

# Bill Tolany, Gorton Alumni President, Dies at 76

William A. Tolany, the President of the Charles E. Gorton Alumni Association and a member of the Class of '64, died on May 27 at the age of 76.

He is survived by his wife of 54 years, Bridget O'Connor Tolany, four children, eight grandchildren, a sister, and one beloved dog whose DNA test results, according to Bill, understated the actual percentage of German Shepherd.

A Yonkers native, he was a proud Gorton graduate and a starting pitcher on the Wolves' City Championship team.



Following his graduation from Fordham University, Bill lived in many cities until the Dr Pepper company moved him to Dallas in 1980 where he was Senior Vice President of Marketing for Dr Pepper, Seven Up and Cadbury.

His accomplishments at Dr Pepper were numerous, but he was perhaps most proud of producing the company's television commercials, including one where he claimed to have put the director Michael Bay (The Transformers) in his place.

Bill was instantly recognized in his favorite hotels, restaurants and grocery stores throughout the world, and there was no ticket to a concert, show, or sporting event he could not procure.

Bill mastered the side hustle generations before it became fashionable. He was a teaching tennis pro, lifeguard, butcher, youth soccer referee, newsletter publisher and shoe salesman.

See **TOLANY** on Page 3

*'The purpose of this garden stands directly behind me. It is in that building. It is to reach the minds and hearts of the student body.'*



Bill Tolany speaking at the dedication of the Never Forget Garden.

## Wolf Tales

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



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

June 2023, Vol. 84

# Gorton Hosts 99th Commencement



## From the Pandemic, to Pomp and Circumstance

**G**orton's 99th commencement on June 24 didn't come easy. Its senior class had to deal with the uncertainties of the pandemic.

learning and hybrid education. Only in their senior year did they finally see their classmates not wearing masks.

The freshman year abruptly ended and students and staff switched to remote

More than 220 seniors, or 92% of the Class of 2023, graduated.

See Pages 7-10 for more coverage



**GATOR AID**—Marti Moore Drummond's second grandchild, Lindsay Tanis, graduated from the University of Florida with a BS in Health Science. She'll be staying in Gainesville for the next 3-1/2 years for her Doctor of Occupational Therapy. Go Gators!



**ONE DOWN, 12 TO GO**—Dimitri Poletsky is a Kindergarten medalist as he graduates from Camp Allen Elementary in Norfolk. VA.



**HE'S AN ACE**— Dave Girolamo (C64) carded his first hole-in-one shot, which was made at the Atlantis Golf Club in Little Egg Harbor, NJ, on the Par-3, 6th hole using a 9-iron. The league-play ace came with a \$500 prize, which helped pay the bar tab of all the



**OLD NAVY**—Ryan Shaw, Sarah Langley Policelli's grandson, poses with his step-brother, Davis, at Navy Elementary in Fairfax, VA. It's a tradition that Oakton High graduating students visit their old elementary school.



**A MEMORABLE OUTING**— Ursula Belle Healy is joined by her granddaughter and her friends at Greenwich's Burning Tree Country Club for the Memorial Day weekend.



**JOAN TAKES THE CAKE**—Joan Lawless Kennedy celebrates her birthday with homemade cake made by her granddaughters, Lane and Liv (in the towel.) Her son Ethan and grandson Pace join the party.

**TOLANY** (from Page One)

He also drove vehicles for a car dealership.

Most notably, Bill was the longtime public address announcer for the Dallas Sidekicks indoor soccer team and he had the championship ring to prove it.

In retirement, Bill worked tirelessly as the president of the Gorton High School Alumni Association. Seeing untapped opportunities, he laid the foundation for a tax-exempt non-profit organization using his well-honed business skills. His foresight allows the Association to continue in his passing.

Bill was the driving force behind equipping Gorton with a state-of-the-art audio and visual system still in use in school assemblies. Along with former principal Will Shaggura, Bill organized a successful fund-raising campaign for the creation of the Never Forget Garden to honor Gorton's servicemen and women.



Bill also went an extra mile for the Class of '62. Wishing to hold a 60th reunion but with the specter of the pandemic still fresh in their minds, Bill took it upon himself to organize Gorton's first

virtual reunion via the Association's recently acquired Zoom service. The virtual reunion became a successful reality.

Bill also kept his sights on digitizing Gorton's earliest Promenades and creating a Gorton Wall of Fame to highlight Gorton's distinguished past and to inspire its present and future students. As Bill would write, "more to follow..."

He also loved playing golf. While he once shot his age at 71, he was more interested in talking about and with his grandkids. He was always at their service to be a chauffeur, mentor, and concierge. That legacy continues, as he has bequeathed to them his love of games, music, and sense of humor.

# Goodbye To the Leader Of the Pack!

The Gorton family lost a tremendous person with the passing of our Alumni Association President William Tolany.

There is so much I can say about Bill, but what jumps to mind is, he was a devoted family man who also loved Gorton High School. He was as loyal as they come and he was proud to be a WOLF!

Despite knowing his time was coming to an end, he still was most concerned with making sure his association was set to move forward. He wanted to make sure the students of Gorton were always taken care of and called them the future alumni of Gorton.

He was passionate and dedicated to mak-



## Alumni News

ing connections with the modern-day Gorton student and doing whatever was necessary to meet their needs. At times, this required thinking outside of the box and Bill was excellent at it.

Thank you, Bill, for all that you have done. I cherish our conversations and appreciate all your support, trust and advice! As an Association, we will continue to follow your lead and continue with your mission.

RIP Bill, you will truly be missed!!!!

*Dan DeMatteo, a 1994 graduate and teacher at Gorton, is the acting president of the Charles E. Gorton Alumni Association.*

# That Championship Season

**By Dave Girolamo, C64**

Bill Tolany and I go back to Little League as friendly 11- and 12-year-old rivals at Lennon Park on Lake Avenue back in the late 1950s.

We went through junior and senior high at Gorton and were teammates on Gorton's baseball team for three years. We celebrated the 1964 City Championship as teammates under rookie coach John Volpe, who replaced George Foster. It had been some while since Gorton had won the city baseball title.

Gorton finished with an undefeated City League record, defeated the defending champs, Roosevelt, 6-2, at Fleming. Bill replaced an injured Jack Nichols on the mound and pitched three innings of no-hit ball, including striking out the side in the bottom of the seventh.

Years later, I had the opportunity to spend some fun time with Bill on one of



**Seated: (l-r) P. Wirchanske, P. Weaver, D. Girolamo, T. Constana, C. Iovine, F. Shakespeare, J. Nichols, J. McGowan. Standing: (l-r) R. Watson, M. Brown, M. Holtz, W. Camperlengo, R. Peters, W. Tolany, G. Bordash, S. Tuers.**

my frequent business trips to Las Colinas resort in Irving, Texas, not far from his home, and of course at the Class of 1964 Reunion. It was a really great event, including a wonderful job on his part with the updated version of the C64 yearbook. So memorable, and so was Bill.

See SEASON on Page 4



**TEAMMATES AGAIN**—Dave Girolamo and Bill Tolany at their class reunion.

**SEASON** (from Page 3)

Back in the day, his Little League nickname was “T,” and when we first met in Irving, I greeted him with that, and he really lit up.

What a great guy, and we had a really good time reminiscing about our connected pasts.

My only regret is that after our meeting, we never put together an intended golf trip that was to have included Pete Wirchanske as well. After a 46-year run with the Curry organization, I retired at the end of 2016 and then, before we knew it, it was 2023 and that window has now closed, which is hard to believe.

There is no closed window on my memories of Billy “T”..... a funny, generous, dedicated, and talented guy whom I’ll always remember as a special friend and teammate.

We couldn’t have had a greater, more deeply committed alumni organization president than Bill.

