

Muriel King Taylor:  
Wall of Fame Honoree



**'She Dared  
To Make a  
Difference'**

*"Unforgettable, in every way,  
And forever more, that's how you'll stay"*

Those lyrics to *Unforgettable*, penned by Irving Gordon in 1951, hold true for Muriel King Taylor. Those of us who were fortunate enough to have her as a teacher in the '50s, '60s and early '70s, will never find ourselves asking, "What was the name of my algebra teacher?"



**Alumni  
News**

Today, we proudly induct Muriel King Taylor into the Gorton High School Alumni Association Wall of Fame where forever more, she'll stay along with her teaching style and impact on students that are indelibly etched into the heart of our collective being.

Amazingly, whenever I interact with alumni from that era, Muriel King Taylor's name always comes to the forefront. It's not the exception...it's the rule. She dared to challenge everything she dealt with. For students, it was to be the best they could be. She conducted her classes like no other. At the Class of

See **ALUMS** on Page 3

# Wolf Tales

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

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

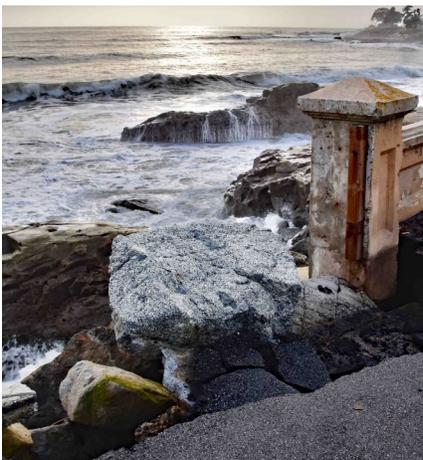


January 2023, Vol. 79



—Photos by Joe Mikulsky

San Lorenzo River near Joe Mikulsky's home in Felton, CA.



Sea wall and sidewalk collapse.

## Pineapple Express Hits Close to Home

By Joe Mikulsky (C65)

A Pineapple Express may sound refreshing but it's not—especially when you have to evacuate.

The Pineapple Express is a name for the atmospheric river that forms when very warm and moist air travels from the South Pacific to the West Coast of the U.S. When this "river" hits the coast, it cools dramatically, resulting in torrential rain and hurricane-like winds.

This year's onslaught hit the West Coast numerous times over the past few weeks, at least nine times since beginning Dec. 27 and into mid-January. Each time, from Washington State to Southern California, there were torrential rain

See **STORM** on Page 5

**Belated Holiday Greetings**  
*From Our Family to Yours*



**Pete and Celeste Wirchanske.**



**Joan Kennedy's grandchildren.**



**Kevin Henry and friend.**



**Janet Hanford (far right) and family.**



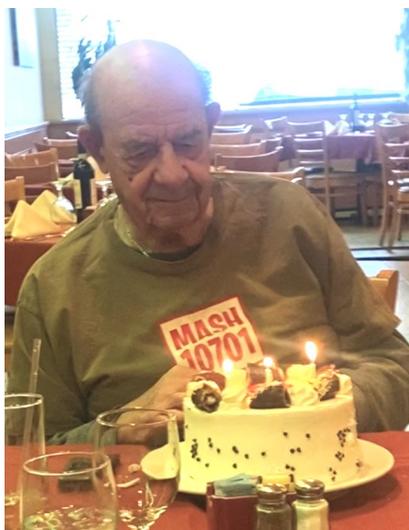
**Steve and Alice Tuers host family and friends.**



**Yvonne and Greg Price's family.**



**Alex Poletsky's grand-pets, Blue with a chew and an egg-laying Santa.**



**ICING ON THE CAKE**—Coach John Volpe celebrates his 91st birthday with friends at Reno’s Trattoria Italian Restaurant on Lockwood Avenue. The birthday cake, topped with cannolis, was from Delight Bakery on Yonkers Avenue. Counter-clockwise around the table are the Coach, Don (The Hawk) a retired policeman, Topper, Mike from Yonkers, Steve Tuers, Mike Levy (a retired policeman) and Roby Borek.

**ALUMS** (from Page One)

1962’s recent 60th reunion, she was unanimously nominated to the Wall of Fame. After being “bumped upstairs” to an administrative position at Gorton, she was quoted in 1975 with the following:

“Gorton High School is the finest high school in the city. It has the finest staff to be found anywhere. I miss very much teaching mathematics in the classroom. I feel the best work I have ever done was teaching mathematics in the classroom. I sometimes wish I could go back to that.”

We can all agree to that.

But we honor Muriel King Taylor for more than her work at Gorton. She has won countless awards for civic contributions.

