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Latimer Signs Executive Order Against LGBTQIA+ Hate



Members of the LGBTQ Advisory Board, the LOFT Center, & Pace University Students with County Executive George Latimer, Deputy CE. Ken Jenkins & BOL members

International Transgender Day of Visibility (TDOV) is celebrated annually on March 31. It's a day dedicated to celebrating transgender people and raising awareness of discrimination faced by the transgender community globally. This year, Westchester County Executive George Latimer marked the day by signing an Executive Order reaffirming the County's unwavering commitment to promoting and encouraging dignity, respect and equality for all and ensuring the County Government will not tolerate hate towards LGBTQIA+ individuals and communities in any form. Latimer was joined at the Executive Order signing by members of the County's LGBTQ Advisory Board, The LOFT Community Center Executive Director Judy Troilo and other LGBTQ advocates in Westchester County. Latimer said: "Westchester County is a welcoming community no matter who you are, who you love, where you are from, or for that matter, any other reason. This Executive Order, a part of series of orders I am signing, makes the strong statement that our LGBTQIA+ community is a vital part of what makes Westchester our home."

New York Attorney General Letitia James said: "Transgender and non-binary people are an invaluable part of our communities and should be treated with dignity and respect. I applaud County Executive Latimer for taking critical action to safeguard the rights of transgender people in Westchester County and for leading the way in creating safe and inclusive places for all. Together, we will continue to ensure that transgender and non-binary people all across New York feel seen, heard, and valued, and that their rights are always protected."

The Executive Order, in part, states that: "Westchester County's community of residents who are lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, questioning, intersex, asexual/agender, or otherwise do not identify as heterosexual or cisgender ("LGBTQIA+") or identities within any sexual and gender minority status including but not limited to gender nonconforming, non-binary, pansexual, queergender, and Two-Spirit are vital participants in economic, civic, and social

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Tony Futia Updates Our Readers on Lawsuit Against IRS & Fed. Income Tax



By Dan Murphy

We asked Westchester resident Tony Futia for an update regarding his Federal lawsuit against the IRS. Futia refuses to pay his Federal Income Tax, on the grounds that it is voluntary tax, except for Federal employees and for citizens who complete and W-4 form. "This has been a difficult and at sometimes, very discouraging journey. For many years I have answered every correspondence from the IRS and explain to them why I'm not required to pay federal income taxes. I am never told my arguments and facts are wrong. I am always told they need more time to review my request and get back to me with a response but they never respond. They refuse to show me any law approved by Congress. They refuse to respond to my allegations. after a period of time goes by I get the same request for taxes from an IRS office in another state and the cycle starts all over again. Rather than answer any questions that would expose the fraud in the personal income tax, they are working very hard to dismiss my lawsuit, and deny me a jury trial.

Q-Where are the statutes that create a specific liability for federal income taxes?

Answer: Section 1 of the Internal Revenue Code ("IRC") contains no provisions creating a specific liability for taxes imposed by subtitle A aside from the statutes which apply only to federal government employees, pursuant to the Public Salary Tax Act, the only other statutes that create a specific liability for federal income taxes are those itemized in the definition of "Withholding agent" at IRC section 7701(a)(16).

After a worker authorizes a payroll officer to withhold taxes, typically by completing Form W-4, the payroll officer then becomes a withholding agent who is legally liable for payment of all taxes withheld from that worker's paycheck. Until such time as those taxes are paid in full into the Treasury of the United States, the withholding agent is the only party who is legally liable for those taxes, not the worker.

If the worker opts instead to complete a Withholding Exemption Certificate, consistent with IRC section 3402(n), the payroll officer is not thereby authorized to withhold any federal income taxes. In this latter situation, there is absolutely no liability for the worker or for the payroll officer; in other words, there is no liability PERIOD, specifically because there is no withholding agent.

Q-Can a federal regulation create a specific liability, when no specific liability is created by the corresponding statute?