He accomplished so much. I’ll never forget him, and hope others have their own reasons for feeling the same.



**KEEPING THE HOME FIRES BURNING**—Bill and Bridget with their grandchildren.

*“What an incredible shock! Bill and I were GHS 1964 classmates. I am devastated! I will miss him and his energy, love, and commitment to Gorton’s Alumni. He was a wonderful man.”* --Karen Anne Kazer Townsend

*“His work to recreate the Alumni Association has been an amazing effort.”*

—Florence Ditko

*“I am so sorry to hear of this tremendous loss. GHS is a family. May he rest in peace.”*

—Jamie Morales, GHS Principal

*“I am very upset to hear this news. Bill was my dear friend. He was a wonderful, caring man.”*

—Sandra Picante



**Bill Tolany (right) with Donald Pitches at the 55th Reunion of Class of ‘67.**

**A Dance Partner And Coal Bunker Theater Actor**

We have lost our quarterback.

Billy was such a steadfast leader for Gorton Alumni in his efforts to keep us all connected, and bring assistance to the current students at GHS.

I have happy memories of him as my favorite dance partner in Junior High School, winning a dance contest together and of being in the play, Junior Miss, in the Coal Bunker Theater.

I am so personally sad at this news but will remember the handsome and energetic boy of our youth.

—Emma Patavino Migdal

## A Caring, Funny Man Who Loved Gorton & Friends

I didn't know Bill Tolany personally in high school...only as a person in student government. I generally was friendly with everyone.

The only Alumni reunion I attended was our 50th class reunion. It was there that I became involved with the organizing committee to form a Gorton High School Alumni Fund. There was Bill Tolany, creating a spark and spear-heading the conversations and meetings with the principal, vice principal and a group of alums.

Until his death, he was the driving force for the Alumni board, whether it was donation building, getting legal advice to form a non-profit, visualizing a succession plan that seeks younger generations of Gorton graduates, or working with school and city leaders to keep us moving forward to benefit our youth in Yonkers.

It has been a privilege to get to know him



**FAST TIMES AT GORTON HIGH—Bill Tolany at the helm on Lake Lyndon B. Johnson in the Texas Hill Country, northwest of Austin.**

by being part of the board and to work with a genuinely committed, caring, ethical but funny man who loved his family, his community, his life-long friends and his memories of Gorton High School.

It is a rare person who takes an idea and brings it to life! We will miss him.

—Toni DeNicola

## Let's Have a Tribute For an Act of Class

As a member of the Class of '64, I recently nominated Mary Galda for inclusion in the Wall of Fame. Bill was so helpful in that regard.

Bill's loss is a tremendous blow to our community. We were friends since 7th grade at both Gorton Junior and Senior High School. I was coordinator of our 50th reunion in 2014, all with Bill's help.

We spoke often over the years and had many laughs. I was also part of earlier versions of the Charles E. Gorton High School Alumni Association. I am truly invested in GHS.

I would like to consider the possibility of providing a memorial service for Bill at Gorton this fall. He not only had an impact on Gorton, he was also quite prominent in the greater Gorton community.

Since most of our alumni are not locals, perhaps we could stream it for those out of towners who are not able to attend.

—Jerry Colaio

## Miles to Go and One Last Promise to Keep

**B**ill Tolany was the heart and soul the Charles E. Gorton Alumni Association. He did everything short of valet parking but if he had, he would have had a tip jar out for Gorton.

Before resurrecting the latest rendition of alumni involvement, Gorton looked like a cake left out in the rain. The Coal Bunker Theater was a dumpster; the roof leaked; the windows were made of plexiglass; and asbestos covered antiquated heating pipes. The city did everything possible to put a toe tag of Gorton shy of putting yellow caution tapes to its entrances.

You saw that on your 50th reunion tours of Gorton. It fired us up. Maybe the city didn't care, but we did. So did the kids and the teachers. But Bill cared the most. I'd



### Editor's Note

like to think the sight of what Gorton had become permanently curled his hair until chemotherapy and radiation took away his locks—but never the fire in his soul.

Like Don Quixote and windmills, Bill went toe-to-toe with City Hall. "Good enough" wasn't good enough for the city's oldest standing high school. The city had plans, maybe not, that were on paper, maybe not, for a new school, maybe not, to be

See EDITOR on Page 6



**Bill with Anton Wilson ('63) and Steve Tuers ('65) at the Never Forget Garden.**

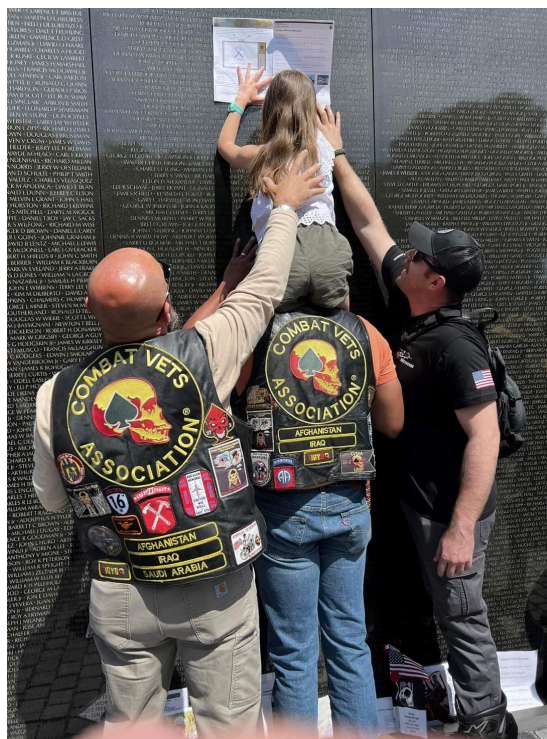
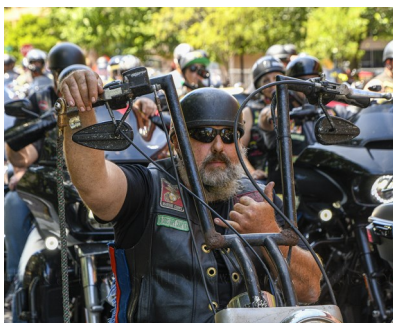
**HARDLY A HELL’S ANGEL--Retired Rev. Donald Pitches (GHS’67) and the Nam Knights Motorcycle Club pay their respects at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial during the Memorial Day weekend and later at the National Law Enforcement Officers Memorial. Don is the parent chapter’s national chaplain. The Nam Knights are military veterans and retired police officers.**



Donald Pitches leads the group in thoughts and prayers.



Emily (6) and Beatrice (10) with their grandfather.



Veterans hoist Don’s granddaughter, Beatrice, so she can trace the name of her great uncle, James S. Pitches (GHS’55), on panel 18W, line 21. He was killed in action on Sept. 1, 1969.

**EDITOR (from Page 5)**

built, maybe not, on the old Dust Bowl, maybe not. Maybe it would be called Gorton, maybe not.

So, while the city went looking for loose change under Albany’s cushions, Bill went to work. Here’s an example of how Bill rolled.

You can’t just give money or items to a specific city school; the district decides who gets what and when. Bill had this state-of-the-art 10-foot screen along with video and audio system. I don’t know where he got it and I don’t want to know how he got it. He just had it and he had it with the red tape. He did an end-around and loaned it to Gorton. We still “own” it, we’re not taking it back.

At the 50th reunion of the Class of ’65, he coaxed us got us to donate funds for students to purchase blue lab coats for Gorton’s fledgling medical training program. Most of us don’t remember being asked. Whenever a graduating class met, you can rest assured that Bill would be there in



Bill and his wife, Bridget, on the town.

person or spirit. He called it fund raising and marketing. I called it begging for dollars and dumpster-diving, just to annoy him.

