

# Charles E. Gorton: A Man of Vision, A Man of Sorrow

By Donald Pitches C67

How much did you know about Charles E. Gorton when you were a student at the high school bearing his name?

If you had asked me back then, my answer would have been simple—nothing. Gorton was just a name above the main entrance or sewn on the back of a jacket. I knew nothing of the man, his life, his career. It is only after these many years, decades in fact, that I've come to know a little about him.

Research into his history helps us know Charles E. Gorton as the superintendent of the Yonkers School System and as a progressive educator for more than 40 years. We know of him as a respected and active member of Yonkers' civic organizations, the YMCA & YWCA, president of Peoples Savings Bank and organizer of community events such as Memorial Day ceremonies at Philipse Manor. He was also on the planning committee for the original Carnegie branch library on South Broadway.



We may know him as a man of faith who was active in the First Presbyterian Church, once located on Broadway south of Ashburton Avenue. We may even have read of him as an esteemed educator known throughout the state for advocating expansion of educational opportunities and separating the responsibilities of the church from the school system.

And we certainly know him as the man whose name was bestowed on our high school in honor of his many years of active service to the Yonkers schools.

See **GORTON** on Page 6



1st OF '23 for '65—Unless we hear otherwise, the first Class of 1965 grandchild of 2023 was born on Feb. 13 at 1:12 p.m. to Caren and Ethan Kennedy in Virginia. The baby boy, who weighed in at 10 lbs., 4 oz., is the couple's second child and classmate Joan Lawless Kennedy's ninth grandchild.

## Wolf Tales

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



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

February 2023, Vol. 80

## The Big Chill, And Then the Chill is Gone

Winter had to happen sooner or later but it didn't have to get nasty about it.

Two days after Punxsutawney Phil predicted six more weeks of winter, an arctic blast hit the Northeast. Wind-chill recordings were at -20° in Syracuse, -27° in Albany, -30° in Manchester, NH, -32° in Augusta, ME and -20° in Hartford. Boston, with a wind chill of -20°, closed schools a day ahead of time.

Not to be outdone, the Mt. Washington weather observatory in New Hampshire clocked in with minus 108 degrees at 4:30 am, affecting the 17 persons in the observatory. That's the same Mt. Washington whose main export is bumper stickers that read, "This car climbed Mt. Washington."



**A cup of coffee at Bryant Park in NYC.**

Closer to home, it was a balmy 3° in Yonkers with a wind chill that felt worse, according to Steve Tuers. City schools agreed, cancelling Saturday classes and intramural sports. Yvonne Price in Brookfield, CT, hit -8°/-14°, Alex Poletsky in Somers, NY, was at -1°/-15°, Janet Hanford in Fairport, NY, reported in at zero degrees/-11°.

"It was very windy and cold here, with

See **BIG CHILL** on Page 4





**JUST DUCKY**—Stu Hershaff's grandchildren, twins Brody and Lacey Hershaff and Zoe Herring (center) meet Señor Donald Disney. Proud parents are son, Brian and wife Lori, and daughter Melanie and husband Dan Herring, respectively.



**DISNEYLAND BIRTHDAY**—Kathleen Morrone Hanold's son, Georgie, celebrates his daughter Hazel's 4th birthday with Daisy Duck.



**NO MAN IS AN ISLAND**—Elaine London Glover (second from right) helps husband Jimmy (center) celebrate his 77th birthday on City Island in The Bronx with family.



**LOVE LIFT ME UP**—Yvonne Sullivan Price gives her granddaughter, Aspen, a 7th birthday hug—and then some.



**BIRTHDAY FINEST**—He's only 3 but already Kevin Henry's grandson, Conall, is a sharp-dressed man.



**BIRTHDAY IN VERMONT**—Alyssa Chase celebrates her birthday with a family gathering. From left, Lori Rowe's grandson, James, husband Doug, Lori, son-in-law Jamie, and daughter Alyssa.



**TABLE HOPPING**—Frank McGlinchey celebrates his 76th with wife Carolynn and his daughter's kids, Patrick and Eleanore Tolar.





**GORTON GOES TO ALBANY**—Seniors and freshman involved in our student government went to the New York State Capitol in Albany to lobby for more funding in Yonkers schools.



Vis, Tiffany & Kayleen dress like “Alvin and The Chipmunks” on “Character Day.”



Maya in traditional clothing for “Culture Day.”



Students display their pride in their roots; teacher Peter Kreamer is joined by student, Tiara, celebrating their Jamaican flag colors.



Office staff members, Vanessa, Joanne and Jackie, are pretty in pink while teachers Carolyn Bennett, Eneida Alvarado and Mrs. Camacho look like they could use a cup of Joe on Pajama Day.



## Spirit Week

Gorton holds its annual Spirit Week. A special thanks to Zayna Marjieh (flanked by students Jada and Gabriela) for sending us the photos during her vacation week. Zayna is a former student, now teacher, at Gorton and our liaison to the Alumni Association.





## Parry's Ponderings



### A Lotta Payola For a Rock-Ola

**I**n the '50s, Teresa Brewer wanted us to put another nickel in (in the Nickelodeon).

In the early '60s, we were told to put another dime in the record machine, while later we pumped quarters into the jukebox to hear the latest Beatles song.

Fast forward to today, I was shocked to see a jukebox that accepts \$20 bills.

Who's gonna sing about that?

### What's Up With The Balloons?

Anyone who doesn't know what those "Balloon-like" objects are over the U.S. hasn't seen the movie, Up.

### ...And Keep The Change

Speaking of inflation, it's gotten so bad that the bank wanted \$11 for a \$10 roll of quarters.

### What Pols Say Is Left Unsaid

When listening to a politician, any politician, you can usually learn more by paying attention to what ISN'T said than to what IS said.

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

### **BIG CHILL** (from Page One)

some snow," Janet said. "It was a good day to be in with our new furnace, which was installed Wednesday."

Classmate Susan Hoffnagle in Winsted, CT, said, "The temperature here was -13° but with the windchill it was closer to -30°. It was fine until the electricity went out. No lights, no heat, and no water since we have an electric water pump. Things were pretty dismal for about 2 1/2 hours."

"The utility then managed to restore the power," Susan said, "so now we are warm and happy," while adding that "we found out we need to get the generator fixed since it will not start."

Lori Rowe in Charlotte, VT, said it was "probably at least -45° with the windchill. It was so damned cold!" While she and David were warm, their dog Scout



**Ice forms n the Hudson in Yonkers.**

still had to deal with the call of the wild. "You've never seen anyone pee so fast!" Lori said.

And, as fast as it hit, temperatures bounced back. A week later, it was 58° in beautiful downtown Yonkers.



—Photo courtesy of Danny Zygmunt

**A VISTA VONDERLAND—It's not much snow, but who's complaining?**





**PLAYING THROUGH**—Sam Fried poses with golfing great Annika Sörenstam at the PGA Merchandise Show in Orlando.

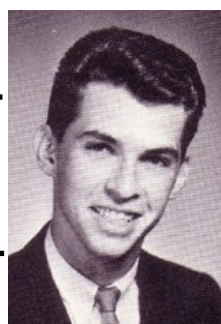


**FLORIDA REUNION**—Elaine London Glover (right) stops by to visit her friend and classmate Judy Schwartz Galician while in Florida.



