

# Wolf Tales

The Newsletter of  
Gorton's Class of '65

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



October 2023, Vol. 88



Members of the Class of '73 line up on front steps.



Denise Holder unveils the mayor's Proclamation honoring the Class of 1973's reunion. With her are George Morris (Class of '73 faculty advisor) and Principal Jamie Morales.

## Welcome Home, Class of 1973!

By Diane Krusko, C73

It was 50 years in the making and well worth the wait.

The Class of 1973 was back at the Wolf's den for a three-day 50th Class Reunion starting on Friday, Oct. 6, with an afternoon tour of Gorton High School. Highlights the tour included a few updates made possible by the Alumni Association's hard work and the generous support of alumni and friends of Gorton.

Dr. Michael J. Wszolek, department head of the Academy of Medical Professions wing, led us on a tour of the

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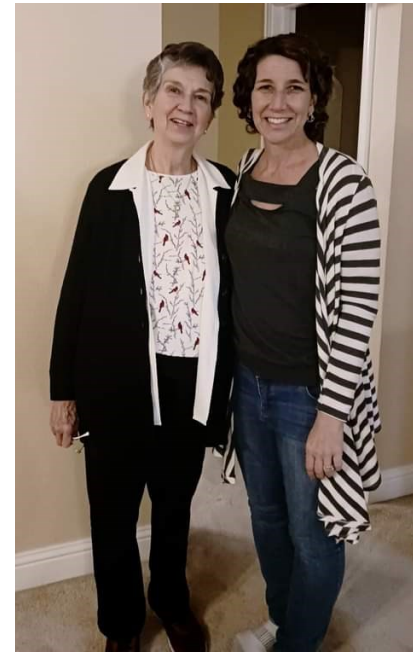


Sonny Winstead at the welcome desk in Gorton's renovated lobby.





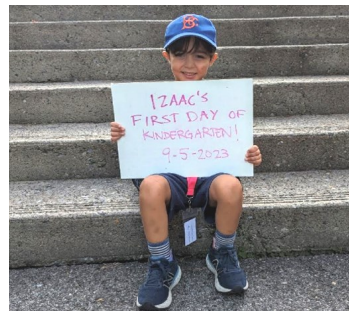
**FOR PETE'S SAKE**—1964 classmates, Pete Wirchanske and Carol Valentine, with spouses Celeste and Neil in Palm Springs. To the left, Pete's son Brandon, daughter Kristen and granddaughter, Lili, in Oregon City, which is surprisingly in Oregon.



**DAUGHTERS' DAY**— Kay Fedirka Trautvetter with Heather (above) and Dotty Colello McFarlane with Michelle are together for National Daughters Day (Sept. 25).



**MY TWO SONS**—Jordan and Korey with their mom Judy Schwartz Galician.



**FIRST DAY**—Barry Bloom's grandson, Izaak, on his First day at school. His mom, Rachana Bloom, is a Class of '97 Gorton grad.



**ALMOST LEGAL**—Greg and Yvonne Sullivan Price host a pre-21st birthday celebration for their granddaughter Felicity (center) along with Felicity's sister, Aiylla. Both attend separate colleges in Rhode Island.



**53 SKIDOO**—Time travels quickly when you're with the one you love. Congratulations to Frank and Carolynn McGlinchey, celebrating their 53rd wedding anniversary.



**SARAH SETS SAIL**—Vincent and Sarah Langley Policelli embark from Spain for Mediterranean cruise to Italy.



## Parry's Ponderings



### What Goes Around Doesn't Come Around

**J**'Ever notice that when reheating a cup of coffee or tea in the microwave it always seems to stop with the handle facing away from you. I think they have a secret sensor in them that makes them do this.

### A Boo Ha Ha! Xmas Before Halloween

I've said it in years past but I'll say it again: I don't think it's right to hear *It's Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas* even before Halloween.

### Today's New Sound Is a Flipping Problem

The trouble with streaming all your music is that there are no great "flip-sides" to discover.

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



**ON THE ROCKS**—Janet Guyon Hanford (left) joins her friends for a two-day mini vacation at Niagara-on-the-Lake in Canada. The rocks are there to keep Lake Ontario inside of Lake Ontario.



**JOYEUX ANNIVERSAIRE**—Lori Kohn Rowe celebrates her birthday in Montreal with a visit to the Botanical Garden.



**IT'S ALL HAPPENING**—At the Bronx Zoo with Ursula Belle Healy and her daughter and granddaughter Ursula and Ava.



**AHOY**—Alice and Steve Tuers lunch at one of the oldest yacht clubs in the U.S., The Harlem Yacht Club, on City Island in the Bronx. Founded in 1883, the entrees were fantastic and so were the views.



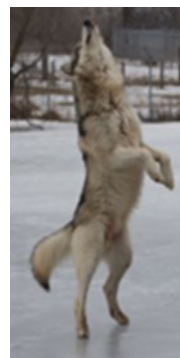
**YONKERS**—An oil on canvass painting by Edward Hopper in 1916. The 61 x 73.7 cm artwork is on display at the Whitney Museum of Art in New York City. Hopper used to live across the Hudson River.

## A Wolf Pup Walks on the Wild Side

The Wolf Conservation Center (WCC) announced that a cross-foster pup from WCC has been spotted in the wild with the Hail Canyon pack in New Mexico. — the first physical evidence of the program's success of introducing grey wolves back into their natural environment.

The five-month-old pup named Slides is about 32 pounds. It is from Trumpet's litter born this past spring.

"It's nice to know that at least



**Dancing With The Wolves**

one wolf born at our facility in New York is walking in the wild thanks to the time, money and dedicated efforts from each of you," the WCC said in a press release. "This is an affirming moment for many of us who have worked...in hopes that our efforts have real-world impact.

Cross-fostering places wolf pups born in captivity with existing packs in the wild. It gives the pack the chance to widen and strengthen their genetic diversity.



**CLASS** (from Page One)

medical training facilities of Gorton’s highly successful Career and Technical Education (CTE) program. Students who meet all academic and professional training requirements receive state health care certifications and are qualified for skilled positions in the medical field.

