With the temperatures continuing to drop, I was also reminded I needed a refill of some hot chocolate. I wasn't alone—dozens of visitors were now lining up for the same.

As I gazed around this amazing spectacle, I realized how lucky Yonkers is to have this gem in its own backyard—a park that is now considered one of the most beautiful gardens in the U.S. Back in Untermyer's day, it was also called one of the most spectacular gardens in America.

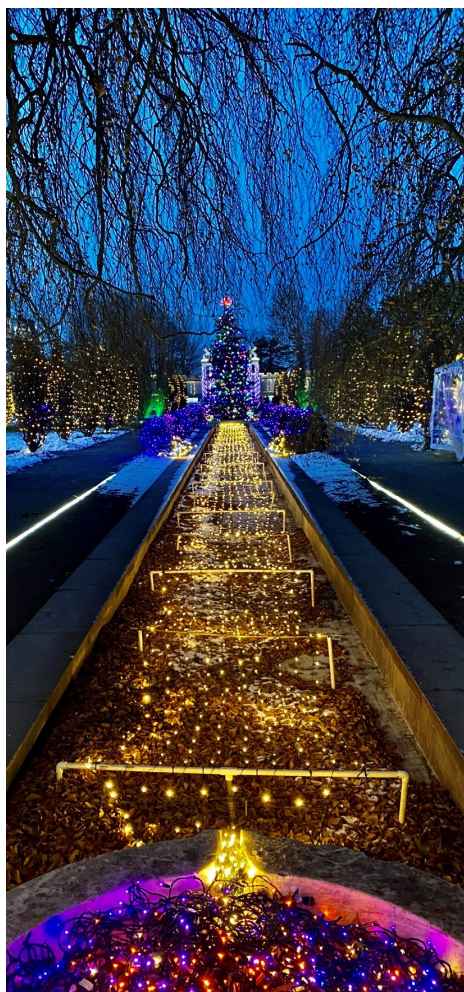
But, as time marched on, it slowly became America's "Forgotten Garden." Had it not been for Stephen Byrne's vision and the Conservancy's breath-taking efforts, Untermyer Park would have faded into history much like the ancient Persian gardens.

As I left Untermyer that night, cars and pedestrians were still coming in to see the lights on Broadway. The so-called Forgotten Garden was alive and well.

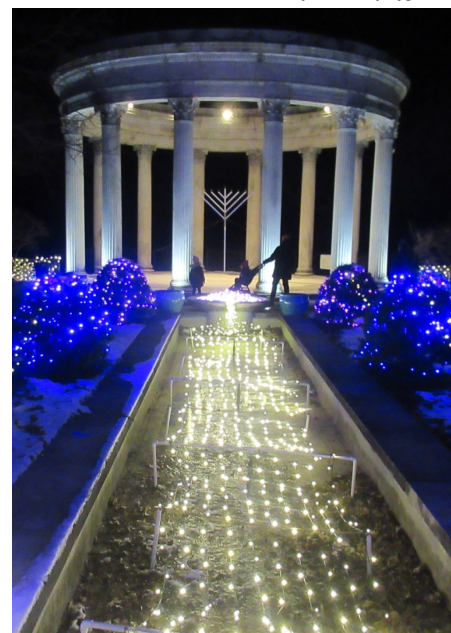
Steve Tuers was a member of Gorton's championship basketball team and is a lifelong resident.



—Photo courtesy of Danny Zygmunt



—Photo by Steve Tuers



--Photo courtesy of Danny Zygmunt



—Photo courtesy of Danny Zygmunt



—Photo by Steve Tuers



--Photo courtesy of Danny Zygmunt



—Photo courtesy of Mark Vergari/The Journal News



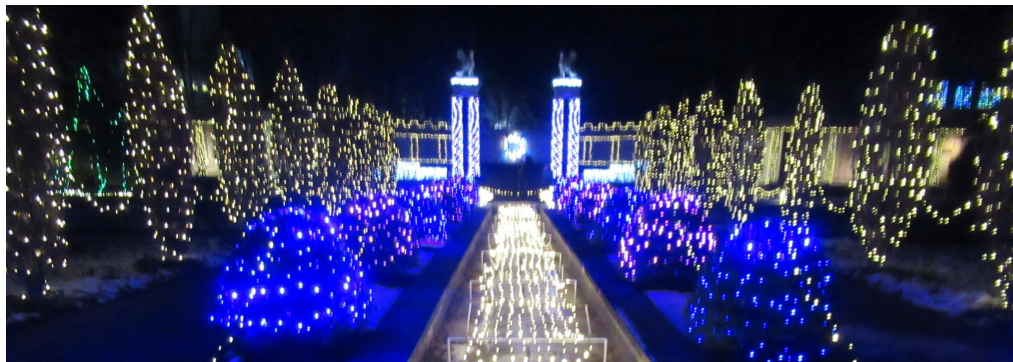
--Photo courtesy of Danny Zygmunt



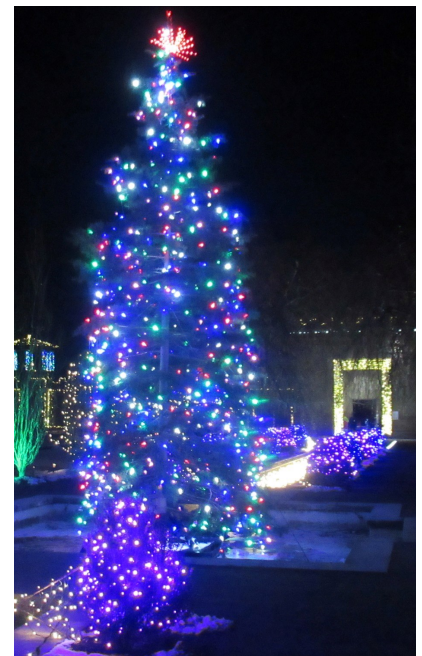
—Photo courtesy of Danny Zygmunt



—Photos courtesy of the Untermyer Garden Conservancy



--Photo courtesy of Danny Zygmunt



—Photo courtesy of Danny Zygmunt



DE-LIGHTFUL—Dotty Colello McFarlane and family take in the sights at Leu Gardens Dazzling Night of Lights in downtown Orlando, FL.