She was a member of the Yonkers Human Rights Commission and the Bethune Memorial Committee of the National Council of Negro Women; board member of Yonkers General Hospital; member of the Yonkers Soroptimist Club; board member of the Getty Square Neighborhood Center; member of the National Council of Women; member of the National Council of Negro Women; member of the NAACP; executive committee member of the Yonkers NAACP; volunteer math teacher at

the Nepperhan Community Center; surrogate parent at Children’s Village Dobbs Ferry. And all of this is just to name a few... the list is endless.

Muriel King Taylor was a seasoned educational veteran long before her Yonkers teaching career began at Gorton. After graduating from Yonkers High School in 1939, she earned her B.S. in mathematics at Virginia State College in 1943, and her Masters in Education from Teachers College at Columbia University in 1944. She went on to advanced studies at Harvard University and Yeshiva University.

She began teaching math in Orange, VA, in 1945 and eventually became an assistant professor of mathematics at Virginia State College. Add to that a two-year stint teaching in Japan as an employee of Armed Forces Information and Education. All of this education and experience gained before her arrival back in Yonkers and Gorton High School in 1957.

Following her retirement in 1985 as assistant principal of Gorton, Helen Cozart penned this tribute to Muriel in The Herald Statesman:

*“She dared to overcome what must have seemed like insurmountable obstacles,*

**See ALUMS on Page 4**

**Wall Of Fame**

- Arthur Yedowitz C26
- Mae Morgan C29
- Fletcher Knebel C29
- George Giddings C38
- Anthony Clements C49
- Dennis Pryzgoda C49
- Warren Casey C53
- Eileen Hedy Schultz C50
- Ben Ermini C54
- James Pitches C55
- Peter Kachmer C58
- Arthur Hellman C59
- Peter Morley C59
- Ron Petro C59
- Frank Forcelli C60
- Gayle Sourenian C64
- Ralph Johnson C65
- Paula Giddings C65
- Charlie Criss C66
- James Bostic C71
- James Cavanaugh - Principal
- Gertrude Braslow — Faculty & C25
- George Foster – Faculty
- Mildred Streeter – Faculty
- Don DeMatteo - Faculty
- Sandy Siegelstein – Faculty
- Roger Sorrentino – Faculty
- John Juliano – Faculty
- Robert Foley – Faculty
- John Volpe – Faculty
- Muriel King Taylor – Faculty

**ALUMS** (from Page 3)

*Muriel dared to speak out on sensitive issues, spoke up on touchy community affairs, talked over students' problems, but resisted talking down pressing matters that needed open and frank discussion.*

*"She dared to prove that minorities of measurably small means can accomplish big things through great effort. She was eloquent as a spokesperson for she was gifted with a silver tongue.*

*"The bond of friendship between Muriel and her colleagues is held fast by a silver cord. She believed in a no-nonsense approach to education, and old-fashioned values in a space-age generation."*

Muriel King Taylor passed away in 1997. She was only 75.

What we knew about the greatness of Muriel King Taylor is only magnified 100 times over in the pre- and post-years of her teaching career. An unforgettable teacher and educator, a great defender of human and civil rights, a proponent of women's rights and equality for all... Muriel King Taylor, never to be forgotten, and our newest member of the Gorton Alumni Association Wall of Fame.

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

**Richard Lewis, 83, Retired Teacher**

Richard Lewis, 83, a retired math teacher at Gorton High School, died Jan. 5, 2023 at his home in Los Angeles.

He is survived by his wife, Beth, a son Michael, and daughters, Patti and Susan, as well as his grandchildren, several great-grandchildren, siblings and nieces and nephews.

Born in Birmingham, AL, on June 15, 1939,



he graduated from Birmingham's Parker High School and received a mathematics degree from Miles College in 1961. He was involved in voting rights in Birmingham before becoming the first Black Peace

Corps recruit from Alabama, where he was assigned to work for two years as a teacher in the Philippines. He earned a Masters in guidance from Manhattan College.

Richard taught mathematics in the Cleveland, OH, school district before moving to Yonkers where he taught at Gorton High School for 34 years before retiring in 2002.



**YIPPEE FORE YPIE--More than a dozen Gorton students were on hand for the first in-person induction YPIE (Yonkers Partners in Education) ceremony since before the pandemic. More than 200 9th-graders from all eight Yonkers public high schools participated. YPIE partners with students to ensure they are ready for, enroll in, and complete college.**



**Eleanor Kuhns to Release New Book Series**

Author Eleanor Kuhns, Class of '67, will be on your bookshelves this summer with a new series of mystery novels.

"I am happy to announce that Severn House has accepted the first two of a new mystery series, a series we are calling the Bronze Age mysteries," Eleanor announced on her Facebook page.