**STORY TIME**—Lane Kennedy reads Three Billy Goats Gruff to her brother, Pace. Joan's granddaughter, Liv, is recovering from a skiing accident.

## Alumni News



### 'On Your Feet' For the Queen Of Algebra

**W**e knew that Muriel King Taylor's induction into the Alumni Association Wall of Fame would be very well received, and the commentary back from Gorton Alumni solidified that point.

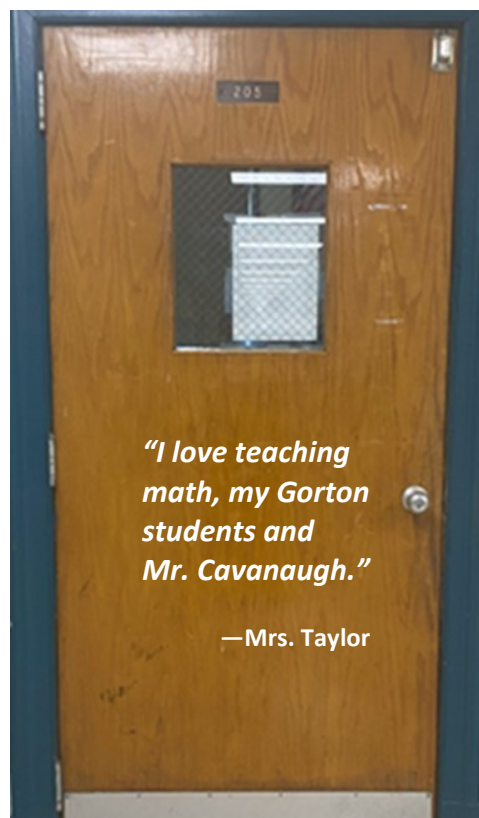
Alumni universally expressed joy and celebration over the announcement and pointed out the influence Muriel had on their lives. Many comments mentioning her pre- and post-teaching career exemplified her commitment to civil rights, social justice, racial equality, fighting discrimination and espousing activism..

From the responses received, it was very evident there was an extremely close connection to the Class of 1962. So much of a connection that her Homeroom Class 205 was invited to her wedding! The following are a few of the Class of 1962 responses and others that best describe this unique relationship:

$$5(x + 4) = 6x - 5$$

#### Bob Schlegel C62

Great article. For me, having been a student in many schools (including many U.S. Army and DOD ones), I have to say that she was probably the best motivating teacher that I've ever had. I remember when the pile drivers were pounding away at the addition to Gorton she just simply said (paraphrasing), "In the Army I taught over the boom of artillery shells—this ain't nothing to overcome!"



Room 205 belonged to Muriel King Taylor.

#### Eugene Radko, Yonkers Teacher

Gorton's Wall of Fame is now crowned with a queen, Muriel King Taylor. The honored Jim Cavanaugh would agree. He promoted her above her great love for teaching mathematics in order to share her wealth of skills with the entire City of Yonkers. And she did! Loud and clear. Her devotion to human and equal rights was a clarion call that still echoes in the city.

I knew her well as a colleague and friend; often sharing a table at House of Lee for dinner. Many times, I heard her say, "I love teaching math, my Gorton students and Mr. Cavanaugh. He gave me my opportunity."

Knowing many of your other worthy faculty honorees, I trust that all are even more honored with Muriel's selection. GOD BLESS THE QUEEN!

$$x^2 + 6x + 9 = 0$$

#### Jean Gartner Swezey C62

Well done, researched and written so well. You have jogged all our memories of that wonderful year we spent with MKT—  
See **MRS. TAYLOR** on Page 8



# Gorton Grad In Teachers' Hall of Fame

A belated congratulations are in order for a 1983 Gorton grad who was named to Yonkers' Teachers Hall of Fame last year.

Theresa Smith began her career in Yonkers at the Enrico Fermi School, teaching grades 4 and 5. In 2008, she transferred to Saunders Trades & Technical High School, teaching Earth Science and in 2009 moved to Lincoln High School. She is currently

teaching 9th grade science. Smith is a Class of 1983 Gorton High School graduate who was in the top 20 of the class. She earned a B.S. in Elementary Education from SUNY Oneonta, a Master's in Elementary Education from Iona College and Science certification from Empire College.



her job, Smith answered, "I LOVE my students! Every day is a new adventure with them. I enjoy listening to their stories and watching them help each other... I still get excited when students have that "A-Ha" moment when they finally understand that difficult concept."

Theresa and Dan Smith, a retired Yonkers Police Officer, were raised in Yonkers and have two children.

The Kiwanis Club of Yonkers has sponsored the honor with the Yonkers Board of Education.

Theresa is a New York State Master Teacher in Living Environment and Integrated Science and a National Board Certified Teacher in Science/Adolescence and Young Adulthood.

When asked what she liked most about

## **GORTON** (from Page One)

But how much do we know him as a private individual? Do we know him as a husband and as a father? Of this aspect of his life, we know very little.

Did you know Charles and his wife were parents of seven children? No, nor did I.

Do you know him as a man, a person touched by tragedy and acquainted with sorrow? I think not at all!

It is by coming to know his personal family life you understand the tragic part of Charles' life. Knowing this part of his life adds to the esteem and high regard in which he is held.

The grief he and his wife suffered is why I quote from the Bible, "Woe is me now! for the Lord hath added grief to my sorrow." (*Jeremiah 45:3*)

For many years the Gorton family resided at 205 Glenwood Ave., just east of Park Avenue, across from where the Whalen and Ball Funeral Home now stands. Charles lived at this address until his death in 1922. Funeral services were held at the First Presbyterian Church and he was buried in Oakland Cemetery at the corner of Ashburton Avenue and Saw Mill River Road. You can visit his gravesite.

Fittingly, he is buried next to his wife, Margaret Malcolm McNab, who died just a



year before him in July 1921.

Charles often experienced grief and loss in his life. His parents died years before either him or his wife. He would also have buried several older brothers, and sisters. Among those he mourned would have been James, also an educator and superintendent in the Sing Sing (Ossining), NY school system. Sadly, Charles is also laid to rest next to his young daughter, Jessie. Her death must have been a grievous blow to Charles and Margaret.

Jessie was married to a young man, Edward Van Lise Bashford, who, I gather, was close to Charles and worked alongside him for many years as the secretary for the Yonkers Board of Education. Edward and Jessie were wed on Oct. 21, 1906, and, by recorded accounts, had a happy marriage. That is until 1909, when Jesse

became ill and died after a painful illness on Sept. 18 at the age of 29.

It was when reading Jesse's obituary that the full impact of the sorrow and sadness that the Gortons had experienced was revealed. Jesse, the obituary read, was "laid to rest in beautiful Oakland Cemetery, where there are the remains of her five little sisters."

