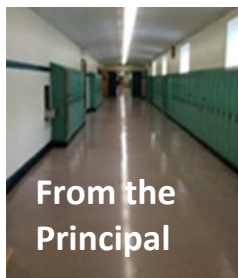




GHS Principal Jamie Morales

## March Roars As Students' Sights Soar

**M**arch is notorious for feeling like the longest month of the academic calendar. There are no holidays, no recesses or breaks and snow days are a dream of months past... but here at Gorton, we look forward to each day because there is always something for our learning community to partake in, learn from and enjoy.



From the  
Principal

This has been quite an exciting month for the Gorton family. As spring approaches, many of our favorite pre-pandemic events are also beginning to bud and re-emerge with much anticipation.

This month, we have been fortunate enough to upgrade many of our teachers to the latest interactive white-board technology. Nearly every classroom teacher now has access to their own Promethean board, which enriches and enhances the learning experience of our students by giving them a more creative platform

See **GORTON** on Page 3

# Wolf Tales

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

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



March 2023, Vol. 81



—Photo courtesy of Mark Vergari/The Journal News

Members of the FDNY Emerald Society Pipes and Drum Corp.



—Photo by Mark Vergari/The Journal News  
Danny Dolan, 3, from the Woodlawn section of the Bronx, as a scaled-down drum major.

## Yonkers' Hills Are Alive With Sounds of Bagpipes

Yonkers' 66th Annual St. Patrick's Day Parade strutted down the "Emerald Mile" of McLean Avenue before thousands of well-wishers. See more photos of the parade Page 5.



—Photo by Mark Vergari/The Journal News

Dennis Dunn, "The Button Man," cheers.





**AN HISTORIC MEETING**—Camille Gigliotti Morrone gives Beau and Janet Guyon Hanford a guided tour of George Washington’s Mount Vernon estate during their stopover to a Florida getaway.



**NOW PITCHING**—Ursula Belle Healy, her sister Annemarie and son Russell visit Yankee great Tommy John while in Florida. Ursula and Tommy, who had a rough bout with COVID last year, are close friends.



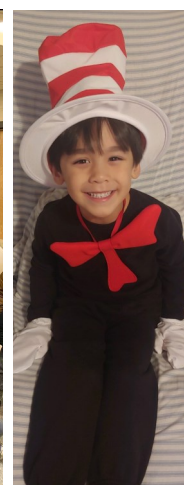
**THAT’S AMORE**—Steve Tuers celebrates his wife Alice’s birthday with daughter Tricia and grandson Zach at T&J Pasta in Port Chester.



**SNOW FOOLING**—Meleana and Asher Mikulsky are dressed for the occasion after Cloverdale, CA, gets its first snowfall since 1955. Meanwhile their dad Nick, a Cal Fire captain, was busy dispatching rescue crews to stranded motorists.



**A CAKE FIT FOR A PRINCESS**—Nella Poletsky celebrates her 4th birthday by blowing out the candles of her four-tiered yellow and strawberry layered, mommy-made, cream cheese-frosted gluten-free birthday cake. That’s quite a mouthful.



**HIP CAT**—Dimitri Poletsky dresses the part as his Norfolk, VA, kindergarten celebrates “Read Across America Day” with a Dr. Seuss favorite, *The Cat in the Hat*.



**GORTON** (from Page One)

engagement. The use of the Promethean boards has enhanced the way content is delivered to our students and has positively impacted our learning community.

March has also been full of many positive learning opportunities and experiences outside the classroom. Our students have been fortunate enough to attend a myriad of trips to different colleges, museums and even hospital operating rooms.

Our Medical Assisting program has fostered a strong partnership with White Plains Hospital and that was one of the most exciting field trips of the year. Many of our CTE (Career & Technology Education) seniors were able to go on a VIP tour of the hospital recently, where they got to engage with both the hospital staff and the patients. They witnessed surgeries, up close and personal, learned how to use the Epic patient portal to prepare them for their futures in healthcare and visited their new state of the art lab, the fifth largest facility in the state.

Another exciting trip was led by our art teacher, Susan Lashley, who is also a Gorton graduate. She took her students to Van Cortlandt Manor, where they studied the Underground Railroad and enslaved people in Westchester County. Our students were also able to visit many different college campuses this month with the Yonkers Partners in Education (YPIE) program.

All these experiences are invaluable to our students, especially after two years of COVID travel restrictions. We are glad to be regaining a sense of normalcy again and that our students are getting the exposure to the many different educational environments they need to become well-rounded, cultured individuals.

The most exciting thing to happen this month at Gorton High School was our annual College and Career Fair on March 22. One of the largest such events in the school district, Gorton played host to more than 60 participating universities, companies and agencies.

See **GORTON** on Page 4



Students and volunteers at the College and Career Fair.



Principal Jamie Morales with Assistant Superintendent Rose Collins Judon.



Stephanie Russo (Class of 2024 guidance counselor). Noelia Soto (Spanish teacher and class of 2024 advisor) Jamie Morales (principal) and Nicole Potter (English teacher and class of 2024 advisor).

## Meet You At the Fair

The College and Career Fair at Gorton High School, which took place on March 22, included more than 60 participants including universities, companies and agencies. The event was orchestrated by The Class of 2024 advisors and guidance counselor, Nicole Potter, Noelia Soto and Stephanie Russo. Students in Grades 10-12 were invited to participate with their English classes. It was a huge success and eye opener for our students.



Senior Cassandra Novembre with a Lehman College pennant.



## **GORTON** (from Page 3)

It was a tremendous pleasure seeing our students so excited to explore the various possibilities for their futures. Our students were networking and making valuable connections, evaluating their educational pathways, career choices and futures. The expo broadens the horizons for so many of our students who are exposed to a world of possibility they never knew existed.