When I agreed to give Bill’s *Never Ending Gorton Story* column a platform in *Wolf Tales*, it did two things: It widened the nascent alumni’s audience and gave me less to do. It was a win-win. That merger of the minds led to Alumni Association’s tax-exempt status and the potential of continued success. Bill and I became joined at the hip and occasionally on each

other’s nerves, in a good, yin and yang, Gorton cliquish way.

The Never Forget Garden is a testament to then-Principal Will Shaggura’s vision and the Association’s ability to deliver. The yet -to-be built Wall of Fame will provide a visual and tangible reminder of those who made a name for themselves and had an impact on Gorton. It will serve as a source of pride for alums, students and teachers.

I will miss Bill in ways too numerous to mention. And, as I often had to remind him, *Wolf Tales* has a word count and a deadline, and I’ve just hit mine.

I will nominate William A. Tolany, Class of ’64 and Charles E. Gorton Alumni Association’s founder and president, as the Wall of Fame’s 34th distinguished member. I made him that promise 10 days before he died.

Bill, this one’s for you. Stay tuned for details good buddy....

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



***The Long Goodbye—Scenes from Our Graduation***

# Here's to Grit & An Amazing 4-Year Journey

I would like all alumni to join me in congratulating the Charles E. Gorton High School graduating class of 2023!

This class has shown incredible grit and perseverance and the GHS learning community could not be prouder of them. The freshman year was cut short, due to the pandemic, and students returned for hybrid learning during their sophomore year. Two years were stripped away from their "traditional" high school experience.

This led to new challenges, where a real focus on the social and emotional state of our young people took center stage, right along with reading, writing and arithmetic.

The students returned to full instruction, although through mask mandates and social distancing and had to re-acclimate to collaboration and public communication. By senior year, the COVID 19 restrictions were lifted, and students were



**Principal Jamie Morales.**

allowed to enjoy senior barbeques, movie nights, celebratory breakfasts, prom and full commencement ceremonies.

The road was also a long one for our teachers and staff. They worked tirelessly, making phone calls to families and continuously holding our students accountable in order to get the class of 2023 across the finish line.

We have an amazing group of educators, on all levels, who continue to prove how

much they care about the students of Charles E. Gorton High School.

I ask that you also congratulate and thank the fantastic staff for their efforts in making this year a success.

We look forward to continuing our school initiatives, our learning foci, building community and providing the students with the valuable experiences necessary to promote successful citizens, prepared for an ever-changing global community.

Our students will continue to amaze and impress, and will undoubtedly join the Alumni ranks with much to offer, given their unique experiences and perspectives.

As we close the chapter on this school year, we look forward to celebrating the class of 2024 next year, which will be the big 100th graduating class.

Stay tuned and have a wonderful summer!

***Jamie Morales is the principal of Gorton High School. Born in Mount Vernon, he served as an assistant vice principal of Gorton for five years. This was his first year at the helm of Gorton.***

## Valedictorian

**Issa T. Naber**

**Weighted GPA: 100.85**

**School Activities:** Senior Committee 2022-2023, Treasurer, Fundraiser Organizer, Senior Event Facilitator/Planner 2022-Present, Youth Health Promoter 2021-2022, Relay for Life Participant June 2021, Creator's Club 2021-Present, Thanksgiving Food Drive Participant 2021-2022.

**Awards, Honors, Scholarships:** Principal's List Award 9th-12th Grade, Club 90 (junior and senior years) Marist College, Presidential Scholarship; Iona Presidential Scholarship; Manhattan College, Trustee Scholarship; Pace University Honors Scholarship; Sacred Heart University, Presidential Excellence Award.

**Intended Major:** Business Management.



**Yasmeen and Issa at Awards Dinner.**

**College Acceptances:** Pace University, Mercy College, Manhattan College, Marist College, Iona University and Sacred Heart University.

## Salutatorian

**Yasmeen Faisal**

**Weighted GPA: 100.57**

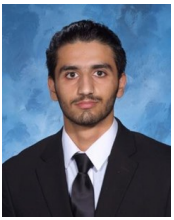
**School Activities:** Creator's (Club 2022-2023), Gorton's Green Committee (2022-2023), Senior Committee (President), 2022-2023 Varsity Soccer (2019-2022).

**Awards, Honors, Scholarships:** National Honors Society, (2019-2023); National Honors Society of High School Scholars (2019-2023); Principal's List (2019-2023), Presidential Scholarship; Honors Scholarship; Dean's Scholarship.

**Intended Major:** Biology.

**College Acceptances:** Fordham University, NYIT, Sacred Heart University, Pace University.

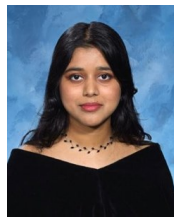




**Jawad Ahmad**  
Binghamton University  
Pre-med



**Maria Alejandra Amaya Flores**  
WCC  
Graphic Design



**Numphe Ann Benoy**  
SUNY Purchase  
Major – Biology



**Kylah-Mariy Carrier**  
WCC  
Radiology



**Aysha Charite**  
Iona College  
Biology



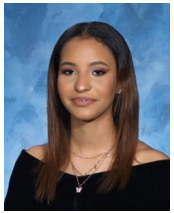
**Valeria Cruz**  
Monroe College  
Surgical Technologist



**Lizabeth Dadzie**  
Binghamton University  
Psychology



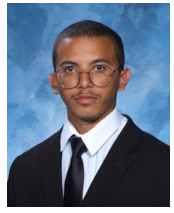
**Steven Dalgo**  
Binghamton University  
Psychology



**Juniellys Zorillo**  
University of New Haven  
Biology (Pre-Med)



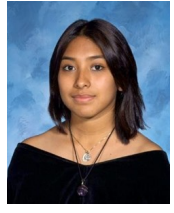
**Genesis Valero**  
Mercy College  
Major Nursing



**Asem Elkhiaht**  
Hunter College  
Nursing



**Joshua Ennis**  
College – WCC  
Major – EMT



**Katie Ruiz**  
WCC  
Pre-med, architecture



**Patricia Soriano**  
Fordham  
Pre-med, Natural Sciences



**Citlali Ramirez**  
Monroe College  
Nursing



**Keasia Russell**  
Undecided  
Phlebotomist

# Is There a Doctor in the House?

Thirty-three students were honored on June 6 at the Charles E. Gorton Academy of Medical Professions 2nd Annual CTE Awards Dinner sponsored by the Gorton Alumni Association at the Westchester Manor.

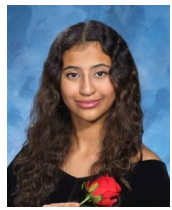
The New York State certified program means that Gorton students can graduate with a state certification in Medical Assisting.

Principal Jamie Morales has been working with the Career and Technical Education program for the past six years. “Our team continues their work on building an EMT program and starting in the 2023-2024 school year, our Business Marketing program will also be state certified,” Morales said.