The first title, *In the Shadow of the Bull*, takes place around 1450 B.C. "My protagonist, Martis, dreams of becoming a bull dancer," Eleanor writes. (Leaping a charging bull by the

horns was an important part of their culture.)

The synopsis continues: "Her sister, Arge, is due to marry a man disapproved of by her mother and the rest of the society. He is a barbarian from Mainland Greece. Then, at Arge's wedding, she drops to the floor, dead. Did the groom murder her? Or was it someone else?"

Eleanor is an American author of historical fiction and mystery books, best known for her Will Rees mystery series. In 2011, she won the Minotaur Books/Mystery Writers of America competition for the best first crime novel.

## Parry's Ponderings



### *They Have Some Blinking Nerve*

Younger drivers often make fun of us old-timers for leaving our blinkers blinking as we travel down the highway.

The young'uns, of course, never have this problem because you can't forget to turn off your blinkers if you never turn them on to begin with.

### *I'll Make My Stand—Larger*

When I was young, my night table was pretty uncluttered—a lamp, a clock radio and maybe a box of tissues during the hay fever season. Today things are different.

In addition to the clock and the lamp, the night table is overflowing with what seems like about several hundred remotes, chargers, phones and medicines for every ailment known to man.

Since being neater and getting more well-organized isn't likely to happen after 70 years, I'm in the market for a larger night stand.

### *Like The Stones, I'm Shattered*

I once ordered some CD/DVD cases because they were advertised as "shatterproof." When I got them, I realized that they were indeed shatterproof...they were cardboard! Live and learn.

### *I Can See Clearly Now*

While surfing the Internet recently, I inadvertently clicked on an ad for "Male Enhancement Products." Several days later I received, in a plain brown wrapper, a package in the mail. It was a magnifying glass!

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



**Aerial view of flooding at evacuation route.**



—Photo by Joe Mikulsky

**Flooding from the San Lorenzo River at neighbor's house.**

### ***STORM*** (from Page One)

and winds causing numerous mudslides and widespread flooding.

Rainfall estimates in the San Lorenzo River Valley, where Annie and I live, ranged from 60 to 70 inches during that period.

Living close enough to the San Lorenzo River to see it from our house in Felton, CA., we were in harm's way. Three times during the latest Pineapple Express assault, the river hit and exceeded the "major flood stage" of over 20 feet. Evacuation orders became common and we spent many a night in a motel in a safe area. Power outages were also common throughout the area.

A major limb falling from a redwood tree in our neighborhood took out a power pole. We were fortunate in that our house did not flood or get damaged by

falling trees and limbs.

At the highest point, the river reached 24.55 feet. The rising water reached into our yard but just below our house. However, our neighbors across the street were not so lucky. Major damage to several houses occurred. Our good friends and neighbors directly across the street had water in their crawl space and right up to their deck behind their house. Another neighbor had their ground floor living space completely inundated.

During the storm on New Year's Eve, the ocean surf reached as high as 30-40 feet and did extensive damage along the coast. Several low-lying areas such as Capitola and Aptos beaches suffered major damage.

As of now, we have sunny dry weather predicted for about the next 10 days—a welcomed relief to be sure.



—Photo courtesy of Mark Vergari/The Journal News

**Firemen battle blaze on Mulberry Street that took the lives of mother and son.**

## Elderly Mom, Son Perish in City Fire

An 86-year-old wheelchair-bound woman and her 65-year-old son died after a three-alarm fire tore through their apartment house on 21 Mulberry St. in the Hollow section of Yonkers.

They were reportedly trapped inside their 4th floor dwelling and had to be carried downstairs to awaiting ambulances before taken to the hospital.

The mother was pronounced DOA at the hospital while her son died several days later from severe burns. Police have yet to release their names.

## T2T Pays Off Officer's Mortgage

The Tunnel to Towers Foundation (T2T) has come to the aid of a fallen Yonkers officer's family.

Named in honor of an off-duty New York fire fighter who died at the World Trade Tower after running through the Brooklyn Tunnel in full gear, T2T paid off the family mortgage of Det. Sgt. Frank Gualdino.

The Yonkers officer was killed when an unlicensed 16-year-old driver lost control of his speeding BMW and crashed into his vehicle on Tuckahoe Road.

"The Yonkers Police Department is beyond grateful to the Tunnel to Towers Foundation for helping one of our own during this challenging time," the department said in a press statement.

## 2 Die in Plane Crash Returning from Funeral

A pilot and his passenger died in a small plane crash while trying to make an emergency landing at Westchester County Airport.