They can learn about themselves and what they are drawn to, are encouraged to question, investigate and consider their interests and passions in a nurturing and supportive environment.

As March ends, we begin to focus on all the excitement that April will bring. For the first time since the pandemic, we are bringing back activities and events that will promote the kind of school environment and morale that we love to foster here in the Gorton community. One of the biggest and most exciting events that Gorton is known for hosting is the Multicultural Show and Dinner. The show highlights and celebrates the diverse ethnicities that are proudly represented here at Gorton. It's filled with food, music, dancing, poetry fashion, and many different demonstrations that showcase the cultures of our melting pot.

While our current student body has not been able to participate in an event like this during their high school years, many have heard about it from family members who went to Gorton and are excited to take part. The event has garnered a positive response from our students and many have signed up to perform and contribute.

Some of our students are nearing the end of their journey here at Gorton High School, a journey we hope will provide a lifetime of positive memories, albeit unconventional for much of it. For others, the journey has just begun, and we hope they are as excited as we are to see what the future holds.

***Jamie Morales is the principal of Gorton High School. He was born in Mount Vernon and was the assistant vice principal of Gorton for five years.***



**CTE Department Chair Dr. Michael Wszolek (back row, second from left) with the amazing staff at White Plains Hospital.**



**Seniors dressed for their tour of the operating room at White Plains Hospital (above). At right, students learn about respiration with real animal lungs.**



## **Making the Rounds at White Plains Hospital**

Our senior students in the Career and Technology Education (CTE) Medical Assisting program got a VIP tour of White Plains Hospital on March 13.

They were able to observe colonoscopies and endoscopies, as well as tour the operating room and the hospital's brand-

new laboratory, the fifth largest in the state.

The trip was led by Medical Assisting teacher and head of the medical department, Dr. Michael Wszolek, and chaperoned by CTE teachers, Zayna Marjeh and Joseph Chirayil.





—Photo by Mark Vergari/The Journal News  
Mayor Mike Spano greets a parishioner outside St. Barnabas Church in the Bronx.



—Photo by Steve Tours  
Parade Grand Marshal Fr. Brendan A. Fitzgerald from St. Barnabas.



—Photo by Steve Tours  
A brass and reed band from Ireland marches in the Yonkers parade.



Special thanks to Steve Tuers and Mark Vergari for photos of the crowd and marchers.







# Polish Babka Interrupted By a Pineapple

Joe Mikulsky's attempt to make Polish babka had to be put on the back burner—literally—when another atmospheric river, or Pineapple Express, dumped eight inches of rain on Felton, CA, in less than 12 hours.

Sheriff deputies went door to door telling neighbors to evacuate. Joe and Annie, well experienced in the San Lorenzo River's flooding, had already checked into a nearby motel.

Fortunately, their house was spared from the flooding and Joe was able to dish out this traditional Easter bread.

Bon Appetite!

## INGREDIENTS

### For the Babka

2 cups unbleached all-purpose flour  
1/2 cup lukewarm milk  
3 large eggs (room temperature)  
Heaping 1/2 teaspoon salt  
1/4 cup granulated sugar  
4 tablespoons butter, softened  
2 teaspoons instant yeast  
1/4 cup currants or golden raisins  
1/4 cup candied mixed peel, or mixed dried fruit, chopped

### For Rum Syrup

1/2 cup granulated sugar  
1/4 cup water  
1 to 2 tablespoons rum  
(Or apple juice for the water and rum)

### Icing (optional)

1 cup confectioners' sugar  
A pinch of salt  
2 tablespoons milk, or a combination of milk and rum or apple juice



Flooding washes out a main road in Soquel, CA.



When not measuring ingredients, Joe measures rainfall.



From bowl, to Bundt pan, to table below.



## DIRECTIONS

✓ Add all Babka ingredients to the flour in a mixing bowl (except the fruit). Beat at medium speed until cohesive. Increase your mixer's speed to high and beat for 2 minutes.  
✓ Add the fruit, beating gently to combine.  
✓ Cover the bowl, and let the batter rest for 1 hour. It won't rise much.  
✓ Scoop the batter into a greased non-stick 10-cup Bundt pan (or an 8 1/2" x 4 1/2" loaf pan).  
✓ Cover the pan and let the dough rest for 30 minutes.

Preheat oven at 350°.

✓ Bake the Babka for 35 to 40 minutes or until an instant-read thermometer inserted into the center of the loaf reads at

least 190°F.

✓ While the Babka is baking, prepare the rum syrup. Combine all of the syrup ingredients in a small saucepan set over medium heat.

✓ Bring the mixture to a boil and swirl the liquid until the sugar dissolves. Remove from the heat.

✓ Remove the Babka from the oven. Poke it all over gently with a toothpick or fork and slowly pour the syrup over the babka's surface.

✓ When the syrup is fully absorbed (about 20 minutes or so), carefully loosen the Babka's edges and turn it out of the pan onto a rack.

✓ If you choose to use the icing, mix all of the ingredients together, stirring until smooth.

✓ Drizzle over completely cooled Babka.



# Gorton Wall of Fame Inductee

## Mary S. Galda: From Student To Our Teacher

**T**he Gorton High School Alumni Association proudly announces the induction of Mary (Sampson) Galda into the Alumni Association Wall of Fame.

Mary enters as a GHS32 Gorton graduate, as well as a long-time English teacher and department chairperson. Mary's two daughters, Linda Galda Johnson (C62) and Sandra Galda Bolbrock (C64) are also

Gorton graduates, as were three nieces.



Below are excerpts from the recommendation letter submitted by Jerry Colaio C64:

### Alumni News

"Most of us remember Mary Galda as a devoted English teacher and eventual chairperson of the English Department at Gorton. We sat in her classes in junior and senior high. What you may not know is that she started out at Gorton as a Phys. Ed. Instructor. In fact, as a student at Gorton (Class of '32), she was a star basketball player, nicknamed "Eagle Eye."