We also viewed the renovated lobby and auditorium as well as the Never Forget Garden. And, as an added bonus, a sneak peek at our soon-to-be Wall of Fame honoring past students and educators.

My classmates were very impressed not only with the medical area but the entire upgrade of the school.

An informal dinner was held on Friday night at Lombardi’s in Dobbs Ferry. A tour of Untermyer Gardens was scheduled for Saturday afternoon but due to rain, it was postponed until Sunday afternoon.

The reunion gala was held Saturday night at the Westchester Manor in Hastings and it was quite a night! The venue was beautifully decorated with flowers grown and arranged by Jennifer Brenthel Cauffman ’73. The event began with an inspiring rendition of our National Anthem sung by Robert Puleo ’73 and followed by a blessing given by Shermaine Wynn Mounoubai ’73.

Next was a video memorial remembering classmates and faculty. Another video loop contained pictures of classmates from grade school through Gorton High. This was an unexpected but fun surprise for many.

The Yonkers Mayor’s office honored the Class of 1973 and its 50th reunion with a proclamation that was read by Denise Holden ’73. Cocktails, dinner and dancing continued as the DJ played tunes from the ’70s, provided by the Reunion Committee!

The evening closed with a booming version of the Gorton Fight Song lead by the ’73 Gorton High School cheerleaders:

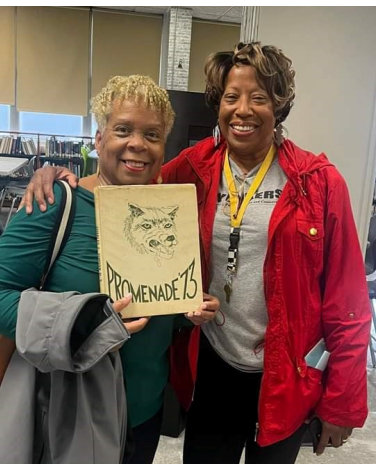
*“Cheers, Cheers for old Gorton High;  
You bring the whisky, I’ll bring the rye!”*

If you’re a Gorton alum, you know the rest. A wonderful time was had by all and everyone was sorry for the evening to end.



**Eugene Sanchez, Luon Garrison Fletcher, Sonny Winstead and Karen Carroll.**





Deb Jones, Eileen Martell, Barbara Leto Hilson, Denise Holden and Crystal Wilson

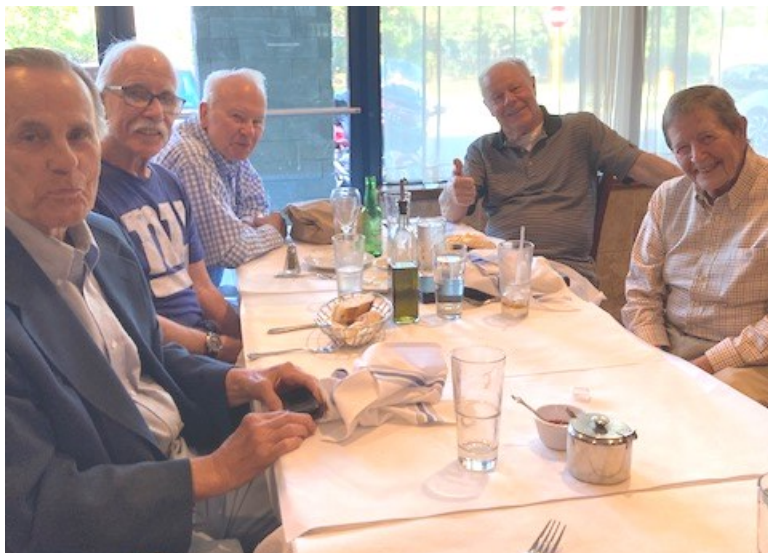


**'59ers**

**A CLASS ACT**—Class of '59ers and friends gather for lunch at Gianna's in Yonkers.



Clockwise from left front, Carole Woodruff Healy, Valerie Croce Park, Paula Strusinski Golio and Loretta Murphy Carey.



From left, Brian Coughlin '58, Carl Schmidt (glasses), Peter Carey '56, (Loretta Murphy's spouse), Bill Schuck (thumbs up!) and Peter Morley.



Brian Coughlin delivers opening remarks.



Clockwise from left front, Carol Gartner Barrett, Ann Blasco Lorfink '61, Pat Hilary Williamson, Lois Begley Licovitch and Elaine Quimby Donald.



**CLASS OF '67**—Five members of the Class of '67 dine at Greek-ish in Nyack on Sunday evening. Joining Don Pitches (center) were George Ballie, Chuck Hansen, Lynn Cody Gorey, Marianne Vocasek Doerr and her husband, Greg. At the last minute, Beverly Shenkman couldn't make it and Dennis Tracey was prevented from attending by the recent death of his brother David. For appetizers, we discussed recent ailments, replacements, aches and pains. Fortunately, the wine and the laughter helped us forget all about those, and for the rest of the evening, we shared stories of family, travel, and future plans.

**'67**





According to Historic Yonkers, Oct. 8 marks the 99th anniversary of the official opening of Gorton High School. Groundbreaking was held on Dec. 19, 1922. Scheduled to open on Oct. 1, 1924, construction delays pushed it back and all classes were in place by Oct. 18. Gorton held its first graduation the following year.



Once an automobile repair shop class, the area is the medical wing of Gorton High School and is the medical training lab for the CTE program.

# What is CTE and Why It is So Important

**By Dr. Michael Wszolek**

Charles E. Gorton High School is one of only two Yonkers High Schools with more than one state certified CTE programs.

CTE stands for Careers in Technical Education. The CTE programs at Charles E Gorton High School include Medical Assisting and Business Marketing.

The Medical Assisting program was started in 2016 by Dr. Michael Wszolek.

The program was refined and further developed by Dr. Wszolek and Dawn Myers over the next few years and received state certification for the 2022-2023 school year.

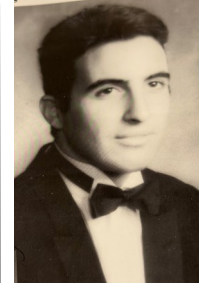


In the medical assisting program, students learn how to work in and manage a medical office. The new medical room is designed to operate just like a medical clinic.