Answer: No. The U.S. Constitution vests all legislative power in the Congress of the United States. See Article I, Section 1. The Executive Branch of the federal government

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Fentanyl Overdoses in Yorktown & New Rochelle Show How All are Affected



Two recent cases of drug overdoses in different parts of Westchester County have residents asking what more can be done on the local level to stop the spread of narcotics containing Fentanyl. In Yorktown, the Westchester Medical Examiner's report on the death of two residents found deceased with 150 cats in their home was a drug overdose.

On Jan. 30, Yorktown Police responded to 149 Cordial Road for a welfare check. They found Mary McGuinness and Patrick Hickey of Yorktown both deceased. Also in the small house, police found 150 cats.

The cause of death of for both McGuinness and Hickey was determined to be "Acute mixed drug intoxication," with Fentanyl and Cocaine found to be the two drugs that caused an accidental overdose.

In New Rochelle, on March 25th, New Rochelle Police received a call from a male stating he was possibly overdosing and that he was with three others who were also overdosing and now unresponsive. The caller was disoriented did not know where he was, and New Rochelle Police Dispatchers were able ping his cell phone and determined his location to be 50 Fountain Place.

Responding officers located the caller and the three other unresponsive males in a storage room in the rear of 50 Fountain Place. New Rochelle Fire and EMS personnel responded and transported the caller to a local hospital. The three other males at the scene were pronounced deceased by EMS Personnel. They were: Carl Encarnacion, 43, Danny Howard, 49, and Sean Thomas Windley, 28.

The fourth victim, a Mt. Vernon resident, survived. The cause of the overdose has not been identified, but media reports claim that a combination of Heroin, Cocaine and Fentanyl were involved. This investigation remains open and active, anyone with information is urged to call the New Rochelle Police at 914-654-2300.

Fentanyl is a potent synthetic opioid drug approved by the Food and Drug Administration for use as an analgesic (pain relief) and anesthetic. It is approximately 100 times more potent than morphine and 50 times more potent than heroin as an analgesic.

But many drugs sold illegally contain unregulated amounts of Fentanyl, or the users of the drugs purchased are unaware that Fentanyl is contained in the pill, heroin, and some forms of marijuana they are consuming.

We have received several email letters from Westchester residents asking what our local, county and state governments can do to combat the problem.

One letter from Mrs. McBride, from Ossining reads, "Fentanyl deaths accounted for more than 80 percent of all drug-related deaths. It is the fastest growing cause of death and we must confront this drug crisis now. Often, teens think they are purchasing Adderall, OxyContin, Percocet, or Xanax pills, but drug dealers are making these fake pills with the cheaper, stronger, and deadlier synthetic drug fentanyl. Fentanyl is odorless, tasteless, and colorless. Teens never know what they are getting. One pill can kill them." Another Op-Ed from Frank Spotorno is on pg. 7.

National Latino Officers Association Oppose Menthol Cigarette Ban



Damon Jones, co-founder Westchester Blacks in Law Enforcement, at podium, protesting Menthol cigarette ban

Since 1996 the National Latino Officers Association (NLOA) has been at the forefront of advocating against issues that adversely affect our Latino and Black communities. Today, we respectfully request that New York's governor and New York City councilmembers see the warning signs of a racially discriminatory policy: the menthol cigarette prohibition. Let it be clear that WE DO NOT ENCOURAGE, SUPPORT, OR PROMOTE CIGARETTE SMOKING. As law enforcement experts, we hope that legislators consider our perspective and understand that we don't make the laws, but we do have a hand in enforcing them.