CHRISTMAS BELLES—Ursula Belle Healy and her granddaughter Ava Bell and friends enjoy a festive day at Burning Tree Country Club in Greenwich, CT.



ALL IN THE FAMILY—George and Kathleen Morrone Hanold are surrounded by children and grandchildren.



THIS OLD HOUSE—Kathleen's grandchildren Izzy, Peter, Penny, Sawyer and Hazel (left) at the kids' table building their dream gingerbread houses.



MAGIC BUS—Dimitri Poletsky's gingerbread bus is ready to roll at a Norfolk, VA., competition. Parents Alec and Neleh are all aboard with Nella and her brother.



Editor's Note

Dear Santa: Please Don't Bring Me These

My favorite holiday movies? *A Christmas Story* and *Die Hard*. I don't care if an angel gets its wings every time someone reads Hemingway's *For Whom the Bells Toll*.

Those two movies are on the top of my list, along with *WPIX's Yule Log*. They combined the joy of getting the gift you wanted and what happens when terrorists stop by for some eggnog. These were the gifts you were dying to get and, if you did, you were one step closer to getting your wish.

Scrooge, you missed a ghost—it's the Ghost of Christmas Toy Recalls. In keeping with Hollywood's Christmas spirit, here are our BAH!-DOH (as in Brigitte) awards, as in what were they thinking when they made it and why did we buy it?

BRIDE OF CHUCKY AWARD: I can't believe that the same company who made Tiffany, my daughter's Cabbage Patch Kid, came up with *Snacktime Cabbage Patch Kid*.

Check out the wrapping—it reads, "Feed Me." Hello Coleco, remember *Little Shop of Horrors* and Audrey II, the plant with the munchies? *Snacktime* had a mechanical jaw that devoured plastic food and girls' fingers and hair.

VALLEY OF THE DOLLS AWARD: A tie between *Barbie* and *Tanner* and *Rollerblade Barbie*. *Tanner* was Barbie's 2007 pooch that would eat and then poop. It came equipped with a scooper with a magnet inside. If a toddler ate the magnets (proof that kids will eat anything except what you



Handle with care especially if the batteries are included.

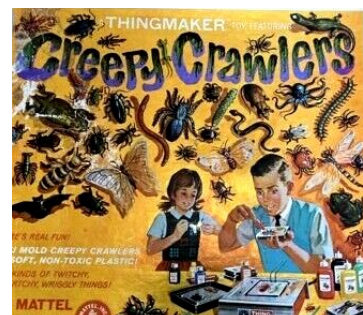
put on their plates), it was time for the board game *Operation*.

Mattel's other swell idea was *Rollerblade Barbie*, a roller-skating Linda Ronstadt wannabe whose skates came with cigarette lighter device that would shoot out sparks and set your rug on fire.

THE GODZILLA AWARD: The *Gilbert U-238 Atomic Energy Lab*. It could light up a kid's face—literally. It came with four types of uranium ores and a crude Geiger counter.

And Capt. Hook thought the ticking was coming from a clock in the alligator's stomach.

THE FUGITIVE AWARD: Fifty years later, long after Dr. Kimbel escaped and went looking for the one-armed man, we were blinded by science with the *CSI Fingerprint Examination Kit*. The fingerprint powder contained asbestos.



THE HANGOVER AWARD: The toy drums and the *Musical Jolly Chimp*, a cymbal-playing fiend with red eyes.

What better way to greet daddy's pounding New Year's Day headache than this tag-team duo of percussion and pet primate?

And wait until you spring out of bed to kill them and step on a *Lego* piece. Et tu, Doofus?

SOME LIKE IT HOT AWARD: Hasbro's *Easy Bake Ovens* and Mattel's *Creepy Crawler*. Same half-baked idea aimed at different genders, or not. *Easy-Bake's* heat source was a lightbulb that led to burns. *Creepy's* oven was plugged into an outlet (what can go wrong there?) and the liquid plastic was toxic.

THE BLACK SWAN AWARD: *The Sky Dancer*
See *EDITOR* from Page 6

'He Will Always Be My Hero'

The city mourned the loss of one of Yonkers' Finest, Det. Sgt. Frank Gualdino, who was killed by an out-of-control teenage driver who smashed into his police car on Tuckahoe Road.

The 24-year-old veteran of the Yonkers Police Dept., only eight months shy of retirement, was on traffic patrol when the 16-year-old lost control of his BMW M5 and skidded sideways into oncoming traffic striking the officer's unmarked police car and a Bee Line bus.



The sergeant was rushed to Jacobi Medical Center in the Bronx where he died a short time later.

The teen, reportedly a private school student from Yonkers, was driving illegally with only a 2-week-old learner's permit. He remains in critical condition. His name has not been released due to his age.

The last line-of-duty death of a Yonkers police officer happened 40 years ago when Officer John Silinsky was shot to death when he foiled a robbery at the Odell Avenue A&P.



Police Commissioner Christopher Sapienza, who posthumously promoted Gualdino to the rank of detective sergeant, said, "Frank was a great guy. He was a personal friend, he was an asset to this job, he was a credit to this job and he was a credit to the community."

Following his wake at the Whalen & Ball Funeral Home on Park and Glenwood avenues, the hearse carrying his body was led by a motorcycle and police car procession to Sacred Heart Church, his boyhood parish.