There is a front desk where students and faculty are registered as patients, make appointments and get their vital signs checked by students in the Medical Assisting program.

Students are trained in how to perform clinical procedures such as vital signs, phlebotomy, electrocardiograms, and chief complaints. Students also complete internships at various doctors' offices

See CTE on Page 8



## Alumni News

### Coming Soon: A Site for All Things Gorton

**M**y fellow Wolves: So much excitement and great events on the horizon!!!

The Charles E. Gorton Wall of Fame is right around the corner. We should be set to unveil this spring, in conjunction with the 100th graduating class celebration!

In addition, we are getting ready to launch our brand-new Gorton Alumni Association website, which will be a one-stop shop for all things Gorton. It will be your home page away from home—Gorton High School.

There will be numerous options—you will be able to see EVERY yearbook, catch up with current Gorton events, share pictures/ memories, use of our exclusive mailing list and read our alumni magazine, *Wolf Tales*, including back issues.

There will be a login where you can donate to the association; learn about Alumni and Gorton initiatives; and suggest what you'd like to see and do. Already on the list is a video tour of Gorton where you can let your fingers do

See ALUMS on Page 8



**CTE (from Page 7)**

and hospitals as part of their certification requirements. Gorton currently has partnerships with White Plains hospital where most students receive their internship hours. By the time they graduate, they are fully prepared to work in a medical facility.

Business marketing is a new program that focuses on Sports and Entertainment as well as Social Media Marketing. In this program, students will learn the basics of starting a business, the different types of business entities and principles of finance. By senior year, they will have created a product using the fabrication lab such as clothing items, 3D printed items or wood-en items using the laser engraver.

They will then learn how to brand their business and market their goods using different media platforms. Students will also be working with the sports teams at Gorton to develop a social media campaign to promote their athletes and games using platforms such as Instagram, TikTok and Snapchat.

The CTE program is an elective program at Gorton. Students still need to complete all their core classes and are still required to have 22 credits in order to graduate. The four credits earned in the CTE program count toward that 22-credit requirement. Students earn the four credits in the CTE program from 9th through 12th grade.

In 9th grade, all freshman students take Career Exploration, which exposes them to different careers in healthcare and business. After this class, they are able to decide which pathway they will pursue over



**Dr. Michael Wszolek, center back, leads a tour of the medical wing to '73 graduates.**

the next three years. Students who choose the medical pathway take medical terminology, anatomy and physiology and medical assisting over their next three years. Students who choose business take introduction to business concepts, principles of marketing, and social media/sports/entertainment marketing.

The state certification that students receive after completion of all classes during the four years in the CTE program allows them to enter into the workforce immediately after high school. They are given all the skills necessary to work in the respective professions of medical assisting or marketing.

As a result of being in the medical program at Gorton, graduates are currently working as phlebotomists in St. John's Riverside Hospital, have graduated from nursing schools and are working as registered nurses and are working as medical assistants throughout Yonkers.

We have an Advisory Board that consists of community partners who support both of our CTE programs. The board meets five times during the course of the school year and gives real-world input about the fields of medicine and business. Board members support the students by making presentations to the students at Gorton, offer work-based learning to the students and bring various programs to Gorton that support the students.

Our community partners include White Plains Hospital, New York Presbyterian Lawrence, St. John's Riverside Hospital, National Association of Hispanic Nurses, Pepsico, Sun River Healthcare, Yonkers Office of the Aging, New York Blood Center, Spine and Joint Group of Eastchester, Westchester Community College, Westchester Educational Opportunity Center, Westchester School of Medical & Dental Assisting, College of Westchester, Iona Liberty Partners and Astor Lane Realty.

**ALUMS (from Page 7)**

the walking through the halls past the green lockers.

You'll also be able to keep abreast of the Alumni Association's activities, nominate candidates for our Wall of Fame and connect directly to other Gorton-related websites for the latest news about your graduating class. It will be a secure facility focused solely on all things Gorton and nothing but Gorton.

Remember, we are entering Gorton's Centennial Celebration. To think, not too many years ago our alma mater was in line to be demolished.

There's a renewed sense of vigor throughout the building that grows stronger every year. It's a great time to be a Wolf!

The Alumni Association has already invested its time and funds for the Centennial. Plaques and Wall of Fame signage are on their way We have just begun.

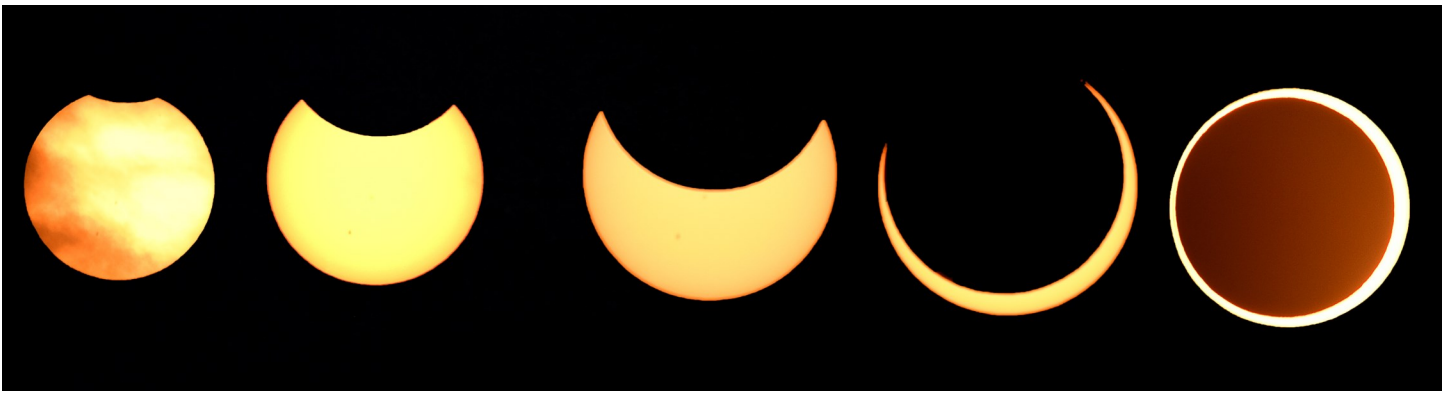
If you have special skills, such as accounting, fund-raising, marketing or just want to roll up your shirt sleeves and pitch in any way you can, please contact me at:

[ddematteo@yonkerspublicschools.org](mailto:ddematteo@yonkerspublicschools.org).