Of the seven Gorton children, only one survived, James, their only son. What a heartbreak it must have been to bury six daughters. Truly, Charles and Margaret were acquainted with sorrow, knew the pain of loss, and felt the sting of grief! James would go on to earn a medical degree and was a physician in Yonkers. Perhaps some classmates' parents were attended by Dr. James Gorton?

Jesse's husband, Edward, would marry again, the second time to a Yonkers school music teacher, Jeanette Gauthier. He would serve the Yonkers Board of Education as board secretary or assistant secretary for 41 years. He died at age 87 in January 1963.

The legacy of Charles Eugene Gorton continues as the school that bears his name soon enters its centennial celebration and proudly stands as the city's oldest high school campus.

***Donald Pitches is a retired Presbyterian pastor and a 1967 Gorton graduate.***



## Editor's Note



# Journey to The Center Of the Earth

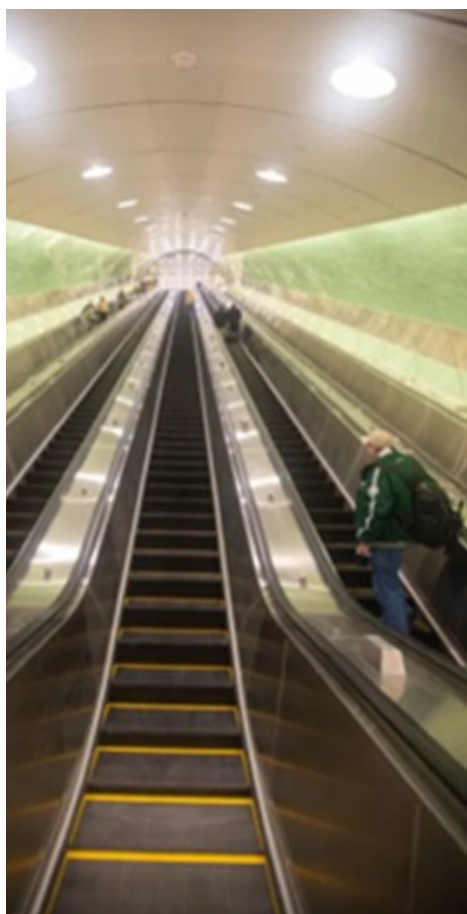
**T**here goes the neighborhood. On Jan. 25, LIRR riders gained direct access to New York City's historic and landmark Grand Central Terminal. The Beaux-Arts marvel that Jacqueline Kennedy Onassis saved from destruction was invaded by barbarians whose idea of culture is the Jones Beach Amphitheater featuring Kidz Bop Live.

I commuted to GCT for 20+ years with like-minded Westchester riders. We vowed to throw ourselves on the nearest third rail rather than rub elbows with North Shore ninnies. Fortunately, we were able to retire before they released the hounds.

Let's set the stage. Long Island Railroad (LIRR) service terminates in Penn Station, along with good taste. NJ Transit stops there as well. I repeat myself. Amtrak used to until it gave visitors the wrong impression of America. In honor of the man who coined "benign neglect," they built Daniel Patrick Moynihan Hall across the street for Amtrak.

To get to Manhattan's east side, LIRR riders had to hop an uptown subway for one stop and take a shuttle train to Grand Central (GCT). That's a tall task for folks who root for the Jets.

It seemed simple enough at the outset in 2006—build a rail tunnel to GCT's lower terminal. Not so fast, and I mean that literally! The LIRR, the nation's oldest chartered railroad, wasn't about to share platforms with anyone. Metro-North, (aka



--Photo courtesy of Seth Harrison/The Journal News

## Grand Central Madison's version of Stairway to Heaven.

the New York Central/Conrail) was relieved. A compromise was struck and the taxpayers got stuck with the bill.

When they built the English Chunnel, the French cheered because they could get to England faster. The English, on the other hand, wondered why anyone would be in a hurry to be in France. It's the same across the pond; why would anyone be in a hurry to get to Long Island?

The \$6.3 billion project, scheduled for completion in 2013, ran a tad over budget (\$12.7 billion) and was a bit late (10 years). Now, here's the best part—it only saved LIRR commuters about 1 ½-minutes a day, or 14 hours a year.

The new terminal isn't even in Grand Central; it's 17 stories BELOW ground and blocks away from Commodore Cornelius Vanderbilt's Lionel train set. The new

—In Memorium—

## Janet Skrobola, 75, Commerce Graduate

Janet Skrobola, our elementary and junior high school classmate until she transferred to Commerce where she graduated in 1965, died Feb. 6. She was a resident of Ossining.

Prior to her retirement, Janet was employed as a secretary and administrative assistant at the Yonkers Board of Education and later for Westchester County. She was a communicant of St. Augustine's Church in Ossining.

She is survived by her sister, Carol Lee Harding, two nephews, Edward Harding and Matthew Harding (Collette) and their children Lucas and Zachary, her close friends, Joanne and Randall Irish and Linda and Peter Lallone.

Jo Harter Irish said, "We knew each other since we were three or four years old. We lived in the same neighborhood and went to the same church and schools until she left for Commerce. Through her I learned all about Ukrainian food and came to like it better than the Italian that was being served in my house. She was a loyal and true friend and one that I could always count on."



"Janet and I were best friends in 9th grade and during her first year at Commerce," recalled Yvonne Sullivan Price. "Her nickname was 'Scrubs' and she was the best dance partner, aside from my dad, I ever had. We would race to my house after school to watch American Bandstand and she would pick up the latest dance craze immediately, leaving me to play catch up.

She had a way of tilting her head when she laughed and the best smile ever. My memories of our times together are some of my best."

See EDITOR on Page 8



## EDITOR (from Page 7)

platforms and the concourses are gleaming white. Don't get your hopes up, that won't last long.

A construction worker told *The Daily News*, "I've seen the concourse and caverns go from dirt floors to marble." Stick around long enough and you'll see the reverse. Look what they did to Penn Station.

Gov. Kathy Hochul dubbed it Grand Central Madison. Tabloids called it the Lower Least Side. She said it was a "life-changing option" for LIRR commuters. She wasn't kidding. She grew up in Buffalo, she knows all about life changing.

Up by Lake Erie, life changing means getting out of Buffalo before winter, even if it's to Albany. MTA officials handed out maps and bread crumbs for the 3 ½-minute trek to get to the Shake Shack on the lower-level (upper level to them) of Grand Central Terminal.

Half of this long day's journey into spite is on escalators, including one that's a 185-foot diagonal nose-bleed vertigo nightmare. It's like the Rosslyn stop on the D.C. Metro's Blue line only loaded with loaded passengers.

Long (very hard G) Islanders have been trying to sneak into the U.S. for years, most notably via a proposed bridge/tunnel from Oyster Bay (home of the Amityville horror) to Rye, NY, (home of unlisted phone numbers and private jets). Fuhgeddaboutit!