Her practice field was Trevor Park where she and her siblings played sports with other neighborhood kids. Inclusiveness, fair play and good sportsmanship were ingrained in their hearts. These values were the core of the teaching careers of her sister Alice (C38) and brother Bob who became physical education teachers, too. Bob, "Coach Sam" (C41) became an award-winning basketball and football coach.

"In addition to her athleticism, Mary was



a dancer since childhood; an actress in college plays, and always an excellent student. She attended Savage College and James Madison for her undergraduate degrees and Columbia for her Masters. The oldest of six, she balanced home life responsibilities, working during the Depression and studying toward her degrees with determination and strength of character.

At Gorton, in the 1949-50 school year, she jumped in and helped with the start of the Coal Bunker Theatre with Miss Street-er; choreographed numerous numbers for the Gorton Talent Shows with the show stopper the grand finale—the football players' number! There were many other musical productions and even Busby Berkeley dance numbers for cheerleaders from different high schools.

When Jim Cavanaugh asked her to be in charge of the General Organization or "G.O.," she said yes. For many years she was responsible for the monies collected from games and events which went toward all the extras not covered in a tight school budget. Never self-promoting, she was always in the wings when help was needed.

Outside of Gorton she taught Sunday School and was an active volunteer. Mrs.

See GALDA on Page 8

## Gorton High School Alumni Association Wall Of Fame Honor Roll

### Student Body

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

### Faculty and Administration

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





**GALDA** (from Page 7)

*G had an uncanny ability to know if a student was having difficulties outside the classroom and was compassionate.*

*In her retirement years she perfected her golf game (won several trophies) and taught tap dancing to seniors. She continued her volunteer work at a clinic and enjoyed her grandchildren. Her two daughters have said that even as children, they knew they had to share their mother with others. Former students stayed in touch with her until she died in 1996.*

*I have fond memories of Mary Galda and utmost respect for the educator and the incredible moral and ethical soul that she was. I think of her often and can still see that sparkle in her smile."*

Jerry Colaio's eloquent comments firmly establish the impact Mary Sampson Galda had on the quality of education at Gorton in the 1950s, '60s and '70s. We were most fortunate to have her.

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

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## Parry's Ponderings

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### ***Attention: Cookie Monster in Aisle 4***

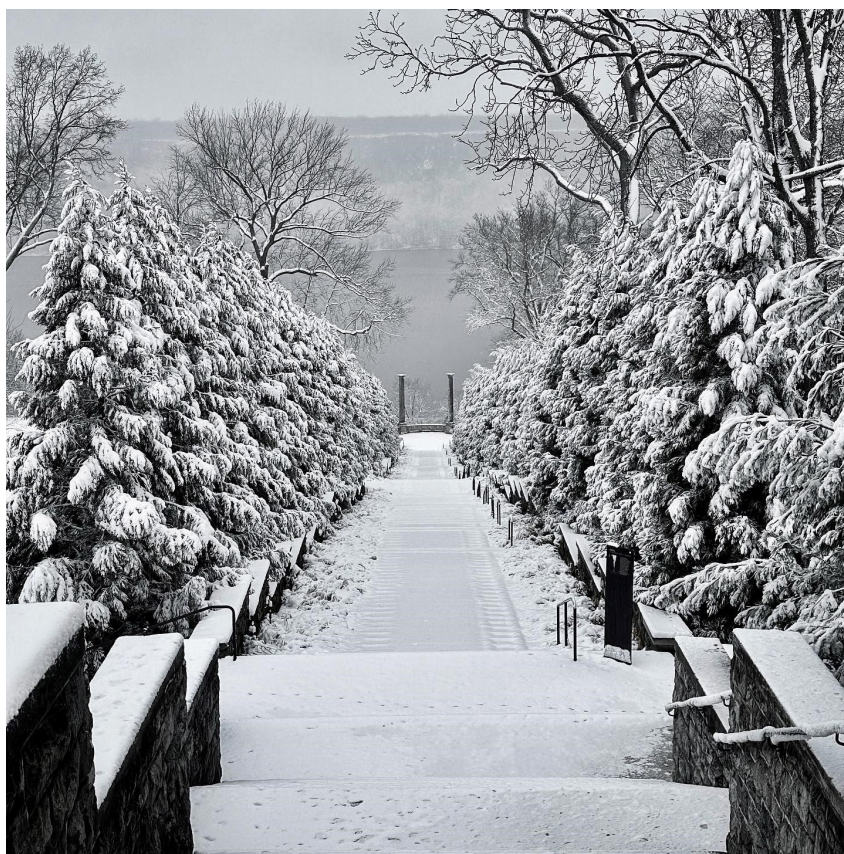
My wife left me...alone...at Walmart...in the cookie aisle...with the credit card...before I had lunch... when I was hungry.

What could possibly go wrong, asked the guy with the now maxed out credit card?

### ***Oscar the Grouch***

I accidentally missed the Academy Awards show on TV because I didn't know it was on. Had I known it was on, I would have missed it intentionally.

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



—Photos courtesy of The Untermyer Conservatory Gardens

Untermyer under snow that didn't come until the tail end of winter.





## Priceless Memories



### A Call to Joan And the Rest Was Herstory

**S**ometime during the first week of each month, we get an email from our Alpha editor, advising us of the deadline for our *Wolf Tales* article and then this young girl's thoughts immediately turn to, what will I write about this time?

I first consider the month in which it will appear. There are always connections to be made that way and ideas to develop. However, this time March turned out to be challenging. It was difficult coming up with anything "Marchy" that I hadn't already done. I had definitely written about St Patrick's Day, probably more than once. Lambs and lions certainly, considering my teaching days. Subjects like wind and weather events, spring and the zodiac, *MY* spring, (which comes much earlier than yours) and I suspect, even the Ides of March have probably all made an appearance.