Speaking through tears, his daughter told those assembled at the funeral Mass that her father "not only was he a hero for the City of Yonkers but he was, and will always be, my hero and my brother's hero.

"I will always be in awe of his kindness



--Photos courtesy of Seth Harrison/The Journal News

Left, Det. Sgt. Gualdino's casket leaves Sacred Heart Church followed by his widow, Lisa, and two children. Right, Lisa clutches her husband's flag as her son, Mark, holds his dad's hat and wears his motorcycle jacket.

and perseverance... Dad's time on this Earth was cut much too short but he certainly made the most of his time here and led as meaningful of a life as possible."

A native of Yonkers, Frank Daniel Gualdino was born on Aug. 8, 1969, to Tereza and the late Francisco Gualdino. He graduated from Sacred Heart High School and attended Westchester Community College.

He spent four years as a transit cop in New York City before joining the Yonkers Police Department in 1998.

In addition to his mother, Tereza, he is survived by his wife of 28 years Lisa, (Foti), two children, Emily, 20, and Mark, 14, and three brothers Edward (Angela), Anthony (Georgina) and Franklin.

EDITOR (from Page 5)

packed quite a punch with the simple pull on the cord of its launcher. Since it wasn't designed by NASA, the flight patterns were unpredictable, much like Spirit Airlines. Nearly 9 million sprites were grounded after 150 serious facial injuries.

LOST IN TRANSLATION AWARD: What can possibly be wrong with Teletubbies except that they existed? Enter the Po Tellytubby with a mouth like a sailor who said things like "Bite My Butt." Whatever you do, don't pull its finger.

DUMB AND DUMBER AWARD: Pet Rocks and Lawn Darts. The Pet Rock fad lasted slightly longer than the winter's first snow. It came with an owner's manual. It was cheap. Its target audience was yuppies who grew up reading Mad Magazine. Their kids preferred a lump of coal.

Lawn Darts, on the other hand, could cost you more than an arm or a leg—literally. All told, the metal-spike projectiles caused more than 7,000 injuries and three deaths. To think, it only took 30 years to pull them off the shelves and out of your body. They

came with a directory of local lawyers. The target audience (pun intended) was the "Hold my beer" or "Hey y'all, watch me do this" crowd.

THE LEGEND OF ROBIN HOOD AWARD. The 2021 winner is the Toothpick Crossbow. Their miniature metal toothpicks could pierce a tin can from more than 60 feet away. To my knowledge, this is the first piece of crap China didn't send to the U.S.

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

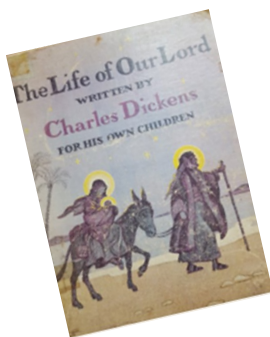
Priceless Memories



What in the Dickens Came Over Me?

I've been working like the dickens on this Christmas piece for Wolf Tales, which makes perfect sense. Right now, more than any other time of the year, 'tis the season for Dickens, Charles Dickens. His *A Christmas Carol*, has been a holiday staple ever since it was first published on Dec. 17, 1843.

By Christmas day that year, all 6,000 copies of the first edition had been sold and by New Year's Day, a second printing sold out. A year later, more than 15,000 copies were in circulation. That number is equivalent to the biggest of today's best sellers, considering the size of the 19th-century English book-buying public.



The idea for the book was conceived out of

Dickens' belief that education was the key to England's future and that ignorance was the greatest cause of human misery. He had been entertaining the idea of writing an article about what were called the "ragged schools." These had been set up throughout England, in order to give the country's poor children at least the rudiments of an education. Sadly, they were manned by untrained volunteers.

Following a visit to one of these schools in 1843 and appalled at what he saw there, Dickens was inspired to address the plight



TINSEL, TINSEL ON THE TREE—Yvonne and Greg Price's work of art.

of poor children. Initially, he entertained the idea of writing a pamphlet, but soon realized that a story would have more impact and the seed was planted for his world-famous ghost story about Christmas.

Dickens drew heavily from his own life in

creating *A Christmas Carol* and for five years following the publication, with one exception, a Christmas story from him was an annual event, and although each were popular, none of them equaled the creative achievement of *A Christmas Carol*.

See **PRICELESS** on Page 8

Pat Colangelo-Smith, '69 Graduate of Gorton

Patricia Colangelo-Smith, a 1969 Gorton graduate, died Nov. 14 after a brief illness.

Born in 1951 and raised in Yonkers, she also attended Sacred Heart Grammar School and moved to White Plains following her graduation from Gorton.



She was pre-deceased by her parents, Frances and Daniel Colangelo, and her ex-husband, Alex Smith.

She is survived by her children, Jennifer and Jonathan Smith, and

her soulmate, Mike Allegretti, as well as her sisters, Linda (Paul) Mock and Susan (Jack) Bond and a brother, Danny Colangelo and partner Rose Walls.

Donations may be made in her memory to the American Cancer Society at <https://donate3.cancer.org/>



—Photo by Dotty Colello McFarlane

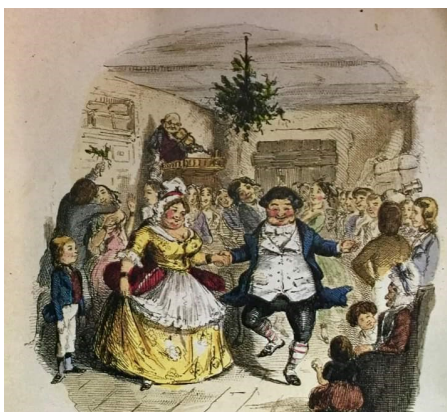
STARRY, STARRY NIGHT—People enjoy the splendor of the Leu Gardens Dazzling Night of Lights in downtown Orlando, FL.