For the record, the first LIRR train departing from Grand Central Madison to Jamaica left late. In addition, the inspirational quote by famed artist Georgia O'Keeffe etched into the new station's marbled walls ("One can't paint New York as it is, but rather as it is felt") misspelled the artist's name.

Rudyard Kipling wrote, "East is East and West is West, and never the twain shall meet." He's right. These twains, and passengers, will never meet.

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

## MRS. TAYLOR (from Page 5)

for many of us, changing our lives from then on, and never to have a teacher so inspiring again. Thank you so much for doing this!

$$2(x+5) - 7 = 3(x-2)$$

**Linda Galda Johnson C62**

I felt as though everyone in Homeroom 205 attended her wedding. I recall how she pronounced math-e-matics—so deliberately and with the gravitas often given to The Constitution of the United States of America. She never spoke it as an ordinary word in a sentence.

As I read the quote by Miss King about teaching, I read it with her pronunciation—impossible not to do so. It might be beneficial to future generations, and to others who did not have the opportunity to have her as a teacher, to know that many students over half a century later still vividly recalled with smiles and great respect what she taught them, how she taught, how she articulated words and the distinctive ways she moved.

$$13 - 2x = 4x - 5$$

**Helen Fried C62**

I would be really happy if you could write a sentence or two about her teaching, e.g., A or F tests, "on your feet" commands, etc. We were terrified of making mistakes and it paid off. I still use algebra to solve problems.

$$-3x + 4 = 7x + 24$$

**Bob Gurian C62**

Thank you! Muriel King Taylor was a wonderful and unforgettable teacher. Several of us '62ers attended her wedding.

$$-4x + 7 = 15$$

**Lynn Adels Ahmed C62**

It would be nice to give a "flavor" of her amazing personality and teaching style. And in addition to the infamous "A or F" tests, and the teaching of negative num-

bers by striding (with sweat dripping down her face) up and down the line she had drawn in chalk on the floor adding and subtracting; she would let us put our desks in a circle and a record player would appear and we'd have an end of week 'just hanging' time.



$$3x + 4x - 2 = 61$$

**Ann Patavino Votta C61**

Wonderful tribute to Muriel King Taylor. I was very fond of her and we were very close. She was the faculty supervisor for our "Y" club. Always the best inspiration. I also got 99 on the Algebra Regents thanks to her!

$$6(x+5) = -2(x+1)$$

**Sandra McMullen C62**

Thank you for the beautiful article about this extraordinary woman and role model for many of us. Although I did not have

**See MRS. TAYLOR on Page 9**

## Gorton High School Alumni Association Wall of Fame

Arthur Yedowitz C26

Mae Morgan C29

Fletcher Knebel C29

George Giddings C38

Anthony Clements C49

Dennis Pryzgoda C49

Warren Casey C53

Eileen Hedy Schultz C50

Ben Ermini C54

James Pitches C55

Peter Kachmer C58

Arthur Hellman C59

Peter Morley C59

Ron Petro C59

Frank Forcelli C60

Gayle Sourenian C64

Ralph Johnson C65

Paula Giddings C65

Charlie Criss C66

James Bostic C71

Gertrude Braslow—Faculty

James Cavanaugh—  
Principal

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



**MRS. TAYLOR** (from Page 8)

an opportunity to be taught by her at Gorton, I remember her being my Sunday School teacher at the Institutional AME Zion Church in Yonkers. She stood out from the rest of the teachers there as well.

$$4x - 2(x-5) = 3x$$

**Jerry Colaio C64**

Mrs. Taylor established a connection between math and students who were at all levels of competence in the subject area. You could not help but learn...or else!

There were two overlapping parts to this persona that shined through this icon of an educator: She was awesome, and one to pay attention to, or else, and the other side where you knew she had your back knowing that she was rooting for your success.

She deeply affected countless numbers of Gorton students who were hungry for a real challenge. Man, did they get them in MKT's class!

$$\frac{5x - 3}{2} = 11$$

And yes..., I was transformed as well by the commanding style of Muriel King Taylor. As a multi-year veteran of "Mr. Tolany, on your feet!," she not only made a competent student out of me, she galvanized me when under pressure. She would be face-to-face, eye-to-eye-, nostrils flaring...and you knew she wasn't firing for effect. She meant it! This wasn't just about math...it was about life.

And those A or F tests? They were a quick quiz in class, you either got an A or an F. Answers to each question had to be perfect or you failed.

Muriel King Taylor... "Unforgettable."

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

## Tuers De Force



## At the Heart Of It, We All Win Again

**T**he game was supposed to start at 3:30 at the Sacred Heart High School gymnasium but the star was at center court greeting everyone in sight.

Through the 60+ years I have known Coach John Volpe, I've come to believe at least two-thirds of the world's population knows him. So why should an annual exhibition basketball game between his two former teams, Gorton and Sacred Heart, be any different?

John was there to present a trophy bearing his name that bore the number 522—the number of wins he amassed over a 40-year span. I arrived early, but not early enough. Coach was already surrounded by well-wishers. It took nearly a half hour before I could usher him over to his seat of honor.

Then, Sacred Heart coach Steve Marellino, standing at center court, invited Volpe to join him. Gingerly, the 91-year-old walked to half court where, one by one, players from both teams were introduced and went over and shook his hand.

Before tip-off, both referees walked over where coach was sitting and warned him to behave himself and no shouting at them during the contest. Coach swore he was only there to watch and would be at his best behavior, fingers crossed.

It was a hotly contested game and the refs weren't calling many fouls. The basketball rolled over to where coach was sitting and he picked it up and put it behind his back.



**Coach Volpe with his trophy.**

When they came to retrieve it., Coach said loudly, "You're not getting the ball back until you start blowing your whistle."

Both refs hit coach with a technical.

"It's about time you blew your whistle!" Volpe said. Everyone around him laughed; coach laughed the loudest!

During half time, more well-wishers stopped by to share stories from long ago. He enjoyed every word. In the end, the Heart won but no one left until he strolled out to mid-court to present the trophy to the winners.

And we were all winners to see the King of the Hardwood again.