Morales added that, “Our goal is to have three to four certified programs within the next



**Julianny Rossel Ynfante Mendez**  
Manhattan  
Pre-med



**Yasmeen Faisal**  
NYIT  
Pre-med.  
Biology



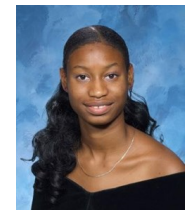
**Brittney Fernandez**  
Mercy College  
Nursing



**Stephanie Games Serrano**  
Mercy College  
Nursing



**Arnisa Gashi**  
Mercy College  
Nursing



**Candore Novembre**  
Lehman College  
Nursing



**Tiffany Davis**  
Iona University  
Biology (Pre-med)



**Natalie Jones**  
University of New Haven  
Paramedicine



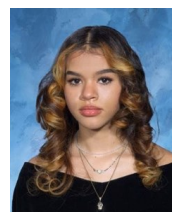
**Christie Lemaire**  
Lehman College  
Nursing



**Nelsy Lojano**  
Mercy College  
Major – Biology



**Loudenie Nemonin**  
Mercy College  
Nursing



**Victoria Harlize Echavarria**  
City College of Technology  
Radiology



**Asmaa Rahal**  
Fordham University  
Pre-health, Biological Sciences



**Jianni Melo**  
Undecided  
Pre-med. ER  
Pediatric Physician



**Karla Leon Gomez**  
Westchester School of Beauty  
Culture  
Cosmetology



**Safa Ghanem**  
College of Mount Saint Vincent  
Biology



**Kevena McKenley**  
Mercy College  
Biology, Animal Science

**CTE (from Page 9)**

two years. This would mean that students who come to Gorton would have multiple options to be able to receive a CTE certification before they graduate.”

Members of the Gorton High School CTE faculty are: Kathy Fakhoury CTE Assistant Principal; Dr. Michael Wszolek, Department Chair; Tasha Clark, CTE Teacher—Business Marketing; Keith Fagan, CTE Teacher—Business Marketing; Anthony Fava, CTE Teacher—Career Exploration; Zayna Marjeh CTE Teacher—Medical Terminology; and Dawn Myers, CTE Teacher—EMT and Anatomy.

**Scholarships Recipients:**

**Astor Lane Realty Scholarships (\$250 each)—**

**Cassandra Novembre and Joshua Ennis.**

Donated by Steven Zondorak, owner of Astor Lane Realty, to students who are career-focused and driven to achieve their goals of service to others by pursuing careers in the medical field.

**White Plains Hospital Scholarship (\$1,000)—Julianny Ynfante.**

This scholarship is presented to a student who interned at White Plains Hospital and demonstrated professionalism, a strong work ethic and perseverance in their responsibilities as an intern.

**Principal’s Merit Scholarship (\$500)—Asmaa Rahal.**

This scholarship is designated for the student who has achieved high academic standards, while maintaining interest and performance in the Medical Program for four years.

**Erica M. Wszolek Woman in Medicine Future Leader Award (\$500)—Yasmeen Faisal.**

This scholarship is for a female student who exemplifies the traits of leadership and has the motivation to excel while recognizing the cultural and structural barriers to women who lead.

**Gorton High School CTE Faculty Scholarship (\$400)—Patricia Soriano.**

Funded by the faculty of the CTE program, it is awarded to the student who exemplifies the spirit of the CTE program.

**New York Blood Center Scholarships (\$175 each)—Jenel Ortiz and Lizabeth Dadzie.**

Offered to two seniors who helped to organize and run both blood drives at Gorton High School.

**PCSB Foundation Scholarships (\$500 each)—Christie Lemaire and Numphe Ann Benoy.**

Funded through Putnam County Savings Bank via White Plains Hospital for two students who excelled in their internship experience at White Plains Hospital.

**Dr. Giuffrida Scholarship (\$250)—Katie Ruiz.**

Donated by Dr. Stephan Giuffrida to a student who



**Dr. Michael Wszolek and students (l-r) Asmaa Rahal, Arnisa Gashi and Yasmeen Faisal.**



**Lizabeth Dadzie, Cassandra Novembre, Dr. Wszolek, Tiffany Davis and Christie Lemaire.**

interned at his chiropractic office and demonstrated exceptional customer service and professionalism to his patients.

**CMG Healthcare Scholarship (\$250)—Keasia Russell.**

Donated by Sara H. Gonzalez for a student who interned at the CMG clinic and modeled professional behavior fitting of a medical assistant.

**EMT Awards Recipients:**

**Star of Life Award—Jianni Melo.**

This award is presented to the student who is looking to pursue a career as an EMT.

**Distinguished Service Award—Natalie Jones.**

This award is presented to the student who demonstrates empathy, compassion, integrity, and selflessness in healthcare.

**Clinical Service Award—Loudenie Nemorin.**

This award is presented to the student who possesses the clinical skills necessary for someone entering the healthcare field.

**Public Service Award—Brittney Fernandez.**

This award is presented to the student who has vol-

unteered their time performing community service for events related to healthcare such as blood drives, health fairs and other community related events.

**Spirit of Medicine Award—Genesis Valero.**

This award is presented to the student who demonstrates empathy, compassion, integrity, and leadership in the field of healthcare.

**Health Education Award—Lizabeth Dadzie.**

This award is presented to the student who has taken an interest in promoting public health.

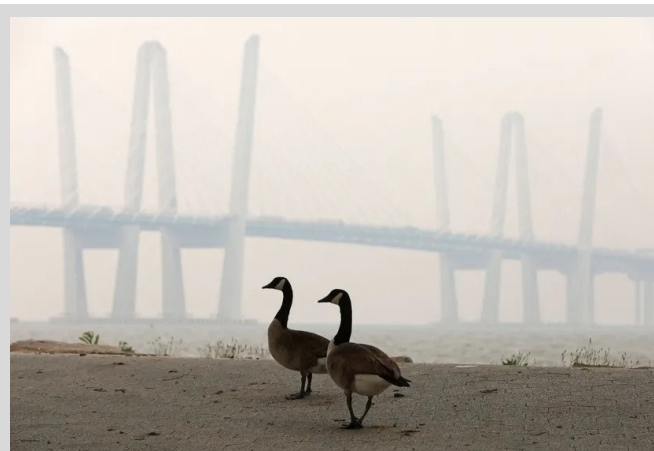
**Shining Star Award—Asem Elkhiat.**

This award is presented to the student who has excelled in all CTE classes as well as their core classes.

Keynote speaker was Dr. Frank Quintero, an emergency medicine physician with more than a decade of experience. He obtained his doctoral diploma from the New York College of Osteopathic Medicine in 2010.



--Photo courtesy of Seth Wenig/Associated Press



--Photo courtesy of Mark Vergari/The Journal News

The George Washington Bridge as seen from Englewood Cliffs, NJ.

A bird's eye view of the Tappan Zee from Tarrytown.



--Photo by Steve Tuers/Wolf Tales

A strawberry sun rises above Yonkers.

## Smoke Gets in Your Eyes and Lungs

Remember the “good old days” of the pandemic when we were urged to wear masks when at indoor settings?

In the first full week of June, we were warned to wear masks outdoors as smoke from Canadian wildfires engulfed the tri-state area.

The Big Apple’s Air Quality Index soared past the 400 mark, making it the most polluted city in the world, surpassing Dubai and Delhi. Yonkers closed schools closed for a day and New York City went to

remote learning.

Yonkers Raceway cancelled races and the Yankees postponed its White Sox game due to “hazardous” conditions. The following day, when air quality was deemed only “unhealthy,” they played a doubleheader before a sparse plenty-of-seating for the first game fans.

By the weekend, New York City returned to somewhat normal conditions with the running of the Belmont States and the annual Puerto Rico Day parade on Sunday.

## A Wordle To the Wise: Keep Playing

Dear Janet,

*I love to play games. Should I feel guilty?*

**Matt Tell**

Dear Matt,

**N**o, no, no, Matt! Playing is fun, educational, invigorating, and a break from the woes of life. It's social time with family and friends. It's OK to play.

During a visit to the Strong National Museum of Play, in Rochester, NY, I saw several signs on the walls that basically said that playing is a good thing. They didn't say “For Children Only, Grown Ups Not



### Ask Janet

Allowed.”

G.K Chesterman, a British author (1874-1936), affirmed that “The object of life is play.” He said of life, not of children. I didn't have to be told that. I've always loved playing all sorts of games, from the early childhood variety, through the *Pictionary* and *Trivial Pursuit* era, to today's *Sudoku* and *Wordle*. I particularly enjoy *Wordle*, especially with a most competitive and challenging adversary, Don Parry, *Wolf Tales'* “Pondering Guy.”