PRICELESS (from Page 7)

I have been a Dickens fan for many years. I have read most of his more famous stories, my favorite being Nicholas Nickleby. On one of my visits to England, I secured a small, leather-bound copy that does not have a publication date, but has wonderful illustrations by W.H.C. Groome (1854-1913).

Groome was a member of the Royal Society of British Artists, one of a very few artists whose works reflected political and social issues of the time. On another visit I secured a leather-bound copy published in 1906 of The Pocket Dickens, which includes favorite passages from his works and has a lovely inscription to RCB Charrington from Clair Charrington, Christmas 1906.

I also have an old copy of The Life of Our Lord written by Charles Dickens for his own children. He stipulated it was only allowed to be published after all of his children had



Mr. Fezziwig's Ball from A Christmas Carol. He was Scrooge's first boss.

passed away. His son, Sir Henry Fielding Dickens, died in 1933, just before Christmas and directed his wife and children to decide whether it should be deposited with the trustees of The British Museum or be published. The remaining family assumed the right to permit its publication.

It's become a tradition of mine to read A

Christmas Carol to my grandchildren on Christmas Eve, when they are all here. It brings me great joy and reminds me of why it is his most popular work.

It isn't because of the memorable characters, because all of his books include those, nor for the atmosphere created, of cold, fog and the supernatural. Those can also be found in Great Expectations or Bleak House. You can find wonderful language and memorable passages in all of his novels.

I believe this story's greatest achievement is the spirit of Christmas that Dickens creates, especially the theme of, and significance of, giving. And although "Bah humbug" has become the iconic expression most remembered, the one that resonates the most is this: "I will honour Christmas in my heart and try to keep it all the year."

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



THE GANG'S ALL HERE—Kathryn “K” Fedirka Trautvetter (second from left) and husband Ron (center, head turned) wait with their family for a table or for the restaurant to build a new dining room at a recent holiday gathering.



OH HENRY—Joan Lawless Kennedy’s grandson, Henry, gets a ground-level view of the Capitol tree in Washington, DC.



BACK IN ACTION—After a two-year hiatus caused by the pandemic, Ursula Belle Healy (fourth from right) and the gang renew their annual pilgrimage to Rockefeller Center and the iconic tree.



IN SEARCH OF SANTA—Kevin Henry’s 4-year-old granddaughter, Ilya, takes to the streets of Manhattan to deliver her list in person.

100 Years Later, A Ukrainian Carol Returns

The *Carol of the Bells* rang through Carnegie Hall once again, 100 years after it was first performed by the Ukrainian National Chorus as its nation fought to maintain its independence against Vladimir Lenin's Soviet Union.

On Dec. 4, it was the Shchedryk Youth Choir's turn on stage to remind us of Ukraine's battle against the invading armies of Vladimir Putin's Russia.

The Gorton Choir, under the direction of Richard Murdoch, sang the carol with its Americanized title, *Hark Hear the Bells*. But our classmates of Ukrainian descent knew it as *Shchedryk*, a song written by

Ukrainian composer Mykola Leontovych in 1916 to celebrate the new year.



Mykola
Leontovych

"The story of Shchedryk is the story of the Ukrainian fight for independence," said Tina Peresunko, a leading expert on the history of *Shchedryk*.

The first modern Ukrainian state was founded in 1918, a year after the fall of Russia's Romanov dynasty. The Ukrainian government sent a choir abroad on a cultural diplomacy mission, hoping to gain allies. They toured Europe and more than 100 U.S. cities, including the 1922 performance at Carnegie Hall.

A year before the Carnegie performance, Leontovych was murdered by the Cheka, the Bolshevik secret police. In 1936, American choir conductor and composer Peter Wilhousky's lyrics turned *Shchedryk* into *Carol of the Bells*.

"It seems to be the story of our existence," said Gorton grad Sophia Shchur, reflecting on how history repeats itself and how the song remains a centerpiece of pride and patriotism.



THE MESSAGE REMAINS THE SAME—The Ukrainian National Chorus (1922) and the Shchedryk Youth Choir (2022) at their Carnegie Hall appearances.



St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church welcomes refugees with gifts, needed goods and friendship.



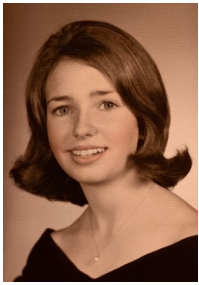
Yonkers Relief Effort Continues

December's monthly gathering at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church for newly arrived Ukrainians was a special occasion as the parish hosted a St. Nicholas Day celebration with special gifts and much-needed essentials for the winter months ahead.

The parish recently sent 800 pounds of winter clothing to St. Nicholas Cathedral in Kharkiv, Ukraine. More than 2,000 people a week come to St. Nicholas Cathedral seeking food, clothing and medicine.

St. Michael's relief effort, Abraham's Tent, is done in conjunction with the Westchester Jewish Coalition for Immigration, which arranges legal guidance and assistance for the refugees.

Anyone wishing to donate money or new clothing for the Ukraine or to support Ukrainian refugees here may call the parish office at 914-963-0209 and speak to Father Kiril or contact trustee Sophia Shchur (GHS71), at: sophia.anna.shchur@gmail.com



Did You Know?

Christmas Has Come A Long Way

During December, families gather to celebrate time together and their rituals steeped in tradition. Stores, TV ads and sales all proclaim the holiday as early as November. The TV ads show groups of people gathered around a table having wonderful meals and smiling happily.

However, it wasn't always like this.

During colonial times, there was no Christmas or Easter observance. In fact, celebrating Christmas was illegal in New England. In Boston, if you were caught spreading the yule time cheer, you would be fined five shillings. In the southern colonies of Maryland and Virginia, there was no Christmas at all.