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



# The Changing Names of Yonkers' Schools

THEN	LOCATION	NOW
P.S. # 1	Dunbar St	Demolished.
P.S. # 2	Waverly St	Became Benjamin Franklin JHS; now an apartment building.
P.S. # 3	Hamilton Ave.	Apartment building.
P.S. # 4	Trenchard St.	Affordable housing.
P.S. # 6	Ashburton Ave	Schoolhouse Terrace Apartment buildings.
P.S. # 7	Walnut St	Andulusia School, a private Muslim school.
P.S. # 8	Bronxville Rd	Patricia A. DiChiaro Elementary School.
P.S. # 10 (Early Childhood Center)	Riverdale Ave	Became Hudson River Academy; now VIVE School Yonkers Pathway to Success.
P.S. # 11	Wakefield Ave	Montessori School.
P.S. # 12	Ashburton Ave	Yonkers Community Action Program.
P.S. # 13	McLean Ave	Added to the National Register of Historic Places in 2007. Now an apartment building.
P.S. # 13	McLean Avenue)	Las Hermanas Mirabal Community School.
P.S. # 14	Crescent Place	Rosemarie Ann Siragusa School.
P.S. # 15	Westchester Ave	Paideaia School #15
P.S. # 18	Park Hill Ave	Became Scholastic Academy for Academic Excellence. N Now the Ella Fitzgerald Academy.
P.S. # 19	Morris St	Eugenio Maria de Hostos MicroSociety School.
P.S. # 24	Colin St.	Paideaia School # 24.
P.S. # 25	Warburton Ave	The Museum School 25.
P.S. # 26	150 Kings Cross	Casimir Pulaski School.
P.S. # 27	Valentine Lane	Montessori School # 27
P.S. # 28	Rosedale Rd	Kahlil Gibran School.
P.S. # 29	Croydon Rd	Westchester Hills School.
P.S. # 31	Ravenswood Rd	Montessori School # 31
P.S. # 32	Montclair Place	Family School # 32
P.S. # 33	Locust Hill Ave	Martin Luther King Jr. School
Emerson JHS	Bolmer Ave	Became Emerson Middle School. Now Cross Hill Academy and Yonkers Early Childhood Academy.
John Burroughs JHS	Palmer Rd	Saunders Trades and Technical High School.
Nathaniel Hawthorne HS	Hawthorne Ave	Became Hawthorne JHS. Now PEARLS Hawthorne School.
Museum JHS	Warburton Ave	Became Museum Middle School. Now Riverside HS.

THEN	LOCATION	NOW
Henry Wadsworth Longfellow HS	Palisade Ave	Became Yonkers High School of Commerce
Commerce HS	Palisade Ave	Became Commerce Middle School in 2000. Became Palisade Preparatory School in 2008. Now the Barack Obama School for Social Justice.
Mark Twain Middle School/ Montessori School 11	Woodlawn Ave Wakefield Ave	Combined; now Yonkers Montessori Academy.
Walt Whitman JHS	Shore View Dr	The Robert C. Dodson School.
Yonkers HS	S. Broadway.	Demolished (year unknown.)
Yonkers HS	Rockland Ave	Became John Burroughs Middle School. Now Yonkers Middle High School
Longfellow JHS	Mulberry St.	Previously known as P.S. 20, it will become a 40-unit apartment building.
Benjamin Franklin JHS	Poplar St	Became Enrico Fermi Middle School. Now Enrico Fermi School.
Elizabeth Seton College	N. Broadway	Became Foxfire School. Now William Boyce Thompson School.

**Note: Saunders Trade and Technical High School on South Broadway is now Yonkers Police Headquarters.**

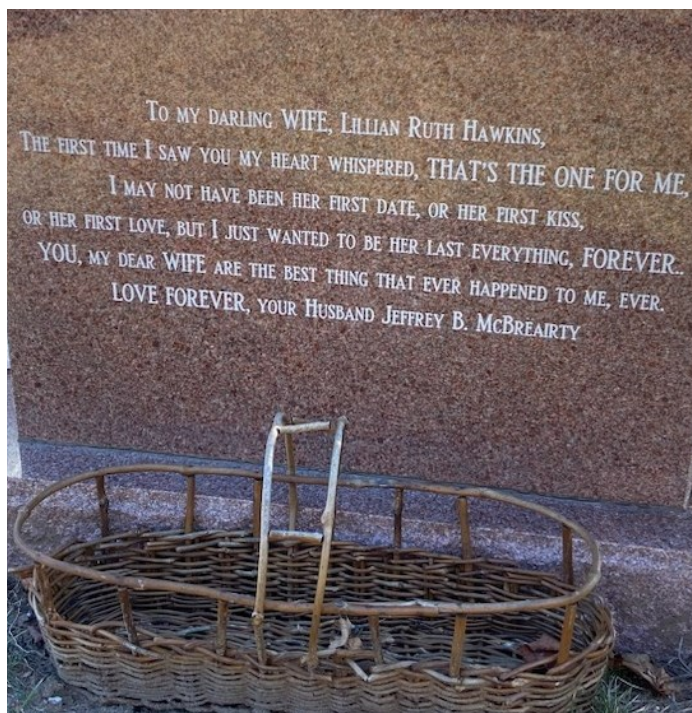
**Gorton and Lincoln retained their names. Roosevelt was briefly renamed High School of Early College Studies but has reverted back to Roosevelt High School (Early College Studies).**

**Schools 9, 21 and 22 remain PK-6; School 17 is now PK-5; Schools 5, 23 and 30 are PK-8; School 16 is PK-8 with classes also in the former Christ the King Catholic School.**





# —Romancing the Stone—



A headstone in a New Milford, CT, cemetery.

## Until Death Do Us Part For Those to See

**Y**ou might think that spending time roaming through a cemetery is like looking for love in all the wrong places, but you'd be wrong. Recently, a few days before Valentine's Day and quite by accident, I found myself meandering through a cemetery in New Milford, CT, that I had not visited before. I needed a new venue for my morning walk and there it was.

Exploring cemeteries is something Greg and I have done over the years, he because of his interest in history and me because I like to think that I am paying my respects to some who perhaps have had no visitors in a long time.

Cemeteries are generally very peaceful places. They are also often very lovely areas to walk through, many with beautiful trees and flowers and well-tended grounds. Even the smaller ones, tucked away in remote areas of the countryside, that may not be as well kept, provide a quietness that we are more and

See **PRICELESS** on Page 12



**Priceless  
Memories**



Heart stones collected from Lake Ontario.



Heart stones on the mantel of the hearthstone.



## Love is All Around, You Have to Look

Dear Janet,  
*What is a heart of stone?*

Rocky Rhodes



**Ask Janet**

### Hearts of Stone

**W**e all know that Mick Jagger has a "Heart of Stone" that will never break and Paul Simon "is a rock" who feels no pain, but did you know that the Lake Ontario shoreline is dotted with little heart-shaped rocks, called heart stones, that are fun to collect?

With all the thousands of rocks along the shore, it seems that they would be difficult to find, (perhaps searching in "vein"?) but I found out that they're not as hard (no pun intended) as it may seem.

My friend, Marcia, grew up in Oswego, NY, on the shores of Lake Ontario, and has been collecting the stones for many years. We went "heart hunting" a few years ago and found some real beauties. She has an absolutely amazing collection, but more than

See **JANET** on Page 12



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

more hard-pressed to find in our everyday environments.

I think of cemeteries as communities. The larger ones are like cities, full of people of all ages and ethnicities and colors, gathered together in a kind of harmony and acceptance cities of the living seem to find more and more challenging. The rural and older cemeteries, with the often preponderance of tipsy-topsy headstones and worn inscriptions, are representative of small-town folks, less concerned about appearances and apt to be at peace with their surroundings; more accepting and understanding of the changes that occur naturally, over time; willing to let Nature take the lead with just a minimum of interference.