"The National Association of Latino Officers firmly believes the best way to address tobacco use in our community is through a medical, not a criminal, approach," said Sylvia T. Miranda, MBA, NLOA Executive Director. "Additionally, rather than increase the cigarette tax by one dollar, we urge the governor and legislators to consider allocating resources to knock down on illicit cigarettes. This will allow the state to recoup the billions in tax revenue lost to street cigarette dealers and illicit sales in stores. The loss of revenue on illegal and illicit sales of cigarettes is already astronomical. Banning cigarettes doesn't prevent access it simply increases illegal access and greater loss of revenue. These revenues can help fund the education, treatment, and counseling services needed to address tobacco addiction. We urge lawmakers to consider the unintended effects of this ban and the criminal consequences it will have on Latino and Black communities."

The Coalition includes: National Latino Officers Association (NLOA), Yonkers Guardians, Westchester-Rockland Guardians, Guardians Association of New York State Troopers, The Grand Council of Guardians (GCG), Law Enforcement Ac-

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Man Steals Ambulance, Drives Drunk in Westchester



On March 30, 2023, at approximately 5:40 a.m., State Police were advised to BOLO (be on the lookout) for a Mount Sinai Ambulance that was stolen from the St. Luke's Morningside Hospital. The ambulance was being GPS tracked by FDNY and was reported to be traveling northbound on I-87 in the area of mile marker 7 in the town of Greenburgh. Several minutes later, Troopers spotted the ambulance traveling northbound near exit 9 (Tarrytown) and attempted a traffic stop. The driver failed to comply, and a slow speed pursuit ensued.

State Police utilized a tire deflation device to successfully disable the ambulance on the Governor Mario M. Cuomo Bridge. The driver, Matthew K. Chacko, 47, of Bronx, NY, was taken into custody without further incident. He was transported to SP Tarrytown for processing.

Chacko is being charged with Grand Larceny 3rd degree and Criminal Possession of Stolen Property 3rd degree; both Felonies, and Unlawful Fleeing by a Police Officer in a Motor Vehicle 3rd degree, Obstructing Governmental Administration 2nd degree, Driving While Intoxicated, and Driving While Ability Impaired by Drugs; all Misdemeanors. He was arraigned before the Village of Tarrytown Court. The incident remains under investigation.

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Women With Uterine Cancer are Now Eligible for 9/11 Fund



Now Begins the Work of Reaching Victims and Their Families

Dana Cohen, Esq.

By Dana Cohen, Esq.

For years, advocates for the 9/11 community have had to tell women battling uterine cancer that there was no help for them. These women were exposed to the same carcinogenic toxins as everyone else who lived, worked, and studied in Lower Manhattan, and if they had developed any other cancer, they would have been eligible for healthcare and compensation.

We had no satisfactory explanation for why they were singled out for disparate treatment, and the memory of these conversations, many from long ago, continues to haunt me as I lay in bed at night.

Finally, more than two decades after the 9/11 attacks, those difficult conversations have become a thing of the past.

The CDC has, at last, added uterine cancer to the list of 9/11-related illnesses, correcting a patent injustice. Women with uterine cancer are now eligible for the World Trade Center Health Program (WTCHP) and the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund (VCF), which means they will receive the healthcare and compensation that they have always deserved.

Families who have lost loved ones to uterine cancer will also be eligible for compensation for their losses.

The benefits afforded by the WTCHP and the VCF are a much-needed lifeline for sick people, and for the families they leave behind. Since the CDC's announcement, my colleagues have been reconnecting with countless individuals who reached out over the years because many of the people who were denied benefits for their uterine cancer years ago will likely not know that they are now covered. Some are far sicker now, and some will have passed away.