By the early 1800's, Christmas was no longer illegal but certainly a lot different than today. It wasn't centered on gift-giving—there were no songs, no cards, no decorations, no presents and, yes Virginia, no Santa Claus, St. Nicholas or Kris Kringle. Instead, it was a drunken street carnival, a forerunner of New York City's SantaCon. There were poor people demanding entrance into homes of the wealthy begging for food, drink and money.

Sometimes there would be break-ins, vandalism and assault. In 1828, a violent Christmas riot in New York City led to the formation of its first police force. It was also during this time that a handful of New Yorkers were primarily responsible for creating a new kind of Christmas. The first



was Washington Irving. Irving had long lamented the lack of American traditions, heroes and holidays. He was also the "inventor" of Santa Claus using the Dutch legends of St. Nicholas to create an American version.

In 1822, Clement Moore created Santa as we know him today. Moore "borrowed" from European legends to create Santa and his flying reindeer incorporating the Dutch gift-giving of St. Nicholas, the Norse god Thor whose sleigh was pulled by flying goats, the mythical chimney descent of a German visitor and the French and Italian practice of hanging stockings. He also changed the Dutch name Sinter Clas to Santa Claus.

Forty years later, German-born American caricaturist and editorial cartoonist Thomas Nast used Santa's image to promote Union efforts during the Civil War. And during the Great Depression, Coca Cola

See **CHRISTMAS** on Page 12



CHRISTMAS (from Page 11)

hired an artist to create the image of Santa as we know him today.

As time marched on, America welcomed new traditions as its demographics changed. Christmas' place at the holiday table made room for other religious holidays, most notably Hanukkah, or the Festival of Lights, which falls on the eve of the 25th day of the Jewish month of Kislev and lasts eight days.

Hanukkah commemorates the rededication of the Second Temple in Jerusalem after a successful revolt of the Jewish people, led by Judah Maccabee, against their Syrian-Greek oppressors who had desecrated the temple. It's celebrated for eight days because, when it came time for the rededication, there was only one day's worth of pure oil for the menorah, which was meant to burn all night every night. Miraculously the oil burned for eight days.

Today, especially in North America, Hanukkah is often thought of as the Jewish counterpart to Christmas.

Another holiday is Kwanza which is a celebration of African-American culture. Kwanza is celebrated from Dec. 26-Jan. 1, culminating in a communal feast called Karamu, usually on the 6th day. It was created by activist Maulana Karenga, based on African harvest traditions from various parts of West and Southwest Africa. The seven candles represent the seven principles of Kwanza: unity, self-determination, collective work and responsibility, cooperative economics, purpose and creativity and faith.

Today, the holiday season recognizes the many cultures of our nation, including Seinfeld fans with their "Festivus for the rest of us."

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



'50s FLASHBACK—Before there was the Cross County Shopping Mall and Wanamaker's, there were young kids lining up for Santa.

What Can You Say About the Holidays?

If you say, "Merry Christmas," you're likely to offend one group of people. If you say, "Happy Holidays" or "Seasons Greetings," you'll offend a different bunch.

This "most wonderful time of the year" is getting too complicated and too confusing for this cranky old man, so I think I'll quote another cranky old man and just say, "Bah, Humbug."

Keep the Spirit Alive

Yesterday, when we were children, it seemed to take forever to go from one Christmas to the next. Today, with childhood just a wonderful memory, it seems that we no sooner get the Christmas stuff all



Parry's Ponderings

put away and then it's time to drag it all out again.

My Christmas wish for you is that you find, and always manage to keep, at least a little bit of the childhood wonder and magic of Christmas alive and well within your heart.

God bless us, everyone!

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



PRETTY UGLY—Prairie Sky Cintron, Yvonne's granddaughter, shows off her ugly Christmas sweater she designed with her dad. It was apparently a homework assignment.



AIN'T MISBEHAVIN'—Neleh Poletsky meets Krampus in a Virginia mall while shopping. Krampus is a horned, anthropomorphic figure in the Central and Eastern Alpine folklore of Europe who, during the Advent season, scares children who have been naughty.



HAPPY HANUKKAH—Kenny & Phyllis Yatchie Benjamin welcome their two children, five grandchildren and two great-grandchildren to the first night of Hanukkah.

From Lombardo To Lombago, a Happy New Year

Dear Janet

*Do you look forward to New Year's Eve?
How do you celebrate it?*

Eve Newyear

Dear Eve,

All good things must come to an end, including years, whether they're good or they're bad. We've had more than our share of bad ones, but let's hope we're moving forward to better years ahead.

As an old year ends, what I REALLY look forward to is Christmas, and since the new year follows right after that, in a roundabout way, I do look forward its' eve.

Looking back on how I celebrated the big event, I recall some years that stood out from the rest. Starting with my youngest recollection at age three or four, I remember the night my cousins stayed at our house and they, along with my brother and I, went to bed at what presumably was our regular bedtime. Just before midnight, my father woke us, delivering pots and spoons for us to crash the grownups' party, to greet the new year together. I think we were all back in bed by 12:10.

Then there was the year Beau and went skiing in Vermont, with a group of our friends. We skied all day on the frigid slopes and "apres-skied" in a quaint little restaurant, where one of the guys helped

See **ASK JANET** on Page 14





FROM TREE TO SHINING TREE—The Christmas trees of Yonkers shine bright on our home town tonight. From left, the Getty Square tree, the tree at Cross County Shopping Center and the newest addition, the one at Boyce Thompson Industrial Park.

ASK JANET (from Page 13)

in the kitchen. They made the best onion soup and served the best beer. After plenty of soup, too much frosty beer, and skiing all day in the frosty air. I slalomed into a sweet, satisfying slumber. We all went back to the house we had rented and slept until someone happened to wake up just before midnight.