According to reports, pilot Boruch Taub and passenger Ben Chafetz, both from Cleveland, left JFK Airport after attending a funeral when the plane experienced engine troubles. They crashed near Rye Lake, about two miles from the airport, during a severe thunderstorm.

## Mayor Spano Says He'll Run Again

Mayor Mike Spano told [Channel 12 News](#) that he intends to run for a fourth term this year.

The City Council recently approved extending term limits for mayor and City Council members to four consecutive terms by a 4-3 margin.

Opponents of the measure want to place a referendum on November's ballot to let the voters decide on the issue.

## Teacher Enters Mayoralty Race

Margaret Fountain-Coleman, an elementary school teacher at School 5, has thrown her hat into the ring and will challenge incumbent mayor Mike Spano.



"We have African-American people who cannot remain, and people of color who cannot remain, in their homes because of escalations of rental costs, affordable cost of living... We're going to get that legislation passed," she said in announcing her run.

She also stressed the importance of building up education and investing in the city's schools.

## Make Your Mark On City's History

Michael Calvi has been sworn in as a member of the Landmarks Preservation Board. Michael is a Yonkers native and holds a degree in architecture from Pratt Institute.

The board reviews reports during the nomination process of structures and historic districts before ultimately issuing landmark status.

What recommendations do you have for landmarks in Yonkers? (Hint: Gorton.)

## CDC Lifts Mask Guidance

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) lifted its mask guidance for several state counties, including Westchester, Rockland, Putnam and Dutchess, on Jan 20.

The CDC is still recommending indoor mask-wearing for the following regions:

Albany, Rensselaer, Orange, and Sullivan counties and the NYC boroughs of the Bronx, Queens and Staten Island.)

## Did You Know?



# Flood of 1937: Water, Water Everywhere

**W**hen Yonkers was settled by the Dutch in 1645, residents got all the water they needed from the Hudson and Saw Mill rivers. However, as the population grew, so did the need for fresh water.

More than 200 years later, the first Yonkers Water Company was incorporated in 1855 “for the purpose of supplying said village of Yonkers with pure and wholesome water.”

Then, 10 years later, another Yonkers Water Company was incorporated “for the purpose of supplying said village of Yonkers with pure and wholesome water.” The charter was revived in 1867 and more members were incorporated.

Besides the same names and mission statements, the companies shared another common element—they did nothing. Neither built anything in Yonkers.

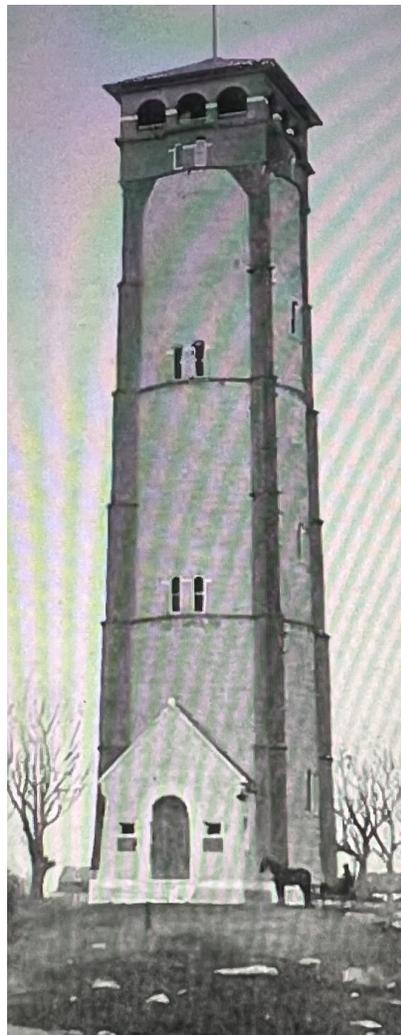
Finally, in 1871, the village of Yonkers was given state authority to build its own water works but the voters turned it down in 1872. Later that year, Yonkers was incorporated as a city. A law was passed the following year giving Yonkers authority to build a water works utility that didn’t require voter approval.

Water commissioners were appointed and engineers hired. An initial system providing fire protection began operation in January of 1874; meanwhile, the

See **WATER** on Page 8



The combined afternoon special edition of The Herald and The Statesman.



The Nodine Hill water tower before the collapse and as it stands today.

**WATER** (from Page 7)

construction of the larger system was under way that operated by gravity from reservoirs fed from higher elevations. High-service pumps and towers were added in 1884 and 1891 to serve the upper elevations of the city.

The first high-service towers were built in 1883 on Lake Avenue near the Lake Avenue Reservoir; the second tower was built on Nodine Hill on Elm Street.

On Oct. 23, 1937 at 7:55 a.m., the Nodine Hill water tower rattled and collapsed. The metal tank in the tower ruptured and bricks and steel fell to the earth along with 100,000 gallons of water that swept the wreckage as far away as Getty Square.