Then, gold struck, in the form of my good friend and our fellow Gortonite, Joan Lawless Kennedy, our very own *Wolf Tales'* Yonkers historian. She informed me that March is Women's Month and boasts a Women's Day! Where have I been all my life, or more to the point, all my Marches?! (Although I HAVE Marched FOR women and WITH them, that much I DO remember).

So, I'm going with that I probably always did know that March was the month set aside for recognizing and honoring the

See **WOMEN** on Page 10



The Tappan Zee is pretty in pink in honor of National Women's month.

### Albany! Do the Right Thing And Perform a Mittzba

**I**n the spirit of the holy season, and for all that is sacred, I think it's time for politicians to perform an act of kindness—do the right thing and restore the name of the Tappan Zee Bridge.

I'm calling it a Mittzba (Make It The Tappan Zee Bridge Again.)

Gov. Mario Cuomo never wanted anything to be named after him, with the possible exception of a stickball court in Queens. Instead, his son proved an acorn could roll far away from the tree and named a bridge after him.

It wasn't just any bridge. It was the Tappan Zee—\$4 billion of steel that replaced an Erector Set. The later-to-be disgraced governor opined that a new bridge needed a new name—no ifs, ands, buts or Tappan Zee.

So, rather than buying his mom, Matilda, a bunch of flowers at toll plaza of the Brooklyn Battery Tunnel (now the Hugh L. Carey Tunnel), he bought the name of the bridge.

Screw the Lenape, we already stole their



### Editor's Note

land and they packed up their wigwams a long time ago. The Dutch were never a treat anyway and all that's left of the them is the Martin Van Buren's Kinderhook fan club, which honors the only U.S. president to speak English as a second language.

It looked bleak. No powerful voting bloc; no Democratic support; no pork to be barreled. Until now.

Enter Sen. James Skoufis, a Democrat who represents most of Orange County, wherever that is, who recently joined Republican efforts to restore the bridge's rightful name. Let's face it—GOP efforts were less quixotic and more vindictive but it takes both sides of the aisle to tango, or make a law.

See **TAPPAN ZEE** on Page 10



## **WOMEN** (from Page 9)

accomplishments of women, but like so many other things, it just slipped my mind. At any rate, I fell back on my research skills, (think Google), to refresh my memory. You can do the same thing if you have also forgotten, in fact I encourage you to, but I will just highlight the things that I found most interesting, in no particular historical order.



**Clara Zetkin:**

Clara was a leader in the Socialist Democratic Party in Germany in 1917, a Marxist follower and Communist, who pushed back then for establishing a world day of recognition for women. There is some thought that her political

affiliations are why it took so long to establish one here. (Think the ghost of Joe McCarthy).

### **Jimmy Carter:**

Let's agree to suspend politics and recognize the man. It would be hard to argue



**HEAR US ROAR—From left, Molly Murphy MacGregor, Paula Hammett, Mary Ruthsdotter, Maria Cuevas and Bette Morgan, the founders of the National Women's History Project.**

that he has not been a force for good, actually doing hands-on good stuff, be it building houses for those in need, or helping to wipe out disease in other parts of the world. Or, here's a novelty, living his life in public office and in private, as an honorable, kind, caring human being. What I didn't know, (or at least remember), is that it was Jimmy who designated

the very first Women's History Week in 1980. I encourage you to read the inspiring message he gave that day.

### **Sonoma County, CA.:**

Known for its wine and located north of San Francisco, it established the first Women's Historical Week in March 1978,

**See *WOMEN* on Page 11**

## **TAPPAN ZEE** (from Page 9)

Normally, this would be a no brainer but this is Albany where ideas and idealism go to die. There's little upside for politicians who believe that kissing babies and wearing flag pins on their lapels qualify them for future chapters in the *Profiles in Courage*. Without votes, politicians need more to do the right thing—they have to be bought.

And that's how we got here to begin with and at this point I explain how politicians made this legislative sausage. As they say on TV, "Caution, some viewers may find the following content graphic and offensive." Of course, they show the footage anyway and we grab the popcorn to watch.

In the waning hours of the 2017 budget process, after most folks thought he was only kidding about the name change, Cuomo began horse-trading in the inky shadows of night. If nothing good happens

in a bar after midnight, worse things happen in the New York State Capitol.

For their votes in favor of a name change, Senate Republicans got a stretch of a mid-Hudson road named after Sen. Bill Larkin and \$10 million to expand the Purple Heart Hall of Honor (there was talk of naming the new bridge after Purple Heart recipients) and the Assembly Democrats got a Manhattan park named for a retiring politician, Denny Farrell.

Cuomo also signed off on the continued mayoral control of New York City schools, even though he hated Mayor Bill de Blasio, and granted upstaters, who would never vote for him on a dare, an extension of their local sales- and hotel-tax rates.

Restoring the Tappan Zee name won't be easy. I suspect that the first pushback will be the so-called costs of changing all those signs, although I've heard a lot of the old ones are in storage just waiting for this moment to arrive. I might add that tab will

be far less than the \$850 million price tag on a new Buffalo Bills' stadium.

Here's a simple solution that won't resemble a swap meet at a trailer park. Name something else after Mario M. Cuomo, something that doesn't have a name on it already. Something that doesn't involve "scratch my back" politics.