Now is the time to pour our collective efforts into reaching victims to help to spread the news of this change. Here is what you need to know:

- People who were in the NYC exposure zone for some period between 9/11/2001 and 5/30/2002 may be eligible for benefits including free lifetime health care and compensation for pain and suffering and economic losses. Families who lost a loved one to uterine cancer are eligible for compensation as well.
- The program is not just for first responders. It also covers people who lived, worked, or went to school in the exposure zone.
- Covered conditions include respiratory ailments and virtually every cancer. As of last week, uterine cancer (which includes endometrial cancer) is covered. Help is available now.
- In order to qualify, an individual must prove they were in the exposure zone for the requisite period. The sooner the necessary documentation is collected, the better.
- The process is non-adversarial. This is a program of the United States Justice Department, not a lawsuit.
- Although people do not need a lawyer to apply, there are experienced advocates

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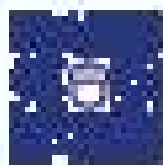
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Latimer Signs Legislation to Require Truthful Disclosure By Candidates

Following the discovery of an ongoing high-profile case of an elected official lying about their resume, County Executive George Latimer and Board of Legislators Chairwoman Catherine Borgia are taking steps to help ensure that never happens here in Westchester County by enacting legislation requiring a public record of candidates' resumes. At a ceremony held at the high school listed on Latimer's resume, the County Executive signed this unanimously passed, tri-partisan new measure into law.

Latimer said: "Honesty is the number one trait all who hold elected office must possess – and what has happened with a particular elected official in the news recently has only further reinforced the negative stereotype that all 'politicians are liars.' This legislation will help ensure we never see a case like that here in Westchester County Government and I look forward to working with the Board on its implementation."

Board of Legislators Chairwoman Catherine Borgia said: "Transparency is the cornerstone of good governance, and the Truthful Disclosure Law is a vital step towards ensuring that our elected officials are held accountable to the people they serve. This law promotes integrity and trust in our political system, and helps to safeguard the public interest. It is a good example of responsible, ethical leadership, and a model for other communities to follow."

The new law will require candidates for County Legislator and County Executive to complete a Candidate Disclosure Form that provides biographical information, including the candidate's educational, military, and employment histories. The Candidate Disclosure Form will also require the candidate to certify that the information contained in the form is true and correct. This form shall be open for public inspection.

Latimer, Executive Order continued from pg 1-

life in the County. Westchester County has established its leadership in protecting its residents by adopting human rights and fair housing ordinances that explicitly prohibit discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, and protecting youth against persons holding themselves out as mental health professionals engaging in harmful treatment of so-called "conversion therapy." It is the policy of the County of Westchester to affirm that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and that the County and its communities must treat human rights in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing, and with the same emphasis."

NYS Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said: "It is so important to reaffirm that Westchester County, as well as New York State, will always safeguard the rights of transgender and gender non-binary people. I am proud to have led the Senate in passing significant legislation, such as the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act (GENDA) that prohibits discrimination based on gender identity or expression and adds transgender New Yorkers to those protected by the state's Hate Crimes Law, as well as historic investments in organizations that support the LGBTQ+ community. I thank County Executive George Latimer for his and Westchester's commitment to our LGBTQ+ New Yorkers."

LGBTQ Advisory Board Chair Chris Oldi said: "The LGBTQ+ Advisory Board applauds and provides immense thanks to the County Executive and his administration for their continued commitment to protecting the rights of the LGBTQIA+ community. This Executive Order makes clear that Westchester County is a welcoming place to live, work, and be yourself and that your right to be who you truly are will be protected."

Westchester County Legislator & BOL Liaison to LGBTQ Advisory Board Erika Pierce said: "Westchester County is a welcoming county that aims to support all of its residents, especially those most at risk for experiencing hatred. Currently, our trans neighbors are suffering due to acts of hatred and assaults on their access to health care. I am proud to be part of a county that reaffirms its unwavering commitment to promoting respect and equality for all, and in particular today, for our LGBTQIA+ individuals who need our full support."

LGBTQ Advisory Board Member Joann Prinzivalli said: "With the stroke of a pen, our County Executive George Latimer has confirmed Westchester County's continuing commitment to be a leader in the nation, confirming our county's commitment to protect the rights of all our inhabitants to be free from bigotry and persecution. Our county's commitment to diversity means that businesses located here are assured of access to the best, the brightest, the most creative, and the most talented work force in the nation."