Many people were injured but miraculously no one was killed. Several homes in the path of the water caved in and many cars were destroyed.

The results of the tower's collapse included lawsuits, heightened safety concerns of water towers and eventually plans for a new tower. Old age and rust, plus several days heavy rain and high winds were to blame.

The old metal water tank was flattened and sold for \$25 to a junkyard. Three months after the collapse, a workman found the old cornerstone that contained city documents and old newspapers.

In 1941, the City Council approved plans to tear down the remains of the tower and build a new one. Red tape in Washington was blamed for the replacement delays.

In 2017, Mayor Spano announced that the Nodine Hill water tower would undergo a \$4 million renovation. The Nodine Hill water tower is one of three city water towers and holds one million gallons of water and provides water pressure to the city's water system.

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



**DIGGING THE PUBLICITY**—Mayor Spano (left) leads the groundbreaking ceremony.

**Trevor Park  
And a Damsel  
In Distress**

**A** desert oasis is a fertile spot where you find water. An urban oasis is a city park. Smack in the middle of Yonkers lie both—Trevor Park, with 25 acres of greenery bordered by the majestic Hudson and its Palisades.

Generations have found refuge there. I can still see the Hudson River Day Line steamers, The Robert Louis Stevenson and The Robert Fulton, chugging up the Hudson to Bear Mountain Park and West Point. The sight of those proud ships with historic names could bring a Trevor baseball game to a screeching halt.

In 1876, John Bond Trevor, an American financier and Wall Street pioneer, bought the 25-acre property and built his Glenview estate, where his family lived until the 1920s, when they sold the property to the city. The land became Trevor Park and his mansion became The Hudson



**Tuers  
De Force**

River Museum. Generations, the young and the old, enjoyed many happy hours at the park. Unfortunately, through the years, wear and tear took its toll. The park needed a facelift, and is about to get one.

On Jan. 3, city officials broke ground on the first part of a \$1.3 million renovation with makeovers planned for the basketball and tennis courts as well as the playground.



**Trevor Park phase I renovations.**

And the good news is it should be finished by this summer! The second phase will focus on the ballpark, the stands around the ball field, new benches, a dog park and a walking trail.

Now another generation of children and adults will think of the park as an oasis, a staple of the community like we did when we roamed its green expanse. I would be remiss, however, if I didn't mention one particular thing that happened way back when.

**See TREVOR on Page 9**



—Photo by Steve Tuers

Clearing the way for new playgrounds.

**TREVOR** (from Page 8)

Some of us who lived off Warburton used to walk through the park on the way to P.S. 25. One day, as we were approaching the school, I heard a young girl scream. A petite blonde, blue-eyed girl had apparently fallen off a wall and couldn't get up.

She was in a lot of pain, so I thought the best thing to do was to run to school and tell them what just happened. The school sent the Janitor to carry her back to the school and called an ambulance.

I had forgotten all about that incident until the Class of '65's 50th reunion. There, a blonde, blue-eyed woman reminded me of my pre-teen "heroism."

It was Yvonne Sullivan Price and, as her Wolf Tales' column says, it was a Priceless Memory.

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



**Mr. Pinocchio Goes to Washington**



**Editor's Note**

**Editor's Note** (Hey, that's me!): *It is against parliamentary rules to accuse a lawmaker of "lying" or being a "liar"—so I didn't, kinda.*

**E**veryone has his or her 15 minutes of fame, especially Rep. George Santos.

Santos became a household name outside his 3rd Congressional District when the excrement hit the oscillator following a background check. It seems that long before Buffalo was digging out from a blizzard, Mr. Pinocchio was doing his own brand of shoveling and laying it on thick.

His newly drawn district spans Queens and Long Island. It was created by Democrats who, while trying to ensure their own majority, carved out Republican districts instead. As Will Rogers said, "I am not a member of any organized political party—I am a Democrat."

But I digress, back to the millennial of

malarky. This wasn't the first rodeo for the rhinestone cowboy—he ran in 2020 and lost. The voters had two years to kick the tires and look under the hood. To quote Scottie in Star Trek: "Fool me once, shame on you; fool me twice, shame on me."

Let me bring you up to speed on the Fabulist Mr. Santos. Following his election, it was "suddenly discovered" that:

- He said he had degrees from Baruch College and NYU; he doesn't;
- He said he worked for Citigroup and Goldman Sachs; he didn't;
- He said his grandparents fled Belgium to avoid the Holocaust; they were born in Brazil;
- He said he's Jewish; he's Catholic;
- He said his mom was in the World Trade Center on 9/11; she was in Brazil;

See **EDITOR** from Page 10

**EDITOR (from Page 9)**

- He said she died of cancer a few years after the attack; she didn't, she died 15 years later.
- He said he had one of the first cases of COVID and was near death in a hospital; he was given Tylenol and sent home.
- He said his family owned 13 properties; they don't own any.