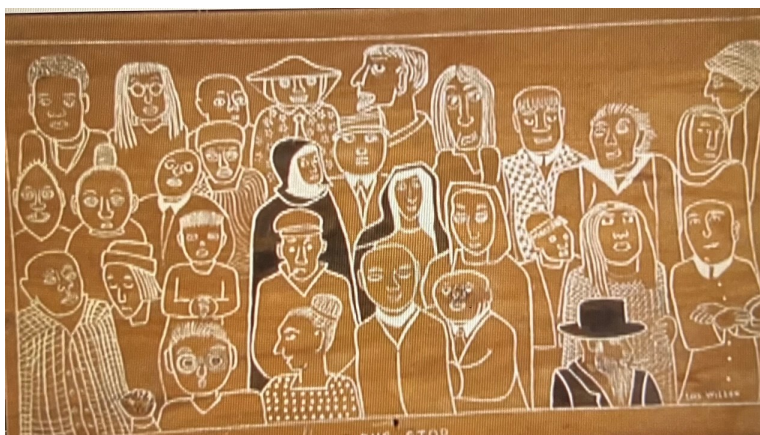
How about the *N.Y. Post's* suggestion?—the Queens-Midtown Tunnel, perfect for a Queens' boy.

We already have the Hugh Carey Brooklyn-Battery Tunnel and the Ed Koch Queens-borough Bridge, aka the 59th Street Bridge Song (Feeling Groovy). Here's the rallying cry: The East River, where politicians can finally span differences and be useful.

Until then, let's perform a good deed. Let's have a Mittzba.

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





The artist, Lois Wilson (below) and a sample of her artistic work—"The Owl" and "Bus Stop."

## In the Eye of the Beholder, She Turned Junk Into Art

**T**he adage, "one man's trash is another man's treasure," was never truer than in the case of the artist Lois Wilson.

Lois was born in 1905 into poverty in Fayetteville, AL., the daughter of a blacksmith. It was on pieces of scrap tin she found in her father's shop that she created her first drawings using black shoe polish as paint.

She attended public schools and was remembered by a classmate as "peculiar." As a child, she often lacked the basic necessities and her breakfasts were often watermelons she got out of the family garden. She was intelligent, but shy. When she was in high school, it became necessary for her to earn money. Over the years she worked in bookstores, factories, as a draftsman for a landscape



### Did You Know?

architect, a gallery attendant, a salesgirl and a cat sitter. Art was her only a constant in her life.

In 1924, she briefly studied architecture at Auburn University on a scholarship. Because her family was too poor to provide her with spending money, she would gather discarded soap from the dormitory showers so she could bathe. Lois left college after one year and boarded a train to Boston where she managed to study art

**See ARTIST on Page XX**



### **WOMEN** (from Page 10)

followed by the formation of The National Women's History Project, with the goal of, "writing women back into history."

With that beginning, by 1986, 14 states declared March as "Women's History Month," leaving Congress to play catch up the following year, naming March the official "National Women's History Month."

What's that saying, better late....?

I leave you with five names; Molly Murphy MacGregor, Mary Ruthsdotter, Maria Cuevas, Paula Hammett an Bette Morgan.

These women founded the National Women's History Alliance in 1980 and were the real catalysts for getting Congress to finally establish that official Women's History Month! So, it comes down to these five

persons, not Congress, for helping me with this March piece.

Oh, and of course, Joan.

Joan, expect my call, first week, March 2024.

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





## **ARTIST** (from Page xx)

at the Child-Walker School of Design.

In 1935 she moved to New York and rented a small apartment in Greenwich Village. During World War II, Lois enlisted in the Women's Army Corps. After the war, she studied at the Art Students League in New York City through her G.I. Bill of Rights benefits.

Unable to afford the rent in New York City, moved to Yonkers, which was in the midst of razing slums. As the city went about tearing down and rebuilding, it was throwing away tons of refuse. Every day, Lois would go "junking" in search of scrap wood of any size and shape and pieces of furniture that would have been crushed by bulldozers.

All the wood she could find was cut, sanded and painted. Some of her art imitated that of Australian aborigines. At this time, Lois became interested in psychics and spiritualists and embraced new age religion. She believed she could communicate with the dead. Her unorthodox beliefs, along with her efforts to convert other people, alienated her few friends. Her Yonkers neighbors considered her "crazy."

Living alone with used lumber in her bathtub and with junk and art stacked shoulder-high, her volume of artwork accumulated as well as those of other artists she bartered with. With her landlady complaining of a fire hazard in Lois's apartment, bad health and old age, Lois needed to move her artwork and decided to send it to her birth state, Alabama.

She contacted Jack Black, a Fayette newspaperman about her situation. He gave his



**Behind every successful woman is a man. For Lois Wilson, it was Jack Black, founder of the Fayette Art Museum, who housed and displayed her collection.**

word he would somehow keep her collection intact and provide a permanent space in Fayette for its showing.

In 1969, the 2,600 pieces of art in the Wilson Collection arrived in Fayette. Black spent the next 35 years establishing the Fayette Art Museum, which is today an icon of Southern pride in its arts and a magnet for working artists.

Lois Wilson died poor and unknown in Yonkers in 1980 at the age of 75. Her ashes are buried next to her parents in Fayette.

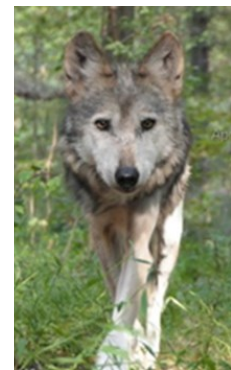
***Joan Lawless Kennedy (C65) is a member of the Yonkers Historical Society.***

# **Wolf Center Bids Farewell To Diego**

(The following was an announcement by the Westchester Conservation Center in South Salem, NY.)

It is with heavy hearts that we announce the passing of Mexican gray wolf, Diego, who passed away at age 15.

Diego arrived at the Wolf Conservation Center (WCC) in 2015 with his two brothers, Chico and Durango. While the WCC was just a pit stop for his brothers before they journeyed to new homes out West, we were privileged to have Diego spend the remainder of his life with us. It was here that he found love and a family – two things in life that are never guaranteed but are so vital to happiness.