See **ASK JANET** on Page 12



**WOLF PACK IS BACK**—They came from far and away—California, Connecticut, Dutchess and Columbia counties and upstate New York—to meet near Untermyer’s at Gianna’s Restaurant where the food, service and banter were excellent. Left to right, Malcolm Brown, Janet Guyon Hanford, Ursula Belle Healy, Joe Mikulsky, Susan Dratch Eaton, Jo Harter Irish, Yvonne Sullivan Price, Elen Freeston, Annemarie Belle Kanakaraj (Ursula’s sister), Annie Chandler, Steve Tuers, Karen Kaczmarcyk and Alex Poletsky.

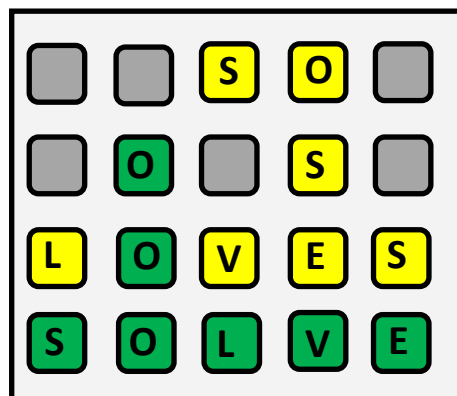
**ASK JANET** (from Page 11)

I’m not sure how it all began, but it’s become a wonderful way to start the day. We compare “scores,” but we’ve added a new dimension that keeps the old gray-matter-juices flowing. In order to make the competition even, we start with the same word, one that’s related to the previous day’s answer. For example, when the answer was KAYAK, our next day’s starting word was CANOE.

We play the game and then exchange screenshots of our puzzle. It’s uncanny how we think alike, as many of our wrong words (guesses) are the same. One day we even had the same first three wrong words. Another time we both got the answer in two steps!

Besides having fun playing the game, we often drift off into memories of our school days from second grade through our senior year at Gorton.

That leads me to the subject of elementary school games. Back in the day, as June and the school year were coming to an end, we were getting ready to have two full months of uninterrupted play. We had



Field Day. The Red Team versus the Gold Team. No fancy color-coded t-shirts for us like kids have today. No sirree. We wore a tiny red or gold ribbon pinned to our shirt.

We ran relay races and others that included wooden hoops and buckets of water to fill a bottle. We ran dashes. We had sack races. All simple games yet lots of fun. There weren’t any blowup water slides, pony rides, spinning gyro rides. etc. It was just us running and competing the old-fashioned way, with our ribbons flapping in the breeze.

Frank Caplan, a contemporary American author, believes that, “Play has been man’s most useful preoccupation.”

That got me thinking about what we play to occupy our time. We play baseball, basketball, hockey, (hooky?), golf and more. We play musical instruments. We play board games and cards. We play “the game of love” (spin the bottle?)

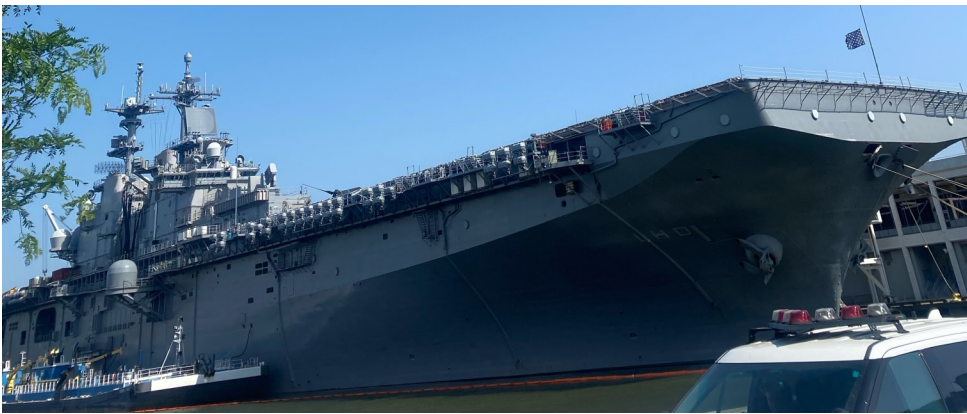
Sometimes we just “go.” We go fishing, boating and swimming. We go bowling. We go skiing and ice skating. We go for a walk, jog or run. Are they not as much fun because we don’t “play” them?

What about exercising? Do people avoid it because it’s a WORKout?

David Hockney, a contemporary British painter, said “People tend to forget that play is serious.” So, take it seriously, my friends. It’s summertime, summertime, sum-sum summertime. Google the song, Summertime, Summertime by the Jamies.

Get your toes tapping, then get out there and play or “go” something ...because it’s suuu-uuu-merrr-time!

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



The USS Wasp, a multipurpose U.S. Navy amphibious assault ship.

# Down to the Sea in Fleet Week Ships

The wasp, is a member of the numerous winged hymenoptera family with a smooth, slender body and an abdomen attached by a narrow stalk. It has well-developed wings, biting mouth parts and often administers painful stings.

That pretty much sums up the capability of USS Wasp, a multipurpose U.S. Navy amphibious assault ship. To call Fleet Week NYC an extravaganza event, is an understatement. When I saw that the USS Wasp had rolled into New York to kick off a flotilla of ships for the week-long fleet week, I immediately made it my port of call.

Parking around Pier 88 on the Hudson was suspended because of the Memorial Day Weekend so I made my way down the West Side Highway looking for a place to drop anchor. Stopped at a traffic light, the beautiful Hudson River seemed a stone's throw away with the majestic Palisades in the background. I found myself daydreaming about the man who sailed the waterway more than 400 years ago.



## Tuers De Force

Suddenly, the sound of car horns honking. Welcome back to reality.

Soon after, I found a convenient parking spot about five blocks away from the Wasp and arrived at the gate around 7:30 a.m. There were only a few of us on the line, but when 8 o'clock rolled around and the gates opened, hundreds of people were let in through a maze of security checkpoints.

In modern amphibious usage, the well deck was the first item I gravitated too. That is a hanger-like deck located at the waterline in the stern of the ship. By taking on water, the ship can lower its stern y flooding the well deck to allow boats, landing craft, amphibious vehicles and recovered space craft capsules to dock within the ship.

Leaving the well and proceeding to the aircraft deck, I encountered a very steep walkway that got the better of my calf muscle. The first aircraft I saw was the V-22 Osprey



Steve tries to hitch a ride on an Osprey.



The USS Wasp—the name rings a bell.



Fleet Week port of call on Pier 88.

See **TUERS** on Page 14

**TUERS** (from Page 13)

helicopter where I met the captain and pilot. This Osprey combines the vertical agility of a helicopter with the speed and range of a turbo-prop airplane.

Not only is it the most versatile aircraft in the fleet, but also the safest. The ability to fly more than 1,000 miles at nearly 300 mph and then land on a dime guarantees that the Navy will find even more ways to use this amazing aircraft. I came up with another use—I asked the captain if he could take me up for a go around Manhattan. The thought of a court martial brought on a resounding “No!”

Before disembarking, I tried one last time for a visit to the brig. I went to take a picture of the aircraft’s deck tower. There, I was intercepted by a heavily-armed Marine who politely, but in an intimidating voice, told me to holster my cell camera.

As I weighed anchor, hundreds more were lined up for a tour of duty.

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



**Parry’s Ponderings**

**Here’s the Skinny!  
My Meds Don’t Work**

Like many our age, I take a blood thinner. As an experiment, I dissolved a few of the pills in some warm water and rubbed it on my belly. Sadly, my belly didn’t get any thinner; now I question the efficacy of my meds.