Needless to say, some people were aghast by this audacious fabricator. Embarrassed political organizations that endorsed him called for his resignation; voters wanted a recall, which is not permitted in the Constitution. They all chose Door No. 3 and got a large wind bag powered by gas. Wake up and smell the poo-poo.

Santos equivocated and obfuscated his terminological inexactitude. "I'm not a fraud. A lot of people overstate in their resumes, or twist a little bit...I'm not saying I'm not guilty of that."

When empty suits resort to double negatives, they're guilty. When they add, "It's time to put politics behind us," it's time to unseal the indictments.

During the Speaker of the House vote, before any newbie was sworn into office, Sandbag Santos sent out a press release proclaiming he had been sworn into office. He hadn't. He cut to the head of the line. As Jim Carrey said in *The Mask*, "Somebody stop me."

It's probably time for Curiously George to refresh his résumé now that he's been named a member to the Science, Space and Technology Committee ("Piloted a manned flight to Mars") and the Small Business Committee ("Ran several successful mom & pop bodegas in Queens.")

If "getting rid of him is worth more than getting rid of 10 other people," as Groucho quipped, then it should be time for Santos to sing, "Hello, I Must Be Going," ala Groucho. However, somebody better check the silverware if and when he leaves.

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



**House Speaker Nancy Pelosi meets Rev. Kiril Angelov of St. Michael's at a pro-Ukrainian rally in Riverdale and tells the pastor, "We will do more." On May 1, Pelosi leads a Congressional delegation to Kyiv and vows unending U.S. support to Volodymyr Zelensky and the Ukrainian people. On Dec. 21, Zelensky addresses a joint meeting of Congress where he presents Pelosi with a Ukrainian battlefield flag and receives a U.S. flag that had been flown over the Capitol Building.**

# A Flag Day Filled With New Hope

**By Sophia Shchur (GHS71)**

When I was going to school (including Gorton), we had to say something about our flag, the flag of our heritage.

Whenever we drew the Ukrainian blue and yellow flag, we were told there is no such thing. There is no Ukraine and there is no such flag. It was only the USSR, our oppressors.

It was difficult to go home and tell my dad that the teacher said there is no such thing, no such place. Even after the downfall of the Soviet Union, it was always a challenge to express your identity without someone confusing you with being Soviet or Russian.

I am so glad times have changed, even though it is horrific with the war, but people finally understand Ukraine and the Ukrainian people.

Many of the parishioners at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church, including myself and my brothers, are alumni of Gorton High School.

It feels good to be connected not only to our community within our walls but also the surrounding area. It seems that Alex [Poletsky] feels the same way, keeping the Gorton community and beyond, connected, as we should be.

Thank you for sharing our story, our unfolding history, with others so they too may be a part of it.

How long will my resolutions last?  
Got a stopwatch?



## Priceless Memories

# I Declare A Resolution Revolution

**I** was driving home from the library the first week of the new year, when I passed the local workout club and noticed the parking lot was completely loaded. I've seen it full before, but not like this, not since its opening years ago. And then it clicked. 'Tis the season of resolutions. Let the games begin.

Don't get me wrong, I am not opposed to self-improvement. Who doesn't spend some time throughout the year wanting to do certain things differently, or drop some bad habits, or some weight?

Personally, I can think of a number of things that I would like to take a stab at. Therefore, I do not wish to ridicule those who make a commitment on New Year's Eve to do any number of things that might improve their quality of life. I just think

See PRICELESS on Page 12



**BAHAMA MAMA**—Ursula Belle Healy (third from the left) enjoys a pre-Christmas family vacation in the Bahamas. Ursula says there were "minor stabbings and fighting not to pay the check, but we all somehow survived."



**GOLDEN MOMENT**--Steve Tuers poses with his daughter Tricia at her 50th birthday party with family and friends at Sakura, a Japanese restaurant in Westport, CT. "I must be getting old," Steve said, "but having fun doing it!"



## Ask Janet

# Little White Lies & a Big Closet Secret

Dear friends and faithful followers:

**I**'m writing this to tell you that I'm mucking through the entrapment of COVID brain fog. Although I jotted down some thoughts for the article I wanted to write, I just don't feel like putting those thoughts together in some sort of coherent article. I'm up against the deadline for this issue so I'm going to share this question from my faithful friend, Rita, instead.

Dear Janet,  
Have you read any good books lately?  
I'm always looking for suggestions.