GO WOLVES!!!

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





LET THE SUN GO DOWN ON ME—A montage of the solar eclipse shot by Joe Mikulsky.

# Following the Solar Eclipse

By Joe Mikulsky

There are three types of solar eclipses.

One is a partial eclipse. This occurs when the moon comes between the sun and the earth and its path only covers part of the sun.

The second type is a total eclipse when the moon covers the sun totally and happens when the moon is at its closest distance from earth.

The third type of eclipse is an annular eclipse when the moon is at its furthest from the earth. Because of this, the moon “appears” smaller and doesn’t completely block the sun. At the time of total annularity, a "ring of fire" appears.

Annie and I were fortunate enough to be in the right place at the right time to witness an annular eclipse on Oct. 14 in Cedarville, CA. Cedarville, population slightly more than 400, is in the **See ECLIPSE on Page 10**



—Photo by Joe Mikulsky



Joe mans the camera and Annie and their friend set up the refreshment stand before the big event.





## City's 'Medical Mile' Continues to Grow

Simone Development Companies has acquired the Yonkers office building One Executive Boulevard and plans to repurpose the office building as a medical office center, complementing existing medical uses in the area.

The four-story building at the corner of Executive Boulevard and North Broadway, contains 133,768-square-feet and is located within 1/4 mile of existing medical office space.

Nearby offices include the Boyce Thompson Center, a mixed-use center with physician's offices of St. John's Riverside Hospital, Westmed/Summit Health, ENT & Allergy Associates, Columbia Doctors and other medical practices along with retail shops and restaurants.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano welcomed Simone's plan to bring more medical office space to the city, saying it will bring "more jobs and momentum to the city." And, we might add, more opportunities for Gorton students preparing for careers in the medical profession.

## Target Opens With Car Hop Service

Yonkers' first Target store opened in Cross County Center with a CVS Pharmacy and Starbucks coffee shop that will allow customers to have their orders delivered to their parked cars.

For those in a hurry, the 132,000-square-foot store on the site of the old Sears store will have a "drive-up" feature to pick up their orders.

## City Sues Hotel Housing Migrants

Yonkers is suing Ramada by Wyndham, now known as Plaza Esperanz, for more than \$200,000 in fines for operating an unapproved boarding house for migrants since May.

The suit contends that city codes do not permit hotels to accommodate transient guests past 30 days. The city seeks recoup \$22,000 in revenue the city has lost since the hotel stopped paying sales tax and hotel occupancy taxes.



It's a tough job but someone has to do it. Viewing an eclipse with friends on a no-lane California dirt back street.

### **ECLIPSE** (from Page 9)

far northeast corner of California, a very short distance from the border of California, Nevada and Oregon in an area called Surprise Valley.

We met our friends Janet and Stan and stayed at a very lovely (fully renovated!) 1940's-style motel, owned and run by

Susie, a delightful and cheery person.

We managed to find an excellent viewing spot on a very lightly travelled country road and Annie set up a table with some munchies. Solar viewing glasses were required to watch the whole eclipse safely and a special filter was required on my camera.

We lucked out and the cloudy skies parted just in time to view the entire eclipse. When the time of total annularity happened, we all gave out a cheer!

**Joe Mikulsky (C65) is a founding member of the North End Surfing Club and an accomplished wildlife and landscape photographer.**



## A Tremendous Treetise That's Complicated



## Priceless Memories

Once again, it is the time of year when our thoughts, particularly here in New England, turn to our beautiful trees. We are all busily calculating what days during October might be the best ones to take a peek at peak.

Predictably, predictions coming from the experts are plentiful.

As usual, half of them are cautioning that the colors will be muted this year, because of too much rain and the other half are assuring us that we will see a pastel pallet, because of dryness. "Muted" and "pastel" as pertain to color, pretty much translate the same in my book, but regardless of word choice, it comes down to this. You may see less brilliant reds and oranges on nature's canvass this time around, up my way.

There is science involved, no question, but that's not really the point. Muted, pastel, or brilliant, the trees always deliver!

We chose Oct. 5th, a Thursday, to head further north, mainly because it wasn't raining and our days are numbered, not in any dire sense, just already filled up with commitments, company and the good sense not to travel on the weekends, when possible. We spent a day in the Catskills and predictably, the trees did deliver.

Here's the thing about me, that I've shared here in the past. I am a tree hugger of the highest order. From childhood to elderhood, my awe of them has only deepened. Everything about them has always drawn me in, whether as a tomboy kid, climbing, clinging, losing myself within the lofty leafyness, or in these later years, observing their changes in every season and listening when the wind helps them speak.

I admire them on every walk or hike I take. Whenever I'm traveling anywhere, be it to the store or long distance, I point out particular ones that catch my eye. To stand in the midst of a forest and

See *TREES* on Page 12



**TREES** (from Page 11)

breathe in the scent of trees is for me, spiritually healing. It is no wonder we have sought to capture it in candles and car fresheners.

So, in the interest of sharing my magnificent obsession, I am strongly recommending a book I recently read. It is called *The Overstory*, by Richard Powers.

Already emotionally hooked on trees, this added the science component, the astonishing facts of tree life, to my mostly star-struck appreciation. Be forewarned. This Pulitzer Prize-winning novel is not for the faint hearted. It demands your focused attention and your imagination, to understand and embrace the connection between man and tree, that is, our real and vital interdependency.

It is an intricately complicated relationship, this one between our species and theirs. It is scientific and it is emotional, made more complex by the economic goals of industrial interests, intent on clearing out vast regions of forested areas worldwide. If this continues at the rate it is going, the result is grave, literally; no trees, no us! And that is not hyperbole.