Cemeteries are art museums. They have on display all manner of architecture, sculpture and design, from the smallest of stones, to the tallest of granite, the widest of marble to the largest abode-like structures. There are the simplest of designs; a name, two dates and then the most ornate; etched vines, flowers, quotations. There are fully sculpted figures; angels, cherubs, Jesus, crosses, anchors, claddaghs. There are towering obelisks, competing for attention and crumbling headstones, long past repair.

I began this with looking for love. I found it in that New Milford cemetery, under a huge pine tree, in a space right off one of the dirt access roads. It caught my eye because of all the writing, which took up the entire marble face. I read it and I cried, it was that beautiful.

I then walked around to view the other side and was equally moved by what I saw. Aside from the names of the deceased and the requisite dates, there were two pinecones and two clasped hands etched into the marble. On the ground at the base of the headstone, a heart was formed from pinecones that had fallen from the tree, along with the pinecone-formed words, "I love you mom."

We should all be so loved.

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



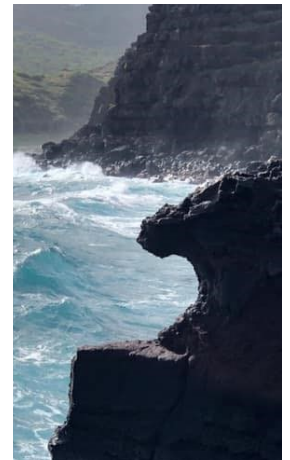
**Hearts adorn the mantelpiece.**



**A heart stands in the Joshua Tree National Park.**



**The Heart Rock in Maui, before and after erosion.**



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

that, she has an innate artistic talent for arranging and decorating her home with them. You can get a sense of that in the pictures. My collection is a lot smaller than hers, so you might say that her hearts "beat" mine.

So why collect these stone hearts? Is there any meaning connected to finding them? Of course there is. These stones supposedly represent the love between two people, and can bring luck to the romance and love and peace to the home. They're also a reminder that someone is thinking about you and keeping you close to their heart.

But you don't live near Lake Ontario? It isn't the only place to find stone hearts. There's a huge one in Joshua Tree National Park, east of Los Angeles. It's located near Arch Rock, so you can take the approximately one hour walk to see both. Would that be killing one hour with two stones? Good luck if you try to carry this one off for your collection!

Maui is (was) another place to view another stone heart in nature. Can you guess what it's called? Heart Rock. (You're very good at this.) It's a different kind of heart because the heart isn't made of stone but is actually cut into the rock. It's a naturally eroded rock that formed a naturally eroded heart, located next to the Nakalele Blowhole. However, if you haven't seen it by now, you're too late. Unfortunately, erosion created the

rock and has, over time, eroded one side of the heart, making it literally a broken heart. Is it now the Heart of the Lion or the Lion of the Heart?

In Island Miler's article in *Jefferetter Travel* titled, *The Nakalele Heart Rock is No More*, he concludes, "Nor do I think it's worth going to visit the area just to see the blowhole too. Especially since it's pretty boring unless the surf is high, at which point it isn't safe to visit anyway."

There are many natural and manmade hearts to be found around the world, including in Santorini, Greece, which boasts of a similarly eroded rock that is at this point in time, unbroken.

I would be remiss if I conclude without bringing into the mix the novel written by our late classmate, Bill Nothdurft, aka Will North. If you haven't read *Water, Stone, Heart*, you should. Goodreads calls it "a bittersweet novel about love, loss, and the power of nature to alter our lives".

I say that if you have a pulse, *Water, Stone, Heart* will surely elevate it, as you read about the violent storm approaching the village of Boscastle, England.

Rock on!

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



Plato, the Gypsy King (left), and encampment scenes from an 1899 New York Times Sunday Magazine article.

## Did You Know?



# When Gypsies Lived in Our Hills & Valleys

*A gypsy rover came over the hill  
Down through the valley so shady,  
He whistled and he sang  
'til the green woods rang  
And he won the heart of a lady.*

**W**here was this lush green valley? According to a lengthy article in The New York Times, this idyllic valley was Nepperhan Ways described as "west of the high hill that is the pride of Yonkers."

This spot was a "countryside of cottages, meadows, and a winding road." You can imagine the residents' reaction to their new neighbors. The Gypsies unloaded their caravans, pitched tents, made campfires, set up makeshift stoves and settled in with their children, horses and dogs. But where did the Gypsies come from?

Gypsies prefer the name Romani, Romany



The burial of Nicholas John, King of the Romany, at Oakland Cemetery in Yonkers.

or Roma. The name Gypsy is considered to be a racial slur as it connotes illegality and irregularity. Gypsies are often portrayed as thieves and scam artists.

Linguistic and genetic evidence suggest that that Roma originated in northern India. From there they dispersed, and today their populations can be found in Europe and western Asia, with an estimated one million Roma in the U.S. alone.

Their language is divided into several dialects. The Romani do not have a homeland. They traveled and made their livings by horse trading, telling fortunes, doing odd job and selling trinkets.

It is believed the Romany were in Yonkers at different times over a period of 20 years. Another Romany encampment could be found near Central and McLean avenues. The owner of that land was summoned to court at the insistence of the health commissioner who claimed the owner was guilty of sanitary violations. There was no running water, no provisions for the removal of garbage and no means for the removal of sewage. A child with diphtheria was taken to the city hospital and the camp was put under quarantine.

In 1925, Nicholas John, King of the Romany for several decades, died. His body was

**See GYPSY on Page 14**





## St. Michael's Expands Its Relief Efforts for The Ukraine, Refugees

St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church continues to welcome Ukrainian refugees and provide clothing and supplies to the beleaguered residents of Kharkiv, Ukraine.

Thanks in part to donations and support from *Wolf Tales* readers, the church has expanded its pantry with more food and goods for newly arrived Ukrainian families.

"Thanks to [*Wolf Tales*] readers (most who are Gorton High School graduates)," said Sophia Shchur (GHS71), "we have received several hundred dollars to support Abraham's Tent (for our refugees) and our other humanitarian projects (Keep

Warm Kharkiv).

At a recent monthly gathering, the Westchester Jewish Coalition on Immigration arranged for Immigration lawyer, Olha Khomyak, Esq, to address legal concerns. Also, Fidelis Health Care was there to assist with health insurance issues. Student volunteers from Byram Hills High School were also on hand to offer assistance.

A band, Elijah and the Not For Prophets, provided much-needed entertainment, ending ending it all with the Ukrainian National Anthem.

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



**A full pantry awaits newly arrived Ukrainian refugees at St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church.**



**A young Romany girl in 1899.**

## **GYPSY (from Page 13)**

was brought to Oakland Cemetery in Yonkers from his home in Waterbury, CT. More than 200 Romany, representing 45 tribes scattered across the U.S., came to Yonkers to pay their respects.

According to *The Yonkers Herald*: "Dark-eyed women in rainbow costumes wailed, swarthy men chanted their prayers as one Romany intoned the ancient Romany ritual for the dead."