The LOFT Center Executive Director Judy Troilo said: "The LOFT LGBTQ+ Community Center fully supports County Executive Latimer's executive order to protect, support and empower our community. This executive order reflects a crucial step forward in our collective efforts to ensure that all members of the LGBTQ+ community have access to the resources and protections they need to thrive."

Open Registration for Hilltop Hanover Farm's April Workshops

Learn how to plant a range of seeds and familiarize yourself with local species this April at Hilltop Hanover Farm with its various workshops, which are all open for registration at HilltopHanoverFarm.org. April workshops:

- Potato Planting Community Work Day, Saturday, April 15 from 9 a.m. to 12 noon
- Annual Vegetable and Flower Seedling Success, Sunday, April 16 from 10 a.m. to 11 a.m.
- Foraging and Wild Plants Workshop, Sunday, April 16 from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.
- Native Plants Sowing and Seedling Success, Saturday, April 22 from 10 a.m. to 12 noon

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Hilltop Hanover Farm and its staff are a great resource in learning about planting, native plants and seeds and overall gardening. I'm excited they are offering these workshops to our community." Each upcoming workshop ranges in price and age. Hilltop Hanover Farm is located at 1271 Hanover Street in Yorktown Heights. For questions, call: (914) 862-5050.

The Day the Circus Came to NYC

By Eric Wolf Schoen



A friend had a dental appointment on the east side of Manhattan Tuesday. Another friend had a business appointment right near Trump Towers Tuesday. Should they go to their scheduled sessions?

The New York Police Commissioner ordered every Police Officer on duty and in uniform this week. 35,000 dedicated men and women. Never before in the history of New York City was this type of directive made. Many Officers hadn't worn their uniforms in years. Little time to go to the tailor for alterations, as if there were tailors available at a moments notice to alter 35,000 uniforms, take away the ones that still fit their occupants.

Yes friends, the occasion was the arraignment of the former President of the United States on 34 felony counts. All along since the announcement of the indictment the number was 30, misdemeanor or felony accounts. On judgement day, it was announced that the number of counts was 34 and they were all felony counts. So much for the media that was projecting incorrect numbers and types of charges for several days.

Step back for a minute. 35,000 Police Officers on duty. I can't even estimate the cost but some child won't get the proper education he or she deserves because money went to pay 35,000 police officers most of whose services were not needed. All to protect Donald. Isn't that sad!

The predictions were like the world was coming to an end. Marjorie Taylor Green, the representative from Georgia was coming to town with her MAGA (Make America Great Again) hat on Tuesday. She encouraged all Trump supporters from Yonkers to Alaska to come to the Big Apple to protest against former President Trump's impending indictment. Few came. Like my friend, they may have had a dental appointment they needed to attend where they lived. 35,000 police officers to protect the city that never sleeps from a crazy lady wearing a hat who ended up speaking to a smattering of Trump Supporters. For a measly 10 minutes. More journalists than protestors were in attendance.

I didn't have press credentials to cover judgement day, the day of indictment for Donald Trump. So I spent the day (at least up to press time) viewing the circus on television and listening on the radio. Hey, did I hear the Wolf Blitzers of the world say that my Congressman, Jamaal Bowman was leading a group of people who had the goal of drowning out the words that MAGA Marjorie and her tiny group of supporters were proclaiming regarding Donald's innocence?

I think before Congressman Bowman beats drums and blows whistles to drown out MAGA Marjorie, he should make himself visible in the Yonkers part of his district. And meet with his constituents who have broad national and international issues to discuss. Bottom line...Neither Bowman nor Brown had enough supporters to warrant 35,000 uniformed police officers and the enormous cost to the taxpayers of New York City!

So as of 5 p.m. Tuesday everything in New York City was as normal as it was all day and everyday. The men and women vendors sold pretzels and dirty water hot dogs from their carts. The fruit vendors sold their bananas and grapes, and the \$1 slice of pizza was still available if you could find it.