I guess I have been innately aware of this for most of my adult life, but it has been truly driven home by what I learned within this book's pages, pages manufactured from the very life forms from which the story springs.

And aside from writing something that so expertly and beautifully weaves together five specific tree species, with the main human characters almost as counterparts, Powers has made that scientific and emotional case for saving life forms that we humans need in order for our own survival. Save them, save our planet, save ourselves.

How simple it is. How shameful our indifference. I urge you, read this book; hug a tree.

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

# 'E-Mer-Gan-C! E-Mer-Gan-C! Everybody to Get From Strits!



Gorton's air raid siren on the corner of Shonnard and Palisade.

## Editor's Note



If you are a devotee of Gertrude Braslow, and I am one of many, you may appreciate my Miss Braslow Moment.

To the uniformed or skeptical, our generational history teacher, who was in Gorton's first graduating class in 1925 and then taught at Gorton for more than 30 years, had a basic rule of thumb—nothing happens in a vacuum. A moment in time has widespread impacts across oceans, cultures, science, the arts, you name it.

Today, it's called the holistic approach to learning. In our day, it was Miss Braslow, resplendent in jet-black hair, red lipstick and vibrant-colored clothing befitting the Mod look before we heard of the Beatles. We'd kid that they built Gorton around her and we weren't far off—she lived a block away.

Here's my Miss Braslow moment.

I was on the phone with my sister, Marilyn, Class of '59, talking about aches and pains and life in general. Somehow, I segued into an old movie we saw, *The Russian Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming!* It starred Alan Arkin, Theodore Bikel, Carl Reiner, Jonathan Winters, Brian Keith, Paul Ford, Ben Blue and Lee Marvin, who had a non-speaking bit role.

Filed in 1966 during the Cold War, the plot is simple. A Russian submarine runs aground off a Cape Cod island because the captain (Bikel) always wanted to see America close up and personal. Arkin

**See RUSSIANS on Page 14**



# Storms Turn County Into Wet-chester

A late September torrential storm left roadways and rail service impossible and impassable and the Hudson Valley under a state of emergency.

The Sound Shore regions received the brunt of the September storm with a one-day total rainfall of 6.49 inches in New Rochelle. The county's average rainfall for the entire month of September is less than 4 inches.

Metro-North's three commuter lines were out of action and any parkway with the word "river" in it was just that—a river. In addition, the Playland Parkway was closed as well as the southbound Taconic State Parkway. Several exit ramps off I-95 at Midland and Mamaroneck Avenues were closed.

Yonkers, Mount Vernon and several central Westchester towns and villages declared their own states of emergency in order to get emergency assistance from the Red Cross and allow local law enforcement to close roads and create curfews. Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano also called on the federal government to declare a state of emergency for Yonkers.

He's still waiting.

And it wasn't over until it's over, as Yogi Berra said. Seven consecutive weekends of heavy rains and 21 days after the late September storm, a massive mud slide in Briarcliff Manor, between Tarrytown and Croton-on-Hudson, took out the Metro-North Hudson rail line on Oct. 21.

Trees, brush, dirt and stone covered the tracks. Amtrak service between Albany and New York City was suspended and commuters and leaf-peepers took bus shuttles around the blockage. Rail service was restored in time for the Monday morning commute.



From flood-swollen parkways and watery rescues...



...to a massive mudslide that knocked out rail service along the Hudson.





—Photo courtesy of The Untermyer Conservancy

**AUTUMN FALLS ON THE PALISADES—A view of the Hudson from the Vista at Untermyer Gardens.**

**RUSSIANS (from Page 12)**

leads a shore party to find a ship to pull the sub off the sandbar before it's blown to tiny bits by the Air Force and Coast Guard.

Basically, it's the Russian language (folk singer Theodore Bikel spoke only Russian in his role) meets clam-chowda English.

Without ruining the plot, the Russian sailors, dressed up in their Robert Hall finery, have to get the residents indoors to carry out their boat theft. After getting a crash course in English from Arkin, they hit the streets in what can best be described as a reverse Paul Revere:

"E-Mer-Gan-C! E-Mer-Gan-C! Everybody to get from strits!"

Flash forward a day later and lo and behold guess what's showing on a PBS station—The Bee Gees: One Night Only. Kidding,

that was on the Long Island channel. However, on the Connecticut PBS channel, balalaika music please, The Russians Are Coming! The Russians Are Coming! Pass the popcorn and caviar.

The thing about Braslow moments is that they ain't over until the janitor (Mr. Caruso) wipes off her blackboards. They can come in waves, like aftershocks from an earthquake or a Chipotle burrito.

Several days later, FEMA and the FCC held a nationwide test of the EAS and WEA systems. OMG. WTF. Oh, the AM & FM humanity! Suddenly millions would discover that their titanium iPhones (with MagSafe grips and optional PopCase available in six eye-popping colors) can do more than take selfies and un-friend friends.

"THIS IS A TEST of the National Wireless Emergency Alert System. No action is needed."

Who are they kidding? You're not dealing with amateurs here. This isn't our first rodeo. Our generation hid under wooden desks and face-planted ourselves against metal lockers, ready for a nuclear annihilation. We ate pasty pale peas from a can.

We raced to buildings with fallout shelter signs. There was one at 110 Waring Place across from Lennon Park. Outside Gorton, at the corner of Shonnard and Palisade, was a big freakin' air raid siren. There was also one at Untermyer for those playing hooky.

Step aside young'ins, we know what the alerts mean:

E-Mer-Gan-C! E-Mer-Gan-C! Everybody to get from strits!

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





ORANGE YOU SCARED?—Dimitri and Nella Poletsky ham it up and Frank McGlinchey glams it up with jack-o-lanterns decorations.

## Ask Janet



# Delightful Ways to Be A Bit Frightful

Dear Janet.

Do you know anything about *Spooks and Spirits and Shadowy Shapes*?