Diego's first love strode into his life in the winter of 2015 when he met Mexican gray wolf Rosa, a powerfully fierce female with whom he welcomed one daughter, Trumpet, in the spring of 2016.

In the winter of 2017, the family of three went their separate ways, all bound for new adventures in an attempt to (unbeknownst to them) further aid in the recovery of their imperiled species. Diego was introduced to Magdalena, a headstrong and impassioned female who forced him to sharpen his skills of compromise and persuasion.

In his final years, he welcomed a new mate, Valentia. It was a true love match from the start.

While Diego never tasted the wild, his granddaughters Hope and Crumbo, were released into the wild as pups. Let us join Diego for one final howl!





## Parading in Our Sunday Finest On the Easter Promenade

Dear Janet,

What's a rotogravure and how do you get in one? And where can I see the Easter parade?

Maggie Zeen

Dear Maggie,

It's funny that you should ask this question right before Easter, since the only place you'll probably ever hear about a rotogravure is in the Irving Berlin song, *Easter Parade*. He wrote the original lyrics in 1917 for *Smile and Show Your Dimple*, as a cheer-up song for a young girl whose man had gone off to war.

*"You can cut your cares in half  
If you only try to laugh  
Look into my cam'ra  
I'm goin' to take your photograph"*

Berlin later rewrote the words and music in 1933 for the Broadway musical revue *As Thousands Cheer*:

*"In your Easter bonnet with all the frills  
upon it...  
the photographers will snap us,  
And you'll find that you're in the  
rotogravure".*

The song became a lasting hit.



### Ask Janet

But what's the rotogravure? It's printed material, especially magazines, produced using a printing process called rotogravure, which uses a rotary cylinder where the design is etched or engraved.

In other words, a photographer will take your picture and submit it to a magazine. If you're famous, those photographers are called paparazzi. If you're not famous, they're called "someone-taking-your-picture," which is legal in public places. It's illegal to photograph you in your home without your permission so if you don't want to take that chance of being photographed, or don't become famous, don't leave your house!

So what is the Easter Parade and where can I watch it?

See **ASK JANET** from Page 14





## ASK JANET (from Page 13)

It's more like what it isn't, since it's nothing like the parades we know and love, like the Ragamuffin Parade in Yonkers. It doesn't come with bands, balloons and banners but rather a bevy of "beauties and beaus" in their "Easter Sunday best," wearing bonnets and blossoms, and bows, oh my. Donning elaborate millineries with all the frills upon them, they stroll the "parade route," such as the Atlantic City Boardwalk, the New Orleans historic French Quarter, San Francisco's Union Street or the oldest, and most famous of all, New York City's Fifth Avenue.

The tradition began in the 1870s as a "fashion promenade," an embellishment of the Sunday walks taken by wealthy New Yorkers after attending religious services. They strolled along Fifth Avenue, often to dine in the hotels nearby or to visit family and friends.

In New York City, Fifth Avenue is closed to vehicular traffic on Easter Sunday from 10 a.m.-4 p.m., between 49th Street at St. Patrick's Cathedral and 57th Street, while the avenue fills with paraders wearing traditional and outlandish fashions. It seems that the bigger the bonnet, the better the bonnet.

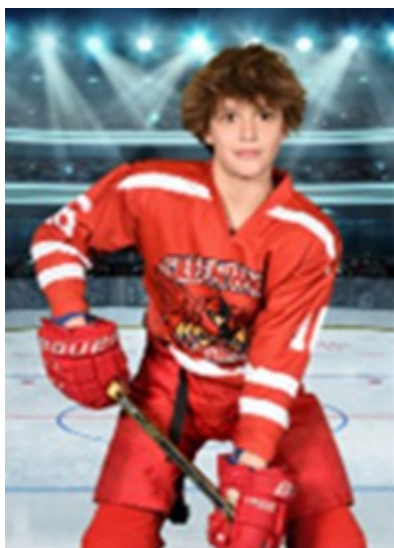
Speaking of bonnets, the musical play, *Crowns*, tells the history and identity of a group of strong Afro-American women who tell the stories of their lives through the stories of their very elaborate hats... their "crowns."

In contrast to that, in the 1950s and 1960s, radical feminists thought wearing veils and hats in church was a sign of subjugation and encouraged women to stop wearing them. And they did. In 1967, the Catholic Church dropped its dress code and women no longer had to wear a head covering in church.

Fashion hats became virtually non-existent in the 1970s, as mantillas to fascinators (elaborate millinery) stopped going to church. Sadly, the winds of time have generally blown Easter bonnets out of sight.

Arise this Easter Sunday, ladies and gents. Grab your big panama with a purple hat band and stroll to the beat of your own drummer near you.

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



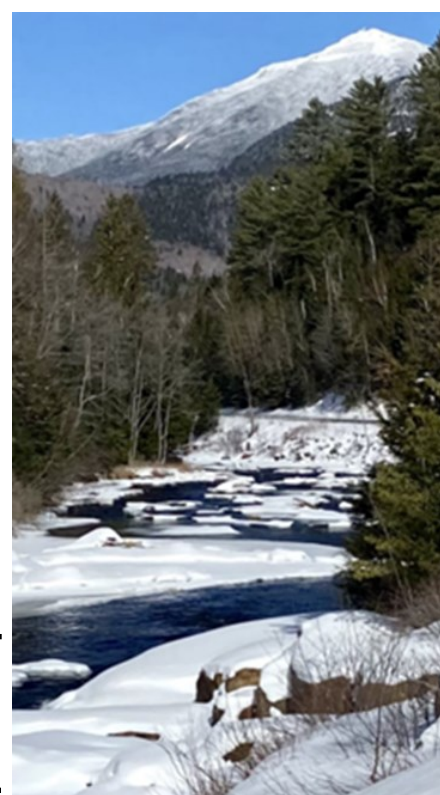
## Tuers De Force

## Zach Goes For Gold at Lake Placid

**F**or the second straight year, my grandson Zach was going for the gold at the Can-Am Hockey Challenge at Lake Placid, N.Y. Last year's team didn't qualify for the medal round but Zach won a gold in the skills competition.