Bleary-eyed and half asleep, we watched Times Square as the ball dropped, before we all dropped off for a long winter's nap. I think that was by 12:10.

In later years, we celebrated with dinner and game night with three other couples. We had more laughs with "Otto," who traditionally cheated at game but quite obviously, so you couldn't really be mad at him. For example, his Pictionary word to draw was smoke, so he drew a sky with swirling clouds that just happened to spell

the word smoke. Oh Otto! In those days, we were in bed by 2:10.

Note: Otto died 10 years ago, and was cremated. Do I have to spell it out for you what the swirling smoke looked like that day?

Our New Year's Eve celebrations have dramatically changed. As life goes full circle, many of our friends go to bed before midnight and don't bother to set an alarm to get up to watch the Swarovsky Crystal ball drop in Times Square.

Not us. Beau and I stay up. It's just one of those things that we don't like to miss, even though Dick Clark and Guy Lombardo have long since departed and the shows... well... aren't as good.

So, Eve, all good things (and bad) must come to an end, like this little article. Is that a good or bad thing? You decide.

May 2023 bring peace, good health and happiness to all.

And before I get ready for the show, I bring you these words from Geoffrey Chaucer's 1300's poem, Troilus and Criseyde.

*"And after souper gonne they to ryse,
At ese wel, with hertes fresshe and glade,
To lyken hir, or that hir laughen made.
He song; she pleyde; he tolde tale of Wade.
But at the laste, as every thing hath ende,
She took hir leve, and nedes wolde wende."*

For those not up on their Middle English, somehow it means, "All good things must come to an end."

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

—July 7, 1988–Nov. 26, 2022—

Joshua Seuss, 44, Gorton Teacher

Joshua Seuss, a chemistry teacher at Gorton High School, died unexpectedly on Nov. 26. He was only 44.

Pre-deceased by his mother, Eva Chrzanowski, he was born on July 7, 1978, and graduated from Manhattan College in 2002 with a B.S. in Biochemistry. In 2008, he received a Masters in Education from Pace University and a certification in School Building and District Leadership from Touro University in 2017.

Peter was an animal lover and would take his three dogs, Sasha, Sofee and Peggy for long walks at Franklin Delano Roosevelt Park near his home in Peekskill. He loved visiting the farmers' markets to find new and interesting vegetables and had his own great backyard garden.

Peter began his teaching career at the Palisades Preparatory School in 2019 and



transferred to Gorton where he taught Chemistry and Chemical Studies. His love of science and teaching was apparent in his hands-on approach. He loved his students and they loved him back.

Peter was also an adjunct professor at College of Mount Saint Vincent from 2004 until his premature death, teaching chemistry to nursing students.

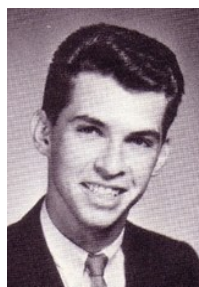
He was very loved by his Gorton family and he will be deeply missed.

Bringing It All Back Home For Gorton

It's the end of the year; leaves have changed colors and blown away, the days have grown shorter and cold weather and snow have arrived.

Yet, as individuals and organizations, we find ourselves busier than ever, captive to an artificial time-line...New Year's Day. It's the end of the old and the start of a new. But, as a non-profit foundation, the Alumni Association continues its course to bring more relevancy to the current environment at Gorton at the student, faculty and administrative levels.

To do so, we will add more board members and widen our "feet-on-the-street" capacity to make the Association's efforts



Alumni News

more immediate and impactful for Gorton. Let's face it, it's very difficult to have a positive effect when you are hundreds, even thousands of, miles away from your audience.

We will continue to focus on our critical efforts for the school; the creation of a brick-and-mortar Wall of Fame and the digitalization of our yearbooks from 1925 to present. In addition, we will also unearth and bring to light, and life, impressive achievements of fellow Wolves during and after their school years.

See ALUMS on Page 16

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 Q. Tolany

William Tolany
Alumni President

ALUMS (from Page 15)

I am amazed to find tremendous accomplishments achieved by our graduates in government, in business and society as a whole. As I dig more and more into the past, I find we have produced men and women who were and still are on the cutting edges of human rights and racial equality. They are our legacy and future.

And of course, there will be fundraising. We have tried to not be a constantly "in-your-face" organization only asking for donations. Our target in 2023 will be increasing our donation rate, not only from alumni, but from corporations, foundations and the government.

We need a more consistent revenue stream, not just to fund our current efforts, but to eventually fulfill a long-term goal...scholarships and awards to our students. It will take time, but it can definitely be done. After all, to borrow a common line...it's all about the kids.

Summing it up, we'll be looking for new blood and additional leadership on our board and identifying programs and activities that instill even more pride in being a graduate of Gorton High School.

Since our inception in 2019, we have constantly asked for your feedback on our activities, your ideas, recommendations for the Wall of Fame and so on. That will never change.

One of the best things about Gorton High School, and any other school, is its alumni. We are the proof of the value of the institution. Once a wolf... always a wolf.

Our very best wishes for a safe and healthy holiday season. Happy New Year and here's to a great 2023.