I have an idea. Maybe as punishment for his alleged crimes former President Trump and his supporters can lead business classes to help the pretzel man and dirty water hot dog man increase business and become rich like him. Sure accomplishes more for the taxpayer than to have Donald making license plates.

By the way, my friend with the dental appointment cancelled it. Let's hope that the matzah balls on her Passover plate are soft enough so she can enjoy the wonderful holiday feast. And let's save the circus like we had Tuesday for a day when it truly is a reality. The little boys and girls who have the money for their education redirected for unnecessary Police overtime send a big thank you Mayor Adams.

Passover. Are we really celebrating Freedom?

Rabbi Benjamin Berger, vice president of Jewish education at Hillel International, said Passover is known as the "festival of freedom." It's a celebration of not only the freedom of the Jewish people emerging from slavery in Egypt, and a tradition that results that is about remembering, and really putting ourselves in the shoes of those slaves and those who experienced the release from bondage, but also it reminds us of the freedom of all people," he said. "Anyone who's experiencing oppression of some sort, whether it's external, from other people, or internal, from our own sense of the things that oppress us internally," he added.

Rabbi Maya Zinkow, senior Jewish educator at UC Berkeley Hillel, told USA TODAY Passover "celebrates the movement from slavery to liberation." "So, we commemorate the time when the Jewish people really became a Jewish people. It's really the story of the birth of our peoplehood," she said.

Do we really have freedom when we have to post security guards at the entrances to synagogues and temples? Check identification? Take down collection boxes for fear their contents will be stolen?

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New Alzheimer's Association Report Finds Half Million Caregivers in New York



The Alzheimer's Association 2023 Alzheimer's Disease Facts and Figures report, (<https://www.alz.org/alzheimers-dementia/facts-figures>) finds the burden on New York Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers is growing. The new report released on March 15 shows there were an estimated 546,000 dementia family caregivers across the state in 2022, providing 884 million hours of unpaid care valued at \$19.09 billion.

The new report also reveals that New York caregivers and those across the country face significant emotional, physical and health-related challenges as a result of caregiving as well, including:

Dementia caregivers report higher rates of chronic conditions, including stroke, heart disease, diabetes, and cancer compared to caregivers of people without dementia or non-caregivers. In New York state, 59 percent of caregivers reported at least one chronic condition.

The prevalence of depression is higher among dementia caregivers when compared to caregivers for other conditions. In New York, nearly one-quarter of caregivers reported depression.

Seventy-four percent of dementia caregivers report they are "somewhat concerned" to "very concerned" about maintaining their own health since becoming a caregiver. In New York, 12percent report frequent poor physical health. Across the country, 59 percent of dementia caregivers report high to very high emotional stress due to caregiving and 38 percent report high to very high physical stress due to caregiving.

"This year's Facts and Figures report underscores the considerable physical and emotional toll New York caregivers experience when caring for someone living with Alzheimer's," said David Sobel, executive director of the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter. "It clearly underlines the need for caregiver support in New York and across the region. The Alzheimer's Association offers free local support throughout our state including support groups and education, as well as the Association's 24/7 Helpline. This support can be a lifeline to caregivers."

The annual Facts and Figures report provides an in-depth look at the latest national and state-by-state statistics on Alzheimer's disease prevalence, mortality, caregiving, dementia care workforce and costs of care. According to the report, there are 6.7 million people 65 and older living with Alzheimer's dementia in the United States, including roughly 410,000 in New York state.

More on this report next week. Visit <https://www.alz.org/hudsonvalley> for more information.

Westchester Parks Foundation to Host Largest Volunteer Earth Day Event April 22 1,000 Volunteers Expected

Westchester Parks Foundation is getting ready for its largest volunteer event of the year with its annual Pitch in for Parks community cleanup program. The weeklong event will kick off on Monday, April 17, culminating on Earth Day, Saturday, April 22 with over 1000 volunteers bringing the national spotlight on environmental causes. The annual event, held in partnership with the Westchester County Parks Department, will take place throughout Westchester in celebration of Earth Week.