Later, they started balloting for a new tribal ruler. John Mitchell, former assistant to Nicholas for four years, was considered to be the heir apparent and received unanimous approval of all the tribal chiefs.

As suddenly as the Romany had arrived in Yonkers, they left, leaving behind the remnants of their encampment for the city to clean up.

After their departure, an ordinance was drafted for the purpose of preventing future encampments of Romany in Yonkers.

The ordinance required a fee of \$500 for a license to make a camp anywhere in the city for a group larger than 12 people and that the Department of Public Safety and Public Health would use its discretion in approving or disapproving the permit.

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



## 2 Old Friends And a Moment Of 'Beshert'

By Ernie Levinson (C65)

Beshert is a Yiddish word which means "inevitable" or "pre-ordained" and that is the only way I can explain it.

I live in the mountains of North Carolina and try to avoid the worst of the winter by going south for six to eight weeks every year. This year, I went to Ft. Myers, where my girlfriend has a friend whose condominium was vacant from New Year's Day to mid-February.

One afternoon, we went to the local Publix and, as we were leaving, I heard someone say, "Ernie"! I turned toward the person and was face-to-face with Larry Mintzer! Larry and I have always had a



Larry Mintzer and Ernie Levinson.

good relationship, but never kept in touch. In fact, the last time I saw him was when I was in Boston in 2010 for my cousin's son's wedding.

See **BESHERT** on Page 16

## Like Tom Brady, Rev. Pitches Retires(?) Again

By Pat Kent C67

Donald Pitches (GHS67) was ordained in 1976 in the Dayspring Presbyterian Church, (Nodine Hill) in Yonkers, by the Hudson River Presbytery, the regional governing council.

Skippping over many notable highlights of his career (e.g., hospice chaplain in Montclair, NJ, and as a New Jersey State Correctional Chaplain), Rev. Pitches served as part-time, then full-time, pastor of the First Presbyterian Church of Carlstadt, NJ, from 1985-2019.

After a move in 2019 to Franklin Park, NJ, so he and his wife, Sally, could be near their daughter and family, his primary retirement pastime and joy have been caring for two granddaughters before/after school. In March 2021, he agreed to

See **PITCHES** on Page 16



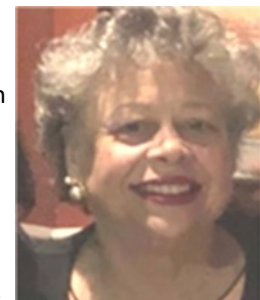
Donald with daughter Kate and his granddaughters Beatrice and Emily.

Dec. 16, 1945-Feb. 2, 2023

## Barbara P. Smith, C63, Educator and Community Leader

Barbara P. Smith, 1963 graduate of Gorton High School, died Feb. 2 at St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers. The daughter of Theodore H. (C25) and Mabel Smith, she was born on Dec. 16, 1945 in Yonkers.

Barbara was active in her community as a teenager and throughout her adult life. She made a difference in the quality of life in the community, the City of Yonkers, and everyone around her. She carried the mantle of activism started by her father Theodore, a leader of the first graduating class of Gorton High School in 1925.



Barbara's education was as diverse and as broad experience as you can find. She attended Central State College in Wilberforce, Ohio; the New York School for Social Research in NYC; earned a degree in secretarial science from the Nancy Taylor Business School; SUNY at Purchase in Mount Vernon; a degree in Behavior Science from Mercy College with a minor in elementary education; and a Masters in Education from The City College of New York.

Her career was extensive. She was executive secretary to the Treasurer-Secretary of Stein Hall & Co. in New York City. She served as a secretary to the Director of the South Yonkers Youth Council. She worked in the RAP Tutorial Program teaching math, English, science and history to junior and senior high school students.

See **SMITH** on Page 16



## **PITCHES** (from Page 15)

serve twice a month as pulpit supply (a ministry that helps churches fill their pulpit in times of need) at Grace Church in Kendall Park, NJ.

He delivered his last sermon this Jan. 15, and the congregants awarded him an "Oscar" along with their thanks for pitching in while they conducted their search for a full-time pastor. Bitten by the acting bug at Gorton after appearing in several Bob Foley productions, notably "King Lear," Donald likes to dramatize bible stories during his sermons.

At a recent Carlstadt, NJ, town banquet, Donald was presented with a plaque recognizing his 25 years as a former captain and firefighter and his 35 years as the department's chaplain.

He still has a hard time comprehending the full meaning of retirement. He recently accepted a colleague's invitation to preach this month at the Kingston, NJ, Presbyterian Church as part of its 300th Anniversary Celebration.

## **BESHERT** (from Page 15)

As we blocked people from exiting Publix, he and I just stood there—each of us having too much to say as our significant others tried to understand what was happening. As it turned out, Larry lives in the same community where we were staying.

Larry and his wife, Cathy, were leaving the next day for a visit to the Boston area for a minor medical procedure and some tests but we quickly exchanged phone numbers and agreed to meet when they returned.

In early February, shortly after they returned from Boston, the four of us got together. To say it was magical was an understatement.

All of us felt an immediate connection and the four hours at his beautiful home went by very quickly. Because we were not in a restaurant, we didn't get a picture of the four of us, but here we are—two old friends (both meanings).



**Rev. Pitches holds his "Oscar" for Best Performance of the Written Word; above he's honored by Carlstadt, NJ, for his service as a former captain and chaplain of the town's fire department.**

## **SMITH** (from Page 15)

At the Leontine L. Pryor Day Care Center, Barbara was responsible for all three-year-old students. At the Child Development Center of City College, she specialized in three to five-year old development also training teachers in early childhood programs in open classrooms.

Barbara's true passion came in 1995 at the Orchard School at Andrus Children's Home in Yonkers, where she rose to assistant principal. She provided instructional leadership to faculty and staff implementing proactive academic and behavioral interventions enhancing student achievement. She represented the school at a special recognition at the White House during the Bush Administration.

She joined the board of The Hudson River Community Association of Northwest Yonkers (HRCA) in 1982. After a dormant period in the organization, she and the board brought it back to life. Under her direction as president for the past 25 years, HRCA became a thriving force and one of the city's most active civic group.

Barbara encouraged the community to maintain their properties; and held annual dinners honoring individuals and organizations making a difference in the city of Yonkers. She was instrumental in obtaining computers for graduating high school seniors and scholarships for college. Very

importantly, Barbara engaged Yonkers government and the police department to attend monthly meetings to hear the issues of the community. She created partnerships.

Other civic work included executive positions and chairmanship of the Board of Nepperhan Community Center. She preparing applicants for the police and fire department exams in Yonkers. Barbara received many awards in her lifetime for her work in the community and Yonkers.

She is survived by her sisters, Carol Gray (C59), Jayne Hunter (C62) (Marshall), her niece, Nichole Gray, cousins and god-daughters. She was predeceased by her parents, a brother-in-law, Dr. Arthur Gray Jr., and niece, Heather Gray.