There were some good things to come from the pandemic. For one, I learned the meaning of the word “efficacy,”

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



—Photos by Joe Mikulsky/Wolf Tales

**THAT OLD TIME FEELING AGAIN**—After a hiatus due to the COVID pandemic, the town of Felton, CA, held its annual “Felton Remembers Parade” on the Memorial Day weekend featuring folks with their ponies, the local bikers club, school busses, fire trucks, scout troops, local social clubs and high school teams.



Yvonne and her 'older' granddaughters, Felicity and Aiyla, before the play begins.



Tina Turner's image fits Yvonne to a Tee.

**S**IMPLY THE BEST! You know where I'm going with this. Last month, the world lost an icon, the music industry lost a trailblazing queen and I lost a hero.

When heroes die, we always remember where we were when we heard the news. I was waiting for my granddaughter's school bus, when my text signal sounded. I opened it and this is what I read: "Hi Yvonne. Did you hear the sad news? I know you were her biggest fan."

I didn't have to Google, I didn't have to call anyone. I simply knew that the best had passed.

My relationship with Tina Turner started back in the early '60s, when she was lead singer for the Ike and Tina Review. At that time, I knew nothing of her background, or her troubled relationship with Ike. All I knew was that she was the most beautiful, exciting performer I had ever seen or heard. It was only in later years, that I came to also admire her courage and strength. And so it began, Tina and I, my girl crush for seven decades.



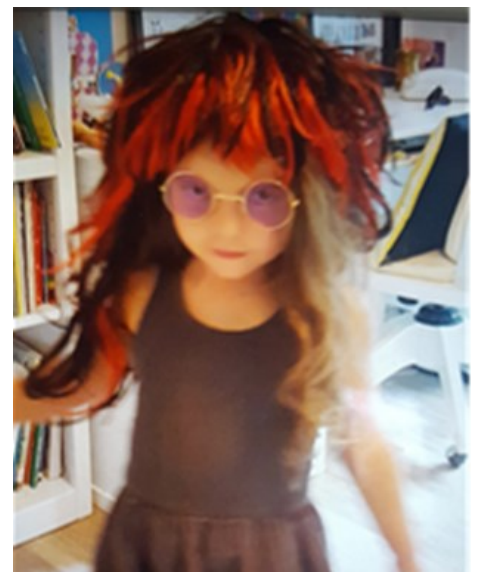
## Priceless Memories

I confess, there was a brief time when The Beatles totally eclipsed everybody and everything, including Tina, math and chemistry. Tina rebounded; math and chemistry, not so much.

When I was head of St. Mary's in Ridgefield, I had my whole staff hooked on Tina, long before I added Bon Jovi to the rostrum. I even went so far as to suggest to the pastor, my boss, that she merited sainthood. I asked if there was paper work I could fill out to get the ball rolling. I'm still waiting.

When I turned 53, one of my teachers knew someone who knew someone who could get good tickets for a Tina concert on June 15, 2000, in Hartford, CT. She and two others on my staff treated me.

As fate would have it, we had seats located at the exact spot where, when Tina came out on that long, metal ramp above the audience, it stopped exactly above my



Like Gaga, like Praire Sky, as she dons a Tina Turner wig for dress up day.

head. I found myself staring directly up at my idol, who was clad in white leather, singing *Better Be Good to Me*.

I felt transformed, transfixed, anointed. I've never fully recovered.

At my retirement party, my wonderful staff rolled out a mannequin that only teachers of young children could have created. It was Tina, formed from coat hangers, paper towel tubes, feathers, fringe

**PRICELESS** (from Page 15)

and lots of glitter and sequins, the crowning glory a long red wig, Turner style. Sadly, only that wig remains. (My granddaughter, Prairie, wears it when she performs concerts at home). Since we were a school on a tight budget, they later dismantled her and stored all those supplies, to be reused the following school year. I taught them well.

Thanks to my daughter Kira, I had one more wonderful Tina moment.

As a Christmas present four years ago, she and my two older grandgirls, surprised me with a ticket to Tina, the Broadway musical. I was told we were going to dinner at their favorite Mexican restaurant in the city. On our way there, we walked past the Lunt-Fontanne Theatre, where I asked if we could just get a picture of the marquis, because I was so excited to see that name lit up. After some grumbling, they took the photo and we went to dinner.

Walking back, as we passed the long line waiting to go in, the three of them pulled me into it. I was completely speechless, except for the loud scream. The show was, as you would expect... well, I think you can guess.

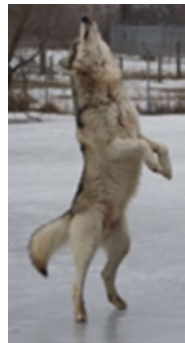
Tina has left us On Silent Wings. Thankfully, her voice will never be silenced.

PS. I'm still pursuing that paperwork.

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

## New Wolf Pups Having a Wild Time in N.M.

If the den of Trumpet and Lighthawk seems a little quiet after the birth of six wolf pups, there's a good reason—the kids are off to New Mexico to save the endangered Mexican gray wolf pack.



### Dancing With the Wolves

Shortly after their birth, five of Trumpet's pups embarked on a grand journey that few captive-born wolves ever get to experience. Through a process known as cross-fostering, these pups have been introduced to wild packs, allowing them to live and thrive as nature intended.

This venture was made possible through the cooperative efforts of various conservation organizations and the Wolf Conservation Center's (WCC) partnership with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) as a member of the Saving Animals From Extinction (SAFE) program.

The WCC located in South Salem, NY, is an active participant in the breeding and management program designed to ensure the long-term sustainability of captive-based animal populations and prioritize the release of captive animals to the wild.



Litter mates before their journey.

Those five pups now join 16 other new cross-fosters this spring, forging a path for 16 new wolves to enter the wild landscape where they belong.

And what about the remaining pup, "Kazoo?"

He's getting quality "me time" with his parents.



**MEET SILAS**—The Westchester Conservation Center is proud to introduce Silas, the center's newest ambassador wolf. Alongside Alawa and Nikai, Silas will play a vital role in educating our visitors and supporters about wolves.

## Beloved Community Volunteer Killed by Erratic Driver

Yonkers resident Christine Kenney O'Rourke, 70, was killed on June 11 while walking along North Broadway near Constant Avenue, a block north of Morsemere.

She was reportedly returning to her home on Corley Street after volunteering her time as a greeter at the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy. She lived two blocks away from the crash scene.

According to initial police reports, a car driven

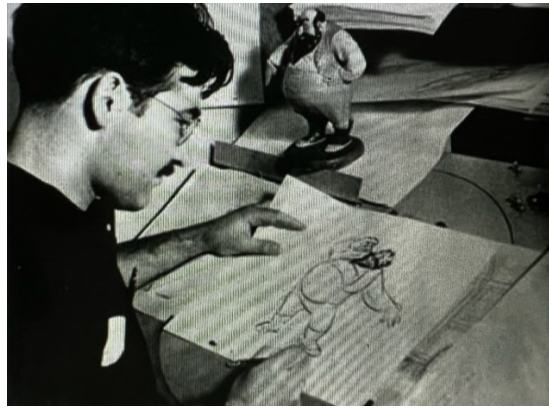
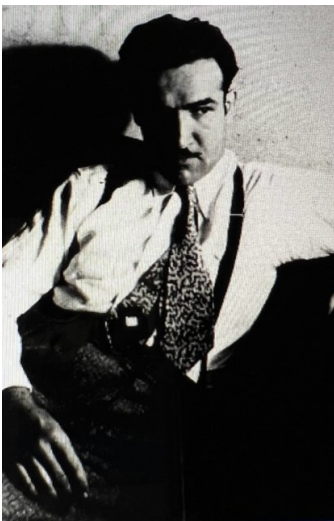
by a 54-year-old White Plains woman jumped the sidewalk striking Christine before slamming into a nearby home. Police are investigating eyewitness reports that the car was speeding.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said he was saddened to hear of the tragedy: "My heart goes out to the Kenney and O'Rourke families. Chris was very much involved with the community," Spano said.