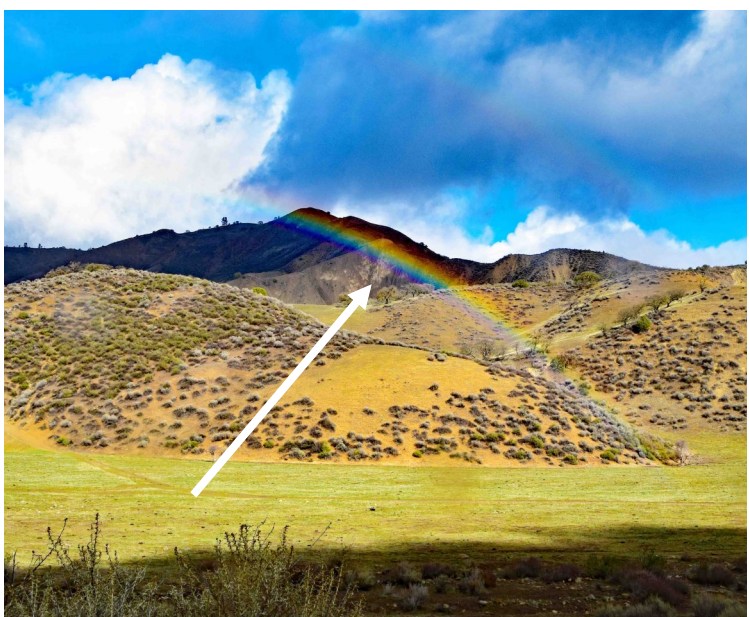
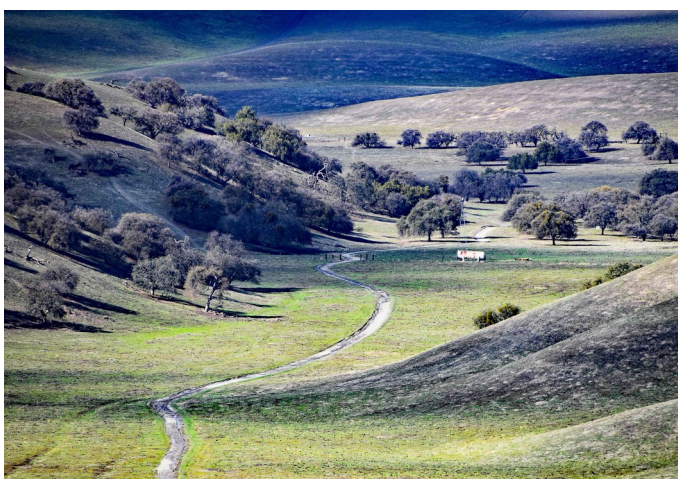
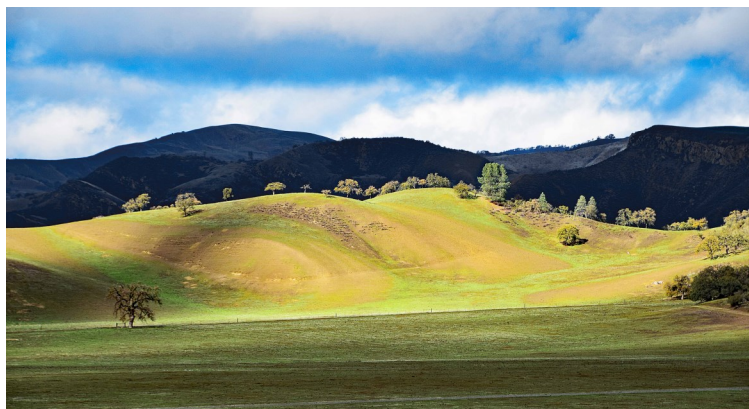
Bill Tolany is the president of the Charles E. Gorton High School Alumni Association and a member of the Class of 1964.



AT THE HOP—It was a "Winter Wonderland" dance at Gorton for Grades 10-12 to help raise money for the Class of 2023 graduating seniors. The December event was organized by Assistant Principal Shondra McClary and the late Joshua Seuss.



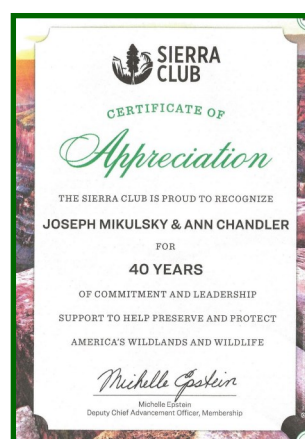
No school dance would be complete without chaperones. From left, Assistant Principals Kathy Fakhoury and Shondra McClary and Assistant Principal Christopher Cassano, Dr. Michael J. Wszolek and Assistant Principal Dr. Jason Baez.



Look closely, there's a rainbow over the San Andreas Fault.



40 YEARS—Congratulations to Joe Mikulsky and Annie Chandler on their 40th wedding anniversary and being "appreciated" by the Sierra Club for 40 years of membership. *Wolf Tales* appreciates your photos as well, like your recent shots (above) of the Gabilan Mountains and San Andreas fault that run down the east side of California's Salinas Valley.



Our Santa Paws



TELL THEM WILLIE BOY IS HERE—Rick and Emily Maher's rescued pup, Willie, celebrates his first Christmas with a stuffed toy.



SCOUT'S HONOR—Lori Kohn Rowe and Doug Griswold dress their dog, Scout, for the season.

Fare Hikes Toll For the Tappan Zee

The New York State Thruway Authority gave preliminary approval to a system-wide 5% toll that would also hike E-ZPass tolls on the Tappan Zee to \$7.75 in 2027. The bridge's fares would rise 50 cents a year beginning on Jan. 1, 2024.

It would be the first toll hike for NY E-ZPass customers since 2010, since before the twin-span Cuomo Bridge replaced the Tappan Zee Bridge and introduced Thruway drivers to the world of cashless tolling.

CDC Issues Local Mask Guidance

If you're planning a visit to Westchester, please bring a mask.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) now recommends indoor mask-wearing in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Orange counties along with the five boroughs of New York City and all of Long Island.

Galleria to Close In White Plains

Attention shoppers, the Galleria in White Plains will soon be no more.

Considered the Mecca of Merchandise when it opened in 1980, the 870,000-square-foot mall will shutter in March 2023 to make way for a mixed-use commercial and residential site on its 10-acre footprint.