Seth Mandelbaum, Chairperson, Westchester Parks Foundation stated: "Pitch in for Parks started back in 1994 and it has grown each year in the number of volunteers who demonstrate their desire to be stewards of the environment by acting locally. This year the culmination will be held on Earth Day itself, so we expect a record-breaking number of volunteers to come out and get our Westchester County parks ready for Spring."

Last year, 731 volunteers clocked 2,512 hours at 16 parks throughout Westchester for clean-up efforts. They planted 78 trees, removed 4,395 pounds of trash and painted 2,272 sq ft of fences, trail markers, and other surfaces in the parks. To help accommodate park stewards, additional projects have been added for volunteers, working as individuals, families, corporations, local businesses, or groups, for trash clean up, clearing trails and shorelines, restoring wildlife habitats, removing invasive vines from trees, painting, raking, and preparing and planting flower beds. Earth Day events will be held at Glen Island Park, New Rochelle; Tibbetts Brook Park, Yonkers; Bronx River Reservation at Westchester County Center, White Plains; and Blue Mountain Reservation in Peekskill.

Pre-registration is required to participate. All tools will be provided, and volunteers should wear clothes that can get dirty and closed toe shoes. For more information on how to volunteer for Pitch in for Parks, visit <https://www.thewpf.org/events> and scroll down to the park in your neighborhood to sign up.

Disbarred Attorney from Bronxville Charged with Bankruptcy



By 2022, John Roesser, left, owed the IRS, and others, over three million dollars

On March 30, Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, and Michael J. Driscoll, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Field Office of the Federal Bureau of Investigation ("FBI"), announced the unsealing of an Indictment charging JOHN ROESSER, a former attorney, with abusing the bankruptcy system by making false statements under penalty of perjury and submitting falsified records. By February 2022, after years as a partner at major law firms, ROESSER owed the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") millions of dollars in income taxes and filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy. Through multiple false statements, ROESSER lied to the Bankruptcy Court and the IRS about his purported receipt of millions of dollars in order to receive the protections of bankruptcy and keep his assets – including a multi-million-dollar residence and an Aston Martin sports car – while not paying his bills. ROESSER was arrested this morning in Bronxville, New York, and will be presented today in Manhattan federal court.

U.S. Attorney Damian Williams said: "Bankruptcy is a lifeline for many people who need its protections to keep their lives together. The defendant allegedly corrupted and degraded a system that helps so many. As alleged, he manipulated the bankruptcy system by lying and falsifying bank records so that he could use its protections to keep his assets and to avoid paying his bills. And he should have known better — he used to be a lawyer. This Office will always bring to justice those who use their status to abuse the public's trust and to try to put themselves above the law."

FBI Assistant Director Michael J. Driscoll said: "As alleged, Roesser committed bankruptcy fraud when he lied to both the Bankruptcy Court and the IRS about his receipt of millions of dollars so he could retain his assets – which included a multi-million-dollar residence and a luxury sports car – while avoiding paying his bills. The FBI will continue to investigate and bring to justice those who attempt to fraudulently exploit our nation's legitimate financial protections to satisfy their own selfish desires."

As alleged in the Indictment: From in or about March 2013 through in or about January 2018, ROESSER was a partner at three multinational law firms. During his time as a partner at these law firms, ROESSER earned substantial income — and incurred substantial income tax liability. ROESSER resigned from the New York bar in or about June 2020 after admitting to misappropriating client funds.