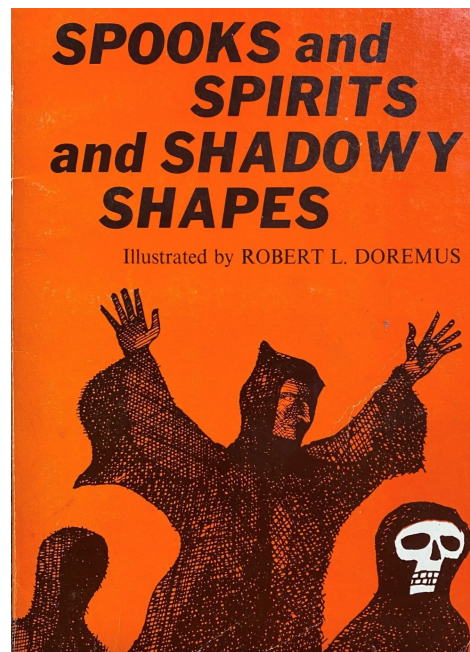
Casper T. Goast

Dear Casper,

**W**hy yes, I do know a little bit about that. To understand it better, you should know how it relates to

Halloween, the spookiest of holidays that dates back to the ancient Celts' rituals of Samhain, around 2,000 years ago. The Celts believed that Nov. 1 marked the end of summer and the beginning "of the dark half of the year."

They believed that at that time, there was a breakdown in the barriers between the



*'There's not a real nightmare in the lot...a collection of ghost stories for 8-to-11-year olds.'*

real world and that of the dead, when the spirits would rise and roam the world to cause trouble and destroy the harvest. They feared the fairies or Sidhs, who might carry them off to the netherworld.

People dressed in scary costumes to ward off the spirits as they gathered around huge bonfires where they burned live-

**Hallowe'en Tales**  
**SPOOKS AND SPIRITS AND SHAD-OWY SHAPES.** Illustrated by Robert Doremus. 167 pp. New York: Aladdin Books., \$2.  
**N**OW, when jack o'lanterns begin to leer and the moon looks witch-haunted, this book of tales will be a boon to youngsters who like to scare themselves into fits and yet keep a grasp upon reality. With the exception of the devilish black cat in Mary Walsh's fine, eerie tale of Ireland, these spooks are a friendly lot, bearing a strong resemblance to prankish relatives or the boy next door. There's not a real nightmare in the lot. Practiced story-tellers, such as Elizabeth Coatsworth, Emma Brock, Adele de Leeuw and others, have written these eight stories and one poem especially to make an easy-reading collection for 8-to-11-year-olds who are not yet ready for the kind of ghost stories that their iron-nerved big brothers and sisters revel in. **E. L. B.**

stock and crops to hopefully appease the wandering ghosts.

The history of this pagan holiday we know as Halloween is fascinating. To learn more, see <https://www.history.com/topics/halloween/history-of-halloween>.

See JANET on Page 16





**A VIVID REMINDER**—On route to photograph the solar eclipse, Joe Mikulsky took this picture of the remains of one of California’s devastating wild fires—the Dixie Fire. All told, 963,000 acres of magnificent forests were destroyed, leaving nothing behind but burned-out tree trunks and bare soil. Much of the remains had already been logged.

**JANET** (from Page 15)

Now back to *Spooks and Spirits and Shadowy Shapes*. That’s the title of a book that was published in 1949. (See accompanying picture of the New York Times archives’ Oct. 23, 1949, article *New Books for the Young Readers’ Library*.)

According to Kirkus Reviews, (Sept. 1, 1949), it’s a collection of stories that was written for story tellers and for reading aloud in groups. The stories “have enough shivery content- and enough realism in the outcomes—to be used with children of six, seven, eight.”

David Albough’s article in *David’s Basement of the Bizarre* (May 24, 2021) has some interesting comments on the book and how it may appeal to children in today’s world.

He writes, “It is sad to me that today’s children would probably get no pleasure out of reading these stories. I loved them because they represented a simpler time period. It was also interesting to me for what [they] thought would be scary to that period’s kids. I love this book and that it can still be found, albeit expensive.”

Moving on, are there really any of these frightening things roaming the earth today?

In Middlesex, NY, near Canandaigua Lake,



**On Spook Hill in Middlesex, NY, you’ll feel yourself slip-sliding away.**

there’s a place called Spook Hill. To experience the “mystery”, you have to stop your car at a particular location, put it in neutral, then feel your car be drawn what appears to be uphill. You actually pick up speed as you go.

Legend has it the mysterious pull of your car uphill is caused by ghosts or an old Native American burial ground nearby. The spirits are pushing you back. Naysayers say it’s an optical illusion.

Spook hills (gravity, magnetic, or mystery hills, as they are also called) can be found all around the world. Many years ago, I experienced the one in Moncton, New Brunswick, Canada. You may not have to go that far to find one near you but if you’re ever in the Finger Lakes area of New York, enter these coordinates into your phone/GPS: (42.713313, -77.309241)

for this “moving experience” at “our” Spook Hill.

If the spirit moves you, spend time traveling along the lakeside wine and spirits trails. The views are beautiful. However, if you imbibe too much, the visions blur to shadowy shapes and your surroundings “mysteriously” starts to spin!

Interested in visiting? Get the vacation package to The Lake House on Canandaigua. It’s 90 minutes by seaplane from NYC directly to the lakefront for a mere \$16,500.

Now THAT’s scary! Happy Halloween.

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





Ethan Flagg’s home (left) was sold to the Sacramentine order of nuns and became the Blessed Sacrament Monastery.

## Ethan Flagg Was a Man Of Many Hats

**V**ermont has Ethan Allen, literature has Ethan Frome, Hollywood has Ethan Hawke, and Yonkers has Ethan Flagg. But who was Ethan Flagg?

Ethan Flagg was born July 7, 1820, in West Hartford, CT. In 1843, at the age of 23, he came to Yonkers to work on his uncle’s farm. He worked the entire 400 acres of the farm and became known as an energetic and successful farmer. He was so successful that he decided to buy another tract of land that extended from the Hudson River to the Saw Mill River.

He had his new property surveyed and laid out building plots, which he put on the market with easy terms to settlers. He also had plans for the prospective city to be—today’s downtown follows his plan substantially.