With the words of his youth hockey coach fresh in his mind ("Let's bring home the gold"), we packed his suitcase, hockey jerseys and equipment and headed north up the Thruway for a five-hour trip to the site of the 1980 Olympics and home of "The Miracle on Ice."

The first four hours on the road were nothing to write home about, just money-making toll stations. However, when you exit the Northway onto NY



**The Ausable River near Lake Placid; we're not in Kansas anymore.**

73, the magic begins.

The terrain changes right before your eyes. The sugar maple trees are blanketed with white powdered snow. The corridors along Rte. 73 have the largest concentration of ice climbing trails and the blue colored icicles hang majestically from the cliffs. As we near Lake Placid, the Ausable River is not quite frozen solid but the ice caps on the crystal blue water make for a stunning photo.

As we near our destination, the Olympic Ski Jumping complex comes into view. I would return there later on during the trip to take the gondola up to the elevator that proceeds to the top where a 360-degree panoramic view awaited. Getting there by foot would require an hour hike; I opted for the 30-second elevator ride.

Looking down at where ski jumpers would take off and land in an area the size of a football field, I thought of the Yugoslavian ski jumper, Vinko

**See TUERS on Page 15**



**TUERS** (from Page 14)

Bogataj, whose crash landing was a visual portrayal of the “agony of defeat” on ABC’s Wide World of Sports. He was lucky to come away with only a broken ankle and a concussion.

Our home away from home for the next four days was the Best Western Adirondack Inn. A huge Cardinal banner hung on the front of the hotel welcoming all of the Greenwich Cardinals youth hockey teams. A nice touch.

The inn was conveniently located to the three hockey arenas. I took advantage of a free skate at the Herb Brooks Arena where our 1980 American Hockey team won the gold. It was a goosebump moment. Afterwards, all youth hockey players attended the opening ceremonies. Again, another nice touch.

That night as the temperatures dropped, Zach and a few of his teammates went tobogganing right behind the hotel and later played outdoor hockey on Mirror Lake. Then, it was let the games begin.

While the goal is to win, it’s almost equally important to limit the goals scored against you. In their first two games on Friday, the Cardinals did just that. Playing amazing defense with some timely goaltending, they held their opponents to only two goals. That night, after being rewarded with a pizza party, word came down that Saturday night’s game would determine the medal-round teams.

The day of the big game, the coach did something he hadn’t done all season—he showed videos of the previous games to to isolate improvement in some areas and possibly eliminate a few mistakes. He made it voluntary but every player showed up.

That evening, from the moment the puck was dropped to the final horn, the Cardinals played their best game of the tournament and made the medal round. What they didn’t know until after they were in the locker room is that they would be playing for a gold medal. An eruption broke out with all the members of the

team doing a rotating dance clockwise, something I never saw before.

The Gold Medal game on Sunday morning was against the King Philip Walpole team from Massachusetts. After a 2-2 tie for two periods, Walpole netted two goals in the final period to win the gold. The Cardinals had their opportunities, but couldn’t convert.

Watching the other team celebrating was difficult but when our team received the silver medal, all disappointment seemed to wash away. There was no agony of defeat on their faces. They were bringing home hardware.

Yes, they were looking for gold but found silver instead.

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



**GETTING MUSHY**—Steve takes an Uber sled at Lake Placid.



—Photo by Alex Poletsky

**A male cardinal photo bombs a backyard snowy scene in Heritage Hills in Somers, NY.**





**SKATING ALONG**—Sarah Langley Policelli's son, Andrew, lends a helping hand to his daughter Danielle. Below, she and Keira share some sister time.



**EVERY KEY BEGINS WITH K(ISS)**—Beau and Janet Guyon Hanford do their best effort at life imitating art ("Beau almost dropped me") in Sarasota, FL, before enjoying beach time in Siesta Key.



**FASHIONABLE LUNCH**—Phyllis Yatchie Benjamin and Elaine London Glover share old times and new while having lunch at Bloomingdale's in White Plains.



**A GREAT BIRTHDAY SMILE**—Phyllis Benjamin's great-granddaughter, Riley Rose, celebrates her 1st birthday.



**KEEP ON TRUCKIN'**—Pace Kennedy, who loves trucks, celebrates his 2nd birthday with a hard-hat party with sisters Liv and Lane, baby brother, Roan, and parents Caren and Ethan. Below, a sibling moment.







**GUIDED TUERS**—Steve Tuers and his wife, Alice, have a greenside seat for Yonkers' 66th Annual St. Patrick's Day along McLean Avenue.

## GHS' Class of '23 Alpha Wolves

Wolf Tales congratulates students Issa T. Naber and Yasmeen Faisal, Gorton's 2023 valedictorian and salutatorian, respectively.

The pair were honored at a March awards breakfast for the city's top graduating students at its eight high schools.

In addressing the honorees and their families, Mayor Mike Spano referred to the students as the Sweet 16. And, in keeping with the NCAA March Madness theme, the mayor also noted that he was one of 16 Spano siblings.



**A WINTER PARK WONDERLAND**—Janet and Beau Hanford wind up their southern swing by visiting Gale Donnelly and Sam Fried in Winter Park, FL.

## Want to Be Happy? Live In Yonkers

If you want to be happy, Yonkers may be the place.

According to a [WalletHub](#) survey, Yonkers ranks 18th among the nation's 180 largest cities for being happy. The Happy Meter is based on emotional and physical well-being; income and employment; and community and the environment. California has seven of the Top 20 cities.