See Chris on Page 17 Christine Kenney O'Rourke.





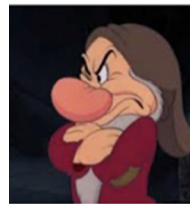
Born in Yonkers to Ukrainian immigrants, Bill Tytla brought comic book heroes to life on the silver screen.

## He Drew Upon Our Imaginations

**W**hat do Mutt and Jeff, The Seven Dwarfs, Dumbo and countless other cartoons have in common? Yonkers-born Bill Tytla.

Volodymyr Peter Tytla (Bill) was born on Oct. 25, 1904, the son of Ukrainian immigrants who recognized his talents at an early age. In 1914, he visited Manhattan to attend a vaudeville act of Gertie the Dinosaur. He never forgot it and it changed his life forever. Bill eventually left high school to concentrate on industrial design.

At 16, he was working on lettering for title cards for the Paramount animation studio in New York. He was nicknamed "Tytla the Titler." From there he worked at the Bronx studio of Raoul Barre and the Greenwich Village studio of John Terry. John's brother Paul, founder of Terrytoons, soon hired Bill to work on his version of Aesop's Fables.



### Did You Know?

Despite making a decent salary and being able to support his family, the simplistic nature of cartoons at that time did not challenge Bill. He returned to the Art Students League of New York and studied under Boardman Robinson. In 1929 he sailed to Europe with some school friends to study painting and sculpture with Charles Despiau.

Upon his return, he was offered a job at Terrytoons once again. In 1934, Walt Disney Studios made him an offer he couldn't refuse with increased responsibilities and salary—he was assigned to Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs where he meticulously put pen to paper to capture the personalities of each dwarf. He continued to send money to his family and purchased 150 acres of farmland in East Lyme, CT, for them.

Despite being one of Disney's highest paid animators, Bill was sympathetic to the overworked and underpaid artists who worked under his charge. He participated in the infamous Disney animators' strike in 1941 and

See **DID YOU KOW** on Page 18

### CHRIS (from Page 16)

Among her many volunteer activities, she served as an aide to the 2018 Grand Marshal of the Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day Parade and held several positions with the Amackassin Club. A trustee for the Yonkers Historical Society, she was also a greeter at Untermyer Gardens and Conservancy and a member of the City of Yonkers' Community Relations Board.

"Chris served with distinction as my colleague on the Yonkers Historical Society Board of Trustees for almost 10 years," Deirdre Rylander said. "She was brimming with positive energy and took on many responsibilities, including co-developing our website."

Chris is survived by her husband of 31 years, Kevin F.X. O'Rourke; his children Katelin (Mike) Gorman and Kevin (Jenna) O'Rourke; "Grands"—Kevin James (KJ), Kali Beirn, Keegan Bernard O'Rourke and James Aiden Gorman; a sister Susan (Michael) Henry and Maura (Greg) Rast; and a brother David (Barbara) Kenney; and scores of nieces and nephews.

Born on November 1952 to the late Loyola (Ryan) Kenney and David J. Kenney, she was a daughter-in-law of the former Yonkers mayor, Dr. James F.X. O'Rourke, former mayor of Yonkers.

She graduated from Sacred Heart High School and was a lifelong parishioner of the Monastery Church of the Sacred Heart in Yonkers. Chris earned her B.A. from Iona College in 1975.

Chris began her 30-year career as a programmer for IBM, ultimately serving as an executive responsible for the company's relationship with the City of New York. She was particularly proud of her work at Ground Zero at Central Command in the weeks following 9/11. Post-IBM, Chris served as Deputy Executive Director of Procurement Services for the City of New York's Financial Information Services Agency, retiring in 2018.

In lieu of flowers, donations in Chris' memory may be made to the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy.

# George Zoller, 74; A World Traveler, Class of '67 Grad

George Bruce Zoller, a member of the Class of '67, died June 9 at the age of 74.

He is survived by his wife, Mary Zoller, a son David and wife Jessica Baker, and a grandson, James. He was predeceased by his parents, John and Vivian Zoller, and an older brother, Robert Zoller (65).



Born Feb. 2, 1949 and raised in Yonkers, his family spent many weekends and summers in Kent Cliffs, NY. After graduating from Gorton, his desire to see the world led him to the SUNY Merchant Marine College. After college, he moved to New Orleans where he found work in the grain industry, which gave him the opportunity to travel the world. Experiencing other cultures was what George loved

the most with South America's vibrant lifestyle becoming his favorite part of the world.

He met his wife, Mary, while setting up an office in the San Francisco Bay area. The day after their 1977 wedding in California, they left for New Orleans where they expected to only live there for two years. Instead, it was there that they spent their entire married life.

George was known for love of cars, preferring to wear a coat and tie, baking pies, and insisting on very large breeds for the family dogs.

Interment was held at Union Cemetery in Kent Cliffs. Contributions in his memory may be made to: World Central Kitchen ([wck.org](http://wck.org)) or the YMCA World Service/ Ukraine humanitarian response ([ymca.org/Crisis-in-Ukraine](http://ymca.org/Crisis-in-Ukraine)). Please note "in memory of George Zoller" in the comments box.



**WE'RE ALL UKRAINIANS**—Steve Tuers (C65) joins Sophia Shchur (C71) and the Rev. Kiril Angelov at the annual Ukrainian Festival hosted by St. Michael the Archangel Ukrainian Catholic Church. All proceeds were donated to humanitarian aid in Ukraine.



## **DID YOU KNOW** (from Page 17)

for a time briefly joined the MGM cartoon studio working on the title character of *The Hungry Wolf*. He returned to Disney following the strike despite not being satisfied with the outcome. Bill left Disney in 1943—a decision he would always regret.

With his wife and two children, Bill returned to New York and Terrytoons where he was soon promoted to director. After only one short movie of *Mighty Mouse*, Bill moved again—this time to Famous Studios where he would direct cartoons starring *Little Lulu*, *Popeye* and *Little Audrey*. In the 1950s, he worked on commercials for Tempo Productions.

During the 1960's, he directed animated TV shows like *Deputy Dawg* and *The New Casper Cartoon Show*. His last major work was as animation director for Warner Brothers' live action, *The Incredible Mr. Limpet*.

Toward his end, he tried to return to Disney but was told he wasn't needed.

In the 1960s, Bill suffered many small strokes that left him blind in his left eye. On Dec. 30, 1968, Bill died at the age of 64. He was awarded the Winsor McCay Award posthumously and was named a Disney Legend.

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

# Yosemite Water

# F a l l s



Upper Yosemite Falls.



Seneca Falls.



Joe at the Lower Yosemite Falls.

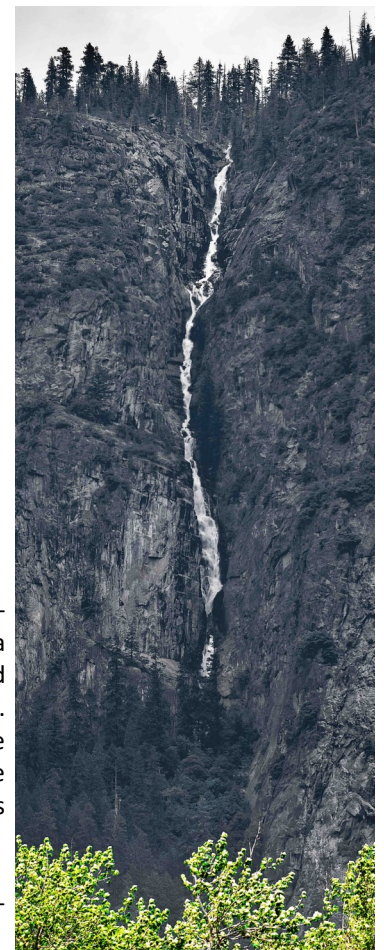


Bridal Veil Falls.