Although real estate was his prime interest, Ethan Flagg became interested in the manufacture of hats, a leading industry at the time. He was known to give generously of his time and money in movements and causes to elevate public manners and morals. He was untiring in his devotion to public service and advancing the public good.

He was treasurer and deacon of the Dutch Reformed Church until 1852, when



### Did You Know?

he joined 45 other members of the church to form the First Presbyterian Church and even donated the large plot of land on North Broadway at Quincy Place for the new church.

In 1855, Ethan Flagg built an imposing villa with a view of the Hudson just north of Ashburton Avenue and east of Palisade. It was built in the Italianate style. Park Avenue was later opened through the Flagg property as was Flagg Street.

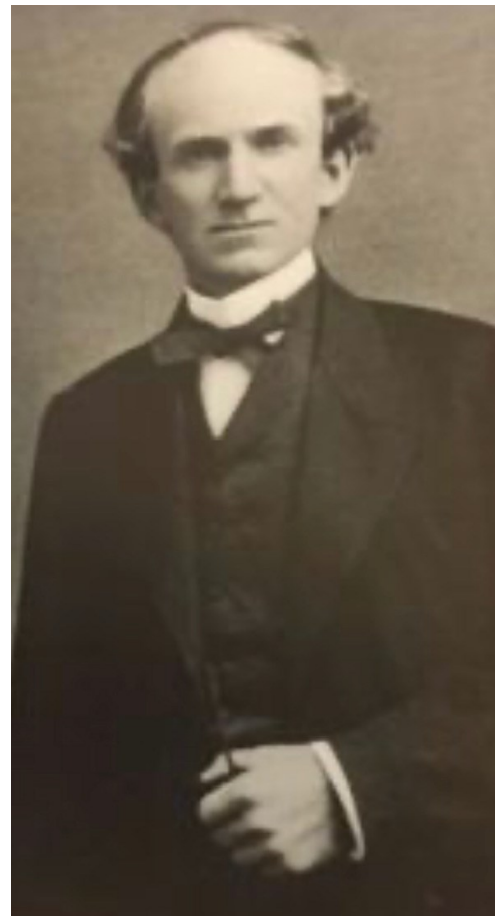
Ethan Flagg was married twice. His first wife, Marietta Wells, died in 1850, shortly after giving birth to a son. He later married Julia Baldwin and they raised four other children. His daughter Elizabeth Flagg Harlan was mother to John Marshall Harlan II who later became a Supreme Court justice.

Ethan Flagg died Oct. 11, 1884. At his funeral, his pastor said of him: “From the time of his coming to the moment of his going, he has been identified with Yonkers’ growth, taking an active part in every moment towards its prosperity and peace.”

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



Blessed Sacrament Church.



Ethan Flagg: 1820-1884.





—Photo courtesy of Mark Vergari/The Journal News

**GIVE PEACE A CHANCE**—The entire school at Yonkers Montessori Academy, Pre-K through 12th grade, created a giant peace sign on the field behind the school Sept. 21 on the International Day of Peace. The school enrollment is close to 1,300 students.

## Yonkers in Top 10 Cities for Women

Women in Yonkers rule, according to WalletHub’s latest rankings of the best and worst cities for women.

The city ranks ninth in a list of 182 U.S. cities with Columbia, MD at No. 1 and South Burlington, VT at No. 2. New York City stood at No. 56 and Jackson, MS, was last on the list.

The assessment was based on 15 critical indicators of living standards for women ranging from median earnings for female workers to the quality of women’s hospitals, as well as suicide rates among women.

## Greyston Opens New HQ in City

Greyston, the pioneer of the no-judgment hiring process known as Open Hiring®, has new offices at 20 South Broadway.

The new 12th-floor offices are outfitted with two state-of-the-art classrooms for workforce education programs, a business wardrobe to outfit job seekers and

expanded office space.

Greyston’s CEO & President Joseph Kenner said, “For 41 years Greyston has been unlocking human potential through inclusive employment. It began with a bakery and a Buddhist and Open Hiring®, the no questions asked, no resume, no background check form of hiring that began at the bakery.

In addition, Greyston also provides chewy products for Ben and Jerry’s Chocolate Fudge Brownie or Half-Baked ice creams.

## Yonkers Holds First Autumn Art Show

The arts were in full bloom as the city hosted its inaugural “Yonkers Fall Arts Festival” featuring live art demos, music and food.

Ray Wilcox, executive director of Yonkers Arts, said the free event aims to expand Yonkers’ arts and culture scene.

The Carpet Mills Arts District along Neperhan is a center for the arts that also serves as home base to more than 100 artists.

## Robert Houghtaling, Korean War Vet, Dies at 91

Robert W. Houghtaling, a member of the Class of ’49, died Aug. 16 at Lakeside Nursing Home in Warwick, R.I. He was 91.

Born in Yonkers on Nov. 25, 1931, at Yonkers General Hospital, Bob was the son of Lester R. and Millicent (Papps) Houghtaling. He grew up in Yonkers and attended the Cathedral of Saint John the Divine in New York City from 1941-1944 where he sang with the boys’ choir. He later attended Gorton where he enjoyed singing in musicals, running cross-country and painting.

After graduating from high school in 1949, Bob joined the Navy Reserves. He also

worked for a toy company and later enlisted with the Marines, serving in the Korean War in 1951. He married his wife Dorothy of 70 years on Aug. 22, 1953. He was a manager for Carson & Ellis Paint Shop for



nearly 25 years and later a salesman for various firms before retiring in 2009.

In his late fifties, he learned Kenpo karate and eventually worked his way up to a third-degree black belt. Bob also took art courses at the Rhode Island School of Design and later sang with the West Bay Choral. He was a member of the Warwick Rotary Club and attended Spring Green Memorial Church where he served as church president, deacon, trustee, Sunday school teacher and choir member.

Bob was the loving father of Robert L. Houghtaling (Elaine) and Elaine M. Cate. Also surviving are grandchildren Christopher (Kathryn) Cate, Matthew (Caroline) Cate, Nicole (Kevin) Anselmo, Nicholas Cate, Sarah (Robert) Green and Alexander Houghtaling. Great-grandchildren include Luca Anselmo, Xavier Anselm and Lunafreya Green.