Rita Book

See ASK JANET on Page 13



'This better not be a turkey baster.'



'...And stop calling me, Kemosabe.'



'Sorry for the delay. Who ordered the soup?'



'Whose turn is it for the bill?'

Photos by Joe Mikulsky  
Captions by Alex Poletsky



'Look at me, not the birds.'

**PRICELESS** (from Page 11)

they are mostly misguided, MIStaken and courting defeat.

Let's be real. If you have waited an entire year, before seizing upon some kind of a challenge that would be in your best interest to undertake and overtake, here's your biggest mistake.

You have decided to choose the biggest party night the world over, to proclaim what this momentous challenge will be and more than likely, do so after downing a few alcoholic beverages, while subsequently being egged on by the boisterous support of those around you, who are also floating in the same leaky boat. I foresee a pretty good chance of a titanic failure.

So, in the interest of avoiding eventual self-flagellation, humiliation and despair, I am here to suggest a better alternative. Call it a Resolution Revolution.

If you want to begin the year the right way, the truly happy way and make all those Happy New Year salutations that go

on for weeks truly meaningful, don't resolute. Encourage your family and friends to not resolute. Only remain resolute in your revolution against resolutions. Have T-shirts made. Start a movement. Be the change that makes the new year a time of legitimate happiness, unscathed by the stress and baggage of the promises you've formerly and formally made to yourself and to others.

Avoid the embarrassment of canceling the gym subscription, that you will abandon by February. Forego the abject fear of bumping into that personal trainer you signed with, that resulted in your having to put your house on the market, to find a place where you were once again free to stop at Dunkin's or Pizza Planet.

We should begin a new year as stress-free and happy as possible. For most of us, especially during the last three years, each 365- day-stint has been just that, something to get through, while inhaling as seldom as possible and usually alone, or with people that had test kits attached by Velcro to their lab coats.

We should try and make up for that lost time, that not so happy time. We don't do that by making promises most of us can't keep, because somebody way back decided that January 1st would be an ideal day to start lifting weights with a roomful of disgruntled, sweaty, probably hung-over people, or skip the cream in our coffee, or bite our tongues and smile when our children blame us for yet something else that has gone wrong in their lives.

So, put on that new T-shirt, you know which one. Pour that Half-and-Half, tell your kids you love them, but you're off the hook and suggest that everybody take a hike, literally. My revolution involves getting outdoors more, breathing deeply, smelling the roses and having a genuinely REALLY happy new year, the kind we are meant to believe in. Revolution is the Solution.

HAPPY NEW YEAR! FOR REAL!

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

## Raceway in the Race for a Casino

Yonkers' Empire City and Resorts World next to Aqueduct Race Track in Queens are the early line favorites for a coveted full-fledge casino in lower New York but the third slot is anyone's bet.

On Jan. 3, the New York Gaming Facility Board began the application process with a \$1 million application fee and an asking price of \$500 million for the license. The commission will probably favor the racinos (race tracks with slots only) because of their track record and capacity to expand their operations to add live tables and venue entertainment.

MGM, owner of Empire City, said a full-scale casino would add 13,000 jobs, in-

cluding thousands of direct hires, and tax revenue for Yonkers.

Should luck be a lady for Empire City, it plans an \$850 million expansion that includes turning electronic betting tables for Vegas-style slots and live table games. It also plans to build luxury restaurants and a state-of-the-art entertainment center to draw in major headline acts.

As for a third casino, sites include the Hudson Yards, south of the Javits Center on Manhattan's west side; Times Square; Willets Point in Queens, next to Citi Field; the former Con Edison site in Midtown East near the U.N. headquarters; Coney Island; and Herald Square.

### **ASK JANET** (from Page 11)

Dear Rita,

Yes. In fact, I read a book for my book club that I really enjoyed on various levels—*The Personal Librarian*, by Marie Benedict and Victoria Christopher Murray.

When I heard the title, I immediately thought ugh, I'm not going to like this one, but I was very wrong. It's a historical fiction about J.P. Morgan's personal librarian, Belle da Costa Greene, whose mission was to secure books, artwork and historical manuscripts for his Pierpont Morgan Library in New York City.

On that level, it was interesting to read about the intricacies of the upper echelon of the art and literary world. There were parties, art auctions, backdoor negotiations and rivalries, as the curators made their transatlantic trips between America and the cultural centers of Europe to secure the treasures for personal and public collections.

On a very different level, Belle da Costa Greene had a secret that no one could ever know. She was born Belle Marion Greener, daughter of Richard Greener, the first black graduate of Harvard. While he was fighting for equality for blacks, his wife was fighting to keep her family's

light-skinned children living their lives as whites, safe from the prejudices of the time.