**A** record snowfall this past winter in California's Sierra Mountains has caused a spectacular snow-melt waterfalls and cascades at the Yosemite National Park. In addition, the Merced River is running like a white-water torrent through the Yosemite Valley. Where once were meadows, are now lakes and ponds caused by Merced's flooding.

The "grand jewel" of the Yosemite Valley is Yosemite Falls. Falling 2,245 feet over three sections, it is

**See YOSEMITE on Page 20**



Indian Canyon Cascade.



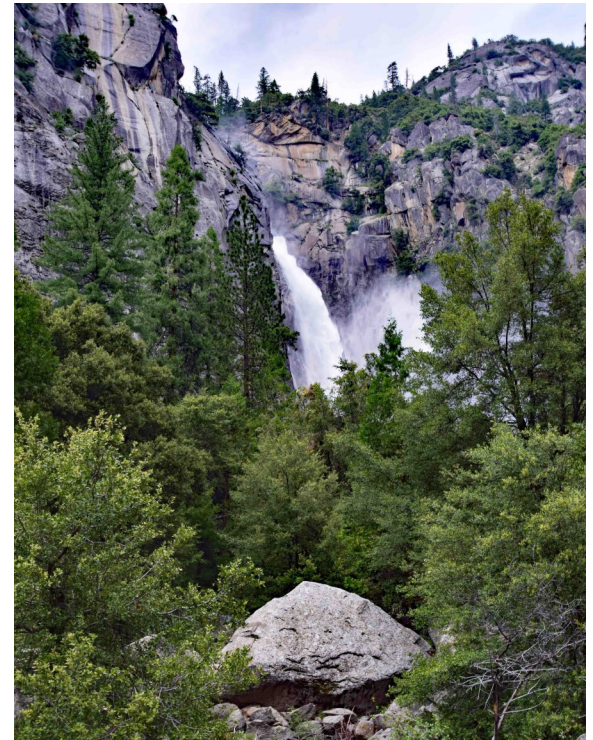
Yosemite Valley rainbow and waterfall.



Yosemite in back & white.



Yosemite Falls from afar.



Cascades.



Ribbon Falls and El Capitan.

**YOSEMITE** (from Page 19)

the tallest waterfall in Yosemite. The falls are comprised of three sections: Upper Yosemite Falls, Middle Cascades and Lower Yosemite Falls. At the base of Lower Yosemite Falls, the mist from the falling water is intense and you can hear boulders being moved about by the weight of the falling water.

Another famous water fall is Bridal Veil

Falls, so named because as it falls 625 feet, the mist spreads out white and soft, much like a veil. With spectacular views of the falls and Yosemite Valley, surrounded by magnificent granite monoliths, "Tunnel View" gives you an overall idea of the grandeur of Yosemite.

Numerous waterfalls and cascades are abundant throughout the valley. In addition to named falls like Sentinel Falls, Ribbon Falls, Horsetail Falls, Royal Arch Cas-

cade, the Cascades and Staircase Falls, there are literally dozens more unnamed falls that only appear when there is record snowfall or rain.

Yosemite is spectacular no matter what time of year. However, with all the magnificent flowing water happening now, it is truly magical.

--Text and photos by Joe Mikulsky and Ann Chandler

## Yonkers Approves \$1.4 Billion Budget

A \$1.4 billion budget featuring more than half of its expenditures on education was approved by the City Council on a 4-3 vote.

The \$740 school funding is the largest expenditure earmarked for education in the city's history and the largest local share to schools of the Big 5 cities, excluding New York City. The 2.9% hike in property tax stays within state-mandated tax cap.

## Vandals Trash Redmond Park

Yonkers cops are on the lookout for vandals who tore up Redmond Park over the Memorial Day weekend with their ATVs and dirt bikes.

The park has been undergoing renovations for the past year as part of the City's commitment to invest in green spaces for our neighborhoods; this incident may further delay re-opening.

## Student Assaults Gorton Teacher

A 16-year-old female student faces charges and disciplinary action after allegedly striking a 50-year-old Gorton teacher.

According to police, the student was arrested a day after the alleged assault following an investigation that led to a second-degree assault charge. The student's identity name was withheld due to her age. The name and condition of the teacher remained private.

According to initial reports, the student was suspended for five days pending a review of the incident by the school superintendent's office.

## You Can Buy a Pie But Leave the Slice

At least one owner doesn't mind being tagged by the so-called pizza artist who's been leaving his or her graffiti calling card of a pepperoni and green pepper slice outside shops in Westchester.



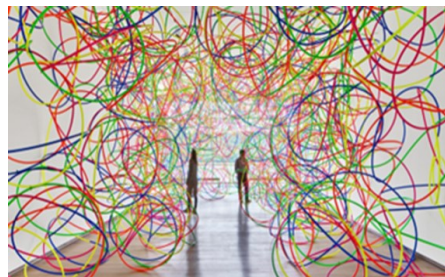
Frank Perri of Roma II on 152 Lockwood Ave., said many of his customers have been taking pictures of it and he has no plan of taking it down. "I kinda like it to be honest with you. This guy is going around...I'm not trying to say I'm number one but he didn't just pick any pizzeria."

## City Snuffs Out Future Smoke Shops

Yonkers is telling would-be smoke shops to butt out.

The City Council unanimously approved a temporary ban on issuing building permits and construction occupancy certificates for new smoke shops.

Mayor Mike Spano says he is not against marijuana but none of the businesses have gotten the proper license to sell it in Yonkers. The moratorium will be in effect through Nov. 1.



## Hudson River Museum Unveils Its West Wing

The Hudson River Museum unveiled its new \$12 million West Wing that expands the museum's total footprint by 12,000 square feet. It includes more than 3,000 square feet of exhibition galleries and dramatic views of the Hudson River and its Palisades.

The annex features two new exhibits: Japanese contemporary artist Kengo Kito's 2,100 colorful hula hoops symbolizing hu-

manity's interconnectedness and Sylvia Sleigh's "Invitation to a Voyage," a 14-panel panoramic painting from the museum's collection. The latter depicts a summer gathering of friends and art-world figures along the banks of the Hudson River.

Westchester County (\$6.2M), the City of Yonkers (\$5.45M), and New York State, Empire State Development (\$630,000) joined forces in support of this game-changing capital improvement project with \$12.28M in generous funding.

## Murderer Defies Judge; Gets 2 More Years in Jail

A woman who killed her girlfriend in 2012 found out the hard way that time was not on her side, even after she had plead guilty to manslaughter.

Wanda Veguilla admitted to killing and dumping Pamela Graddick's body in Yonkers and agreed to 18 years behind bars. However, during the pre-sentencing hearing, she changed her tune and said that the killing was accidental. Judge George Fufidio got wind of it and told her she would either have to take back her guilty plea and go to trial or reaffirm the intentional nature of the killing and get a longer prison term.

She chose Door Number 2—now a 20-year sentence.

## Spano Wins Mayor Primary

Mayor Mike Spano easily defeated two opponents in the Democratic primary, clearing the way for him to seek an unprecedented fourth term in November's general election.

Preliminary results show Spano garnering 68% of the vote over challengers City Councilwoman Corazon Pineda and educator Margaret Fountain Coleman.

He will face Republican Councilman Anthony Merante in November. The city council recently extended term limits for the mayor and council positions.