From the outpouring of condolences are two statements that best summarize this amazing woman:

*"She was an integral and vibrant member of our neighborhood. Barbara was synonymous with community and opportunities for youth."*

*"Gone from among us is a beautiful person with whom I had the pleasure of sharing a workplace and community for many years. She will be deeply missed; her beautiful spirit will be fondly remembered and forever treasured!"*

## City Man Nabbed In Iranian Hit Plot

A Yonkers man was one of three persons tied to an alleged plot to assassinate Iranian-American journalist Masih Alinejad over her criticism of the Iranian government.

According to the indictment filed in the Southern District, Khalid Mehdiyev, age 24, was part of murder-for-hire and money-laundering scheme. Mehdiyev is a member of an Eastern European criminal organization that has ties to Iran and has engaged in murders, kidnappings, assaults and extortions.

The group allegedly began plotting to murder the victim, Masih Alinejad, after a previous plan by Iranian intelligence officials to kidnap her was uncovered by the FBI. Alinejad has reported on the Iranian government's human rights abuses and its suppression of political expression.

## Beltran Sworn In As City Court Judge

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano appointed Karen T. Beltran as City Court Judge for Yonkers, replacing vacated seat left by Judge Elena Goldberg-Velazquez. Beltran will run for a full 10-year term in November.



Beltran joins the Yonkers City Court bench after serving as the deputy administrator for Westchester County's Independent Office

of Assigned Counsel and as the senior assistant county attorney for the County's Family Law and Litigation Bureaus. She holds a Juris Doctor Degree from the University at Buffalo School of Law and Bachelor of Arts from Purchase College.

## St. Anthony's Celebrates Centennial Anniversary

St. Anthony Catholic Church in Yonkers celebrated its 100th anniversary over the weekend with a special Mass and com-



**YONKERS HIP HOPS**--Yonkers' own Mary J. Blige and The X-Clave were on stage to celebrate the 50th anniversary of hip-hop music at the Grammy Awards. The "queen of hip hop soul" discovered the group (Jason "Jadakiss" Phillips, David "Styles P" Styles and Sean "Sheek Louch" Jacobs), which began performing while in Yonkers' high schools.



munion led by Cardinal Timothy Dolan.

"In 100 years of parish life, St. Anthony's has witnessed 3,215 baptisms, 4,725 first communions, 3,735 confirmations, 1,052 marriages – that's not bad work for 100 years," Pastor Daniel Tuite told the congregants.

## Sister to Sister Founder Attends SOTU Address

A Yonkers advocate for Black maternal health was U.S. Senate Majority Leader Charles Schumer's guest of honor for the annual State of the Union address.

Cheryl Brannan, founder of the non-profit Sister to Sister International, worked with Schumer to get almost \$1 million in funding for St. John's Riverside Hospital to address maternal health disparities for Black women. The funding will renovate the city's only maternity unit.

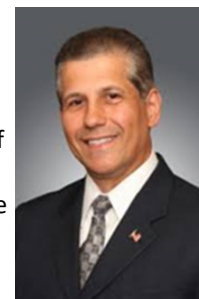
Brannan, a Yonkers native, founded Sister to Sister International in 1994 to educate and empower Black women and girls. She previously founded the Yonkers chapter of the Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus, a political powerhouse that launched the careers of several local lawmakers, including State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.



## GOP Anthony Merante Seeks Yonkers Mayoralty

Anthony Merante, a city council member from the Sixth District, is the first Republican to announce he's running for mayor of Yonkers.

"I'm very concerned about the safety issue right now. I mean a lot of these smash-and-grabs are happening, stores are not reporting all this stuff. And what's happening is people are getting scared to go shopping," he said.



Democrat Mayor Mike Spano is running for his fourth term. He is being challenged by three candidates in his own party—Prince Robinson and City Council members Margaret Fountain Coleman and Corazon Pineda-Isaac.

## Bed Bath & Beyond Is Beyond Hope

Nearly two dozen New York-based Bed Bath & Beyond stores, including a Yonkers location on Central Park Avenue, will close this year as part of the company's nationwide fleet liquidation.

That brings the total number of Bed Bath & Beyond locations scheduled to close to at least 162 announced since September 2022.



## City Detective Dies In Medical Emergency

A 48-year-old member of the Yonkers Policed Department died suddenly after apparently suffering a medical emergency.

Det. Del Caraballo, a 16-year-veteran with the Yonkers Police Department, died on Sunday afternoon, Feb. 19, while driving in New York City, the department announced.

"Our city is mourning a tragedy," Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said in a statement. "This detective was known and loved by many in the law enforcement community."

## City Health Facilities Get Additional Funding

Yonkers health care facilities were part of a \$658 million state funding program designed to improve the quality of care.

Recipients were the Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center (\$9 million) to construct a 96-specialty bed residential health care facility; Julia Dyckman Andrus Memorial, Inc. (\$1.7 million) to modernize and expand the Andrus Yonkers Health and Wellness Center; St. John's Riverside Hospital (\$34 million) to renovate and upgrade surgical services; and St. Joseph's Hospital (\$6.7 million) to expand behavioral health services and enhance access to specialty care.

## County, Boy Scouts Have Cabin Fever

The Bronxville Scout Committee and Westchester are locked in a legal tug-of-war over who owns the cabin in Scout Field located in Yonkers just over the border of Bronxville.

The scouts were given a permit to build the cabin in 1919 when the parkway commission was amassing land for the Bronx River Parkway. Some 300 scouts use the cabin for weekday meetings. On the weekend, its rented out to the community for \$700 a night.

The county claims the Scouts are not



**EGG-CITING NEWS**—Westchester's own weather predictor laid an egg and that's good news—it's going to be an early spring. Muscoot Farm manager Jonathon Benjamin holds Cluxatawney Henrietta and her egg after removing her from her coop on Groundhog's Day at the Katonah farm and Nature Preserve.

transparent with their financials and guilty of "unwarranted entitlement." Speaking of entitlements, John F. Kennedy was a Troop 2 member there when his family lived in Bronxville.

## Downtown Just Got Suckier & That's Good

Downtown Yonkers just won the sweepstakes with a new street vacuum to help keep the waterfront-area clean of litter.

The new piece of machinery supplements the overnight cleaning carried out by Yonkers and is under the auspices of the Yonkers Downtown Water Business Improvement District. The diesel-powered vehicle was purchased from ExproLink and has the ability to clean between parked cars.

## Chick-fil-A Approved Despite Protests

It looks like the Chick-fil-A can finally cross the road.

The Yonkers Planning Board unanimously approved Westchester's first and only Chick-fil-A franchise on Central Park Avenue. Residents of the Roxbury Drive area demanded a new vote on concerns



that drive-thru traffic would overflow into their neighborhood and create safety issues.

## SW Yonkers to Get 1st Waterfront Park

The city signed a \$13 million deal to purchase a 130,000-square foot tract on land wedged between the county's sewage treatment facility and the sugar refinery.

The \$13 million purchase price was funded by bonds authorized last year by the Yonkers City Council. The city is currently working on design plans for the park.