Belle was beautiful, smart, and very competitive and highly respected in the world of white males. She had to keep her true identity safe or she would surely lose her job and perhaps her life, along with the lives of her mother and siblings.

In another twist, J.P. Morgan's daughter, Anne, had a secret of her own. Although she suspected the truth about Belle, Belle learned of that secret that Anne was hiding. In light of that, they were forced to protect each other, keeping their skeletons safely stored away in the closets.

Add to this, a touch of romance and you'll find this a most interesting book.

FYI, The Pierpont Morgan Library was renamed The Morgan Library and Museum and stands in the Murray Hill section of Manhattan, at 225 Madison Ave. between 36th and 37th streets. I've added that to my "bushel list" for my next visit to The Big Apple. Maybe I'll see you there.

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



**NASA, WE HAVE A CHEEZ DOODLE**—Sam Fried captured the launch of the Falcon Heavy Space X rocket from Florida. The gray trail on the left is from the boosters coming down.



## New High School Takes a Step Forward

A new high school in Yonkers for the performing arts is no longer waiting in the wings.

The Leake and Watts campus off Ludlow Street has been bought for \$52.6 million by a Connecticut real estate group for the development of a film studio and creation high school for the performing arts.

Rising Ground, which currently serves 25,000 children and families in need, will retain an adjacent three-acre space on the 27-acre site.

## POW! BAM! ZAP! Comic Store Closing

The Spider's Web Comics and Collectibles store on Yonkers Avenue has closed after a decade in business.

The owner said here were many reasons for the closing, including it's just time for him to move on to a new passion.

## Here's the Dirt: Yonkers is a Sty

A new survey by [LawnStarter](#) ranks Yonkers as the 10th dirtiest city in the U.S.

Yonkers edged out New York City which ranked 12th. Houston, Newark and San Bernadino were the three dirtiest cities, according to the survey.

Virginia Beach ranked as the cleanest city. The cleanest New York city was Buffalo, which ranked 10th.

Taken during the winter holiday season, the nation's largest cities were judged in terms of pollution, living conditions, infrastructure and consumer satisfaction.

## 2 Teens Charged In School Assault

Two teens have been charged with second-degree attempted murder and first-degree assault on a 16-year-old student at Yonkers Middle High School.

The attack started in a second-floor bathroom when the duo began punching and kicking the victim before stabbing him. The fight was stopped by school security and the victim was taken to an area hospital.

Their identities will not be released because of their young age.

## Former City Resident Wins a Golden Globe

Actor Tyler James Williams, who grew up in Yonkers, won a Golden Globe Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Series, Miniseries, or Television Film.



Williams, 30, plays a teacher, Gregory Eddie, on the ABC sitcom [Abbott Elementary](#). Coincidentally, his mother, Angela Williams, is a counselor and his father, Le'Roy Williams, is a teacher and retired police sergeant.

Williams began acting at 4 and rose to fame in 2005 by playing the title character in the series [Everybody Hates Chris](#).

## Officer Treated for Fentanyl Exposure

A Yonkers police detention officer was in stable condition at a local trauma center after possibly being exposed to fentanyl.

First responders gave the officer three doses of naloxone, a medication used to reverse or reduce the effects of opioids.

Police say the 10-year veteran of the department suffered a medical emergency after she came into contact with an article of prisoner's clothing at the central booking facility at police headquarters.

## Soccer Makes A Pitch at Lennon

Renovations have begun at Lennon Park on Lake Avenue that will include a mini-soccer pitch along with repairs to the basketball court, construction of a walkway near the play area and new fencing. Work is slated to be done by spring.

## College Sex Cult Leader Gets 60 Years

Convicted sex cult leader Lawrence Ray was sentenced to 60 years in prison in Manhattan Federal court for terrorizing Sarah Lawrence College students and forcing them into prostitution.

The 63-year-old was convicted in April of mentally and physically abusing a small group of students at the prestigious Yonkers school between 2010 and 2020.

## Chick-fil A to Open 1st County Franchise

Why did the chicken cross the road? To open Chick-fil-A's first and only Westchester franchise, in Yonkers.

No opening date has been announced for the eatery on Central Park Avenue but they'll be no chicken dinners on Sunday.

## Cold Case Solved; Killer Pleads Guilty

A Florida resident, tracked down through DNA testing in a separate Bronx murder, pleaded guilty in January to the 2005 murder of Yonkers resident Angel Serbay whose body was found wrapped on the shoulder of the Sprain Brook Parkway.

Christopher Gonzalez, age 41, faces 20 years to life as the result of the second-degree murder plea.

Sentencing is scheduled in February.