## Sure and Begorrah! St. Patty's Day Rocks

From the same place that put Yonkers on the Happy Meter, also says we know how to celebrate St. Patrick's Day.

Wallethub ranks Yonkers 31st among the 200 largest cities ranging from Irish pubs and restaurants per capita, lowest prices for three-star hotels on St. Patrick's Day, to the weather forecast.

New York City ranked fifth behind Boston, Philadelphia, Chicago and Pittsburgh. got the top spot locally followed by Yonkers.

Buffalo was ranked No. 9, Syracuse at No. 15 and Rochester came in at 44th.

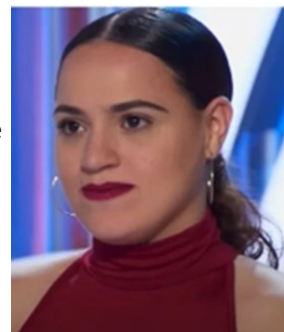
## Yonkers Woman Vies For 'American Idol'

Amara Valerio, a 2019 graduate from Yonkers Montessori Academy, punched her ticket to Hollywood with her rendition of "Bust Your Windows" on American Idol.

The 20-year-old told the judges, Lionel Richie, Katy Perry, and Luke Bryan, that her first shot of fame was at the school's 2018 graduation ceremonies where she was scheduled to sing the national anthem. However, a graduating senior told her, "This is my senior graduating class, and I think I deserve to sing the anthem!"

The panelists watched the video of that moment and said, "She just pulled a Kanye West."

To make matters even worse, Amaya explains, "The next year was COVID, so I never got to sing at my high school graduation either."







—Photo courtesy of Mark Vergari/The Journal News

## Pot-Heating Lamp Causes Fatal Fire

A broken electric heating lamp being used to grow marijuana plants was the likely cause of a fatal apartment building fire that took the life of a 67-year-old man.

Investigators said the lamp detached from its hanging support and broke, sparking on the floor and starting the fire on the first floor of the seven-story, 95-unit building at 671 Bronx River Road. Michael Damiano, the fire victim, lived on the fourth floor.

Dozens of firefighters and several residents were injured in the 4-alarm blaze.

## Aroma of Coffee Is Music to His Ears

A former record producer out of Yonkers who set up turntables for Nickie Minaj, Pharrell Williams and Rev. Run of Run-D.M.C. is now setting up tables at his Producer Coffee Studio in Port Chester.

Owner Noah Mrnacaj, a Roosevelt High grad, is a self-described barista who makes each cup of java fresh for every customer. He laid tracks to his new career, along with his wife, Julianne, because it was a lifelong dream of his to own his own coffee shop. If you're in Port Chester, stop by and order a caw-fee; you might get a Yonkers discount.

## Flip Circus Does An Encore in City

The Flip Circus returned to Yonkers this year for an encore performance of its 2023 nationwide tour.

Pitching tent once again at the Cross County Shopping Center, this year's acts included the Bello Sisters of *America's Got*

*Talent* and the Ukraine's Bingo Troupe. The show takes place in an 800-seat, climate-controlled big top tent with no seat more than 50-feet from the ring. Also, there are no animal acts.

## City Girls Score 1st LAX win in 15 Years

It was a long time coming but the Yonkers Public Schools' girls lacrosse team won their first game in 15 years.

Playing against the Keio Academy at Roosevelt High School field, Yonkers won 4-3 in quadruple overtime.

## Planning Board Ok's Ludlow Apartments

The Yonkers Planning Board has granted approvals to construct a new multifamily rental property at 150 Downing St. in Yonkers.

Known as Ludlow Point, the development will include 208 apartments, a collection of amenity spaces, and 229 parking spaces. The projected cost of the pared down complex is \$65 million.

## 3 Nabbed With Stolen Catalytic Converters

Three men were caught with 17 suspected stolen catalytic converters at an Alexander Street parking garage in Yonkers.

Both vehicles, a 2022 BMW X7 and a 2016 Lexus ES 350, were also loaded with cutting tools and accessories, including multiple batteries, metal sawing blades, bolt cutters, and a portable two-way radio. The BMW was stolen from Suffolk County and the Lexus had an expired registration.

## Cops Crackdown On Shoplifters

Attention shoplifters, police are in Aisle 4.

Fed up with brazen shoplifters scooping merchandise into garbage bags and waltzing out of stores unscathed, Yonkers' cops are taking matters into their own hands.

A multi-prong approach was an instant hit—three perpetrators of purloined property were nabbed the first day of the task force's operation.

## City Weeding Out Illegal Smoke Shops

A Yonkers task force is playing Wack-a-Weed against unlicensed smoke shops that peddle cannabis and other products containing THC, mainly to underage children.

"It's become like the Wild West," Mayor Mike Spano said, noting that the products are being sold in bodegas, gas stations and even barber shops.

The city and its cops have completed dozens of inspections that resulted in the shutdown of four shops.

## Man Held in Threats Against Mayor, Parade

A Yonkers man who expressed support for radical Islamic extremism was arrested one day before Yonkers' St. Patrick's Day parade.

Police say that Ridon Kola, 32, threatened to kill Mayor Mike Spano as well as "Yonkers cops and their bosses all along McLean Ave. It will be a horror scene" in an online threat.

## Yonkers Salutes Women of Distinction

In honor of Women's History Month, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano presented "Women of Distinction" Awards to Yonkers women whose achievements have improved the lives of others in the community and changed Yonkers for better.

This year's honorees include: Michelle Benson, a construction company owner and philanthropist; Marilyn Lopez, co-owner of the newly opened Yonkers Knockouts Boxing Team, a teen sanctuary; Sade Gilcrest, a YMCA teen center developer; Alonda Hassell, co-pastor at the Kingdom Christian Cultural Center and certified life coach; and Celeste Hughes, Troop 1 Crestwood's Committee Chair since 2007.