The mall has seen many big-name retailers leave in recent years and growing numbers of store vacancies.

County Airport a Mess During Holiday Seasons

If you're sitting at Westchester County Airport (HPN) waiting for a flight, buckle your seat belts—it's the worst airport during holiday travel season for delays and cancellations.

According to the Bureau of Transportation data, HPN had an 8.54% rate of air carrier delays as well as 7.55% of flights arriving late and 2.63% cancelled. It also had the fifth-highest increase in airfare prices between the summer months and the holidays as well as the third-lowest percentage of flights leaving on time (75.43%).

The White Plains-based airport ranks 100th in terms of North American passenger volume—who knew?

Group Seeks to Block Term-Limit Extension

The group including prominent community members are suing Mayor Mike Spano and the City Council to overturn recent legislation that extends the number of years each can serve from 12 to 16 years.

The group believes this law prohibits the council from voting or the mayor from signing any piece of legislation that would ultimately benefit them, including additional terms in office. The lawsuit is asking a judge to invalidate the vote and mandate a referendum question on term limits before the voters next year.

How Sweet It is For the Sugar House

Call it the sweet sign of success—the Domino Sugar Refinery unveiled a new 4x30-foot LED sign that combines the Domino Sugar logo with the city's name on the city's Recreation Pier.

"We take great pride in global companies that chose to make their products here in Yonkers and Domino Sugar just makes life a little sweeter here in this city," said Mayor Mike Spano. Domino has been operating in Yonkers since 1921 and produces 3 million pounds of sugar a day.

In addition, the refinery also invests in nonprofits such as Yonkers Partners in Education, Feeding Westchester, the Yonkers Paddling and Rowing Club, the Yonkers Downtown and Waterfront Business Improvement District and the Greyston Foundation.

Hater Sentenced For Vicious Assault

Tammel Esco was sentenced to 17½ years in state prison following his guilty plea to a vicious hate-crime assault on a Filipino-American woman who was beaten and kicked more than 100 times in the vestibule of her Riverdale Avenue apartment building.

The 67-year-old told the court that the attack left her traumatized and that she and her family have since moved. "We were ripped from our home because I fear for the safety of my daughters and myself," she said. "I lost my peace of mind, my ability to relax. I lost months of my life. I will forever be on edge."

6 City Seniors Named To County Hall of Fame

Six Yonkers' seniors were among 51 inductees at the 40th Annual Westchester County Senior Citizens Hall of Fame Awards Virtual Celebration.

David Julius Ancruem received a special recognition for his work as vice president of the New York State NAACP, a leader of the Democratic Women's Black Caucus and a Democratic Ward in his district, all which played pivotal roles in calming stressful situations during periods of unrest.

Joining him as an inductee are Yonkers residents Louise Navarro, Elizabeth Owens, Dale Rascoe, Eileen Tallon and the Rev. Dr. Somboon Tessalee.

Yonkers Ranked Tops In LGBTQ Rights

For the eighth consecutive year, Yonkers scored a perfect 100 with the Human Rights Campaign Foundation's measure of LGBTQ inclusion in municipal law and policy.

Yonkers was one of 11 cities in New York to receive a perfect score and one of 120 nationally out of 506 surveyed.

Stewart-Cousins Re-Elected Senate Chief

State Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, D-Yonkers, was unanimously re-elected the Democratic conference leader in the state



Senate. She is the first woman of color to hold the majority leader post.

"I am honored and humbled to be re-elected by my Democratic colleagues to continue my service as Majority Leader of the New York State Senate," she said. "Since holding the majority, we have enacted historic legislation that helps and expands New Yorkers' rights and builds a stronger and fairer state for all residents."

Yonkers Ranks 165th Most Sinful City

Sometimes it's good not to be No. 1, and this is one of them.

A Wallethub recent survey of 182 cities ranks Yonkers 165th most sinful city in the country. The cities were compared across seven categories: Anger and hatred, jealousy, excesses and vices, greed, lust, vanity and laziness.

The best of the worst that the City of Gracious Living could garner was vanity (59th) and laziness (50th).

The top three on the sin list were Las Vegas, St. Louis and Philadelphia. New York City ranked 15th.

Cops, PAL Open Community Closet

The Yonkers Police Department along with the Police Athletic League have opened a community closet that offers families the chance to get up to a week's worth of clothing for children free.

The Community Kids Closet is located within the Yonkers Police Athletic League facility at 127 North Broadway. Parents

and kids can choose up to 14 items, including coats.

"We were just flooded with donations," said Sgt. Laura Yakaboski. "It was amazing. Our precincts got to the point where we were making pick-ups almost every day."

Ex-Lincoln Coach Inducted Into Hall

James Joyce, Sr., the former Lincoln High School coach and administrator, was inducted into the Yonkers Sports Hall of Fame.

Born and raised in Yonkers, his career at Lincoln spanned decades highlighted by coaching track and field, varsity boys' baseball, girls' softball and basketball. He also served as the school's athletic director.

Westchester Enacts \$2.7B County Budget

County Executive George Latimer approved a \$2.7 billion budget that increases county spending by 7% and adds 93 new jobs, the biggest increase in the county government's workforce in more than 20 years.

Latimer's budget reduces county property taxes for the fourth straight year. The county coffers are flush with cash from unexpectedly robust sales-tax collections in 2022, which the county projects will leave a surplus of \$66 million by year's end.

County Exec Vetoes Flavored Tobacco Ban

Westchester County Executive George Latimer vetoed legislation that would have banned the sale of flavored tobacco products.

Advocates for the ban said that it will protect young people as well as communities of color that are usually targeted by marketing for the flavored products. The Board of Legislators had voted 11-6 in favor of the ban. A two-thirds vote would be needed to override the veto.