THAT CHAMPIONSHIP SEASON—Steve Tuers (circle) with his teammates.

# Oh Brothers! We're in the Hall of Fame

**B**ack in 1973, I received an invite to play for the Brothers Athletic Club men's softball team in the New York State championships held in Syracuse.

On Oct. 14, 50 years later, I was inducted into the Yonkers Sports Hall of Fame as a member of the Brothers—the first and only athletic club to be inducted into the Hall.

Established in 1968, the team was named after the Christian Brothers of Sacred Heart, with most of the team made up by young men who attended the church or who lived in the Lake Avenue region. Even though I was a recent transplant from East Yonkers, I knew most of the guys because I had played against them in high school.

At the ceremonies, I hooked up with Jack Nicholls, also a Brothers' alumni and a fellow member of the 1965 Gorton championship baseball team. And, to sweeten the moment, our Gorton coach John Volpe, a previous inductee, was there to cheer us on.

A full house was on hand at the Yonkers Recreation Department on Nepperhan Avenue for the unveiling of the plaque



## Tuers De Force

that will grace the walls next to some of the greatest Yonkers athletes. The Brothers were honored not only for their on-field accomplishments but also for their service to the community.

When the Yonkers Recreation Department took over the softball leagues in the city, the Brothers dominated the A division for the better part of the 1970s. At one point, the team won more than 50 games in a row and were the Yonkers recreational league champions and city champions 12 out of 15 years from 1970 to 1985.

The Brothers were state champions from 1977 to 1985 and regional champions 1978-79, 1982 and 1984-85. In 1979, the Brothers qualified for its first national tournament and placed fifth—the highest finish for any team from the tri-state area. All told, the Brothers won 175 tournaments with a record of 713–203.

However, the Brothers showed the true meaning of teamwork off the field in 1973. A fire left several families on Morningside Avenue homeless and the Brothers were quick to raise money to help the families



Gorton's Jack Nicholls and Steve Tuers.

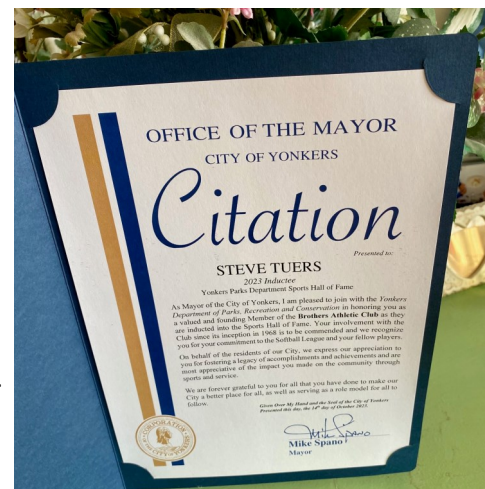
get back on their feet. The Brothers then began UCLA (United Club of Lake Avenue) and stayed active in the North Yonkers community with the North Yonkers Boys and Girls Club. Many of the Brothers became coaches for the youth organization's football and baseball teams.

A fitting part of Saturday's ceremonies was a moment of silence for the clubs' departed members followed by Mayor Mike Spano presentation of a Proclamation of Appreciation to the club and individual citations to its member.

Later that day, a dinner was held at the Dunwoodie Golf Course where members, family, and friends reminisced about the glory days.

Once a Brother, always a Brother.

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





## Cameras Installed On School Buses

It didn't take long. Only a few hours after putting cameras on school buses to catch drivers lead-footed, Yonkers officials say 136 were captured on camera passing buses that were stopped for boarding students.

More than 250 school buses are equipped with the safety devices that are activated when the stop-arm is extended and lights are flashing. For the first 30 days, drivers who are captured on film breaking the law will receive warnings.

Beginning Nov. 13, registered owners of such vehicles will receive a ticket in the mail.



Roosevelt High School to resume their classes. The driver suffered minor injuries.

## No Charges in Pedestrian's Death

The driver who fatally struck Christine Kenney-O'Rourke while she was walking near her home will not be facing charges.

The incident occurred when a 54-year-old White Plains woman drove across traffic, hitting Kenney-O'Rourke on the sidewalk, then jumped a retaining wall and crashed into a home. Investigators concluded it was a tragic accident.

The victim's family, however, noted that the driver had a missed call around the time of the crash but was never questioned about whether she was looking for her phone. "She was not intoxicated. The car was sound so what happened?" asked Susan Henry, victim's sister.

## Car Crashes Into School 9

A neighbor apparently lost control of his/her vehicle coming out of the driveway and crashed into School 9's kitchen at the corner of Waring and Fairview.

No students were injured in the crash that occurred before the start of school.

The students, however, were re-routed to

## Yonkers No. 8 In Safest Cities

Yonkers is safe at home according to WalletHub's latest survey of urban safety. The City of Hills ranks No. 8 among more than 180 cities based on various criteria, including traffic deaths, violence and unemployment.

Nashua, NH, is No. 1; Washington, DC, ranks dead last.

## Affordable Housing To Rise on Main Street

A 10-story mixed-use building with 76 affordable units and ground-floor commercial space will soon rise on Main Street.

The project, called The St. Clair, is within walking distance of the Metro-North train station, Bee-Line bus lines, downtown businesses and waterfront parks.

It will include a fitness room, community room and an outdoor roof deck. The project includes a mix of apartments: 12 studios, 36 one-bedroom, 23 two-bedroom and five three-bedroom units. It will be occupied entirely by tenants who earn at or below 80% of the Westchester area median income.



**UP FOR A GAME OF GHOST?—Kevin Henry goes one-on-one with the skeleton of a former NBA star.**



—Photo courtesy of Frank Becerra/Journal News

**FROM BROOM TO OARS—It's smooth sailing for members of the Rivertown's SUP & Yoga 4th annual Stand Up Paddle Board Witches Festival in Sleepy Hollow. Hundreds lined the walkway around Horan's Landing to view the witches on paddle boards and kayaks.**