By 2022, ROESSER owed the IRS, and others, over three million dollars. He also owned a house that he estimated was worth millions of dollars and an Aston Martin Rapide, a luxury sports car. Instead of paying his debts, in February 2022, ROESSER filed for Chapter 11 bankruptcy in the United States Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York. See In re John Roesser, No. 22 Bk. 22049 (Bankr. S.D.N.Y.) (the "Bankruptcy"). In a Chapter 11 bankruptcy, a debtor may remain "in possession," meaning that the debtor keeps possession and control of his assets during the bankruptcy. But a debtor-in-possession must propose a viable plan of reorganization, which creditors then vote on. If a debtor fails to comply with the requirements of Chapter 11, a Chapter 11 bankruptcy can be converted to a Chapter 7 bankruptcy or dismissed. In a Chapter 7 bankruptcy, an appointed trustee usually converts a debtor's assets into cash for distribution among creditors. If a bankruptcy is dismissed, the debtor loses the protections of bankruptcy; for example, creditors can take steps to seize a debtor's assets.

ROESSER told the Bankruptcy Court and the IRS that he would soon receive millions of dollars and be able to pay his debts while keeping his house. Then, ROESSER filed a false declaration and submitted falsified records in the Bankruptcy indicating that he had received millions of dollars. This was false. ROESSER was concealing that he had not received millions of dollars after all, in a fraudulent effort to retain control of his assets while avoiding payment of his debts.

On or about March 3, 2023, after some of the above false statements were withdrawn by ROESSER's attorney in the Bankruptcy, ROESSER's Chapter 11 bankruptcy was dismissed. Without the protections of bankruptcy, creditors can now take steps to seize ROESSER's assets to pay his debts.

ROESSER, 52, of Bronxville, New York, is charged with one count of falsification of records in bankruptcy, which carries a maximum sentence of 20 years in prison, and one count of false oaths and claims in bankruptcy, which carries a maximum sentence of five years in prison.

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FINANCING AVAILABLE WITH APPROVED CREDIT

DiNapoli: Wall Street Bonuses Fell 26%, Return to Pre-Pandemic Levels

\$176,700 Average Bonus in NYC Securities Industry

Wall Street's 2022 average bonus paid to securities employees dropped to \$176,700, a 26% decline from the previous year's \$240,400, according to New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli's annual estimate. Rising interest rates and fear of a recession led to significantly less profits on Wall Street after a record year in 2021.

As a result, bonuses returned to pre-pandemic levels, which will mean a decline in related income tax revenue, as anticipated by New York state and the city. "Wall Street's cash bonuses were expected to fall as several factors weighed on the securities' industry profitability in 2022," DiNapoli said.

"A 26% decline brings the average bonus closer to what financial employees received prior to the pandemic. While lower bonuses affect income tax revenues for the state and city, our economic recovery does not depend solely on Wall Street. Employment in leisure and hospitality, retail, restaurants and construction must continue to improve for the city and state to fully recover.

"The \$33.7 billion bonus pool for 2022 was 21% lower than the previous year's record of \$42.7 billion — the largest drop since the Great Recession. The fall to pre-pandemic levels mostly reverses the pool's dramatic growth of 25% in 2020 and 15% in 2021. In 2022, Wall Street's pretax profits fell 56% from the previous year due to deep declines in investment-banking fees, which were driven by the Federal Reserve's interest-rate hikes, inflation and Russia's invasion of Ukraine. Wall Street bonuses have a significant impact on tax revenue in the state and city budgets.

DiNapoli estimates that the securities industry accounted for approximately \$22.9 billion in state tax revenue, or 22% of the state's tax collections, for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2021-22, and \$5.4 billion in city tax revenue, 8% of total tax collections for City Fiscal Year (CFY) 2022. In 2021, bonuses drove income tax gains of \$282 million for the state and \$128 million for the city compared to the prior year.

DiNapoli projects the 2022 bonuses in New York City's securities industry will generate \$457 million less in state income tax revenue and \$208 million less for the city when compared to the previous year. However, the state and city anticipated these significant declines, minimizing a fiscal shock to their budgets in the short-term. The Governor's proposed budget assumed bonuses in the broader finance and insurance sector would decrease by 25.2% in SFY 2022-23, while the CFY 2023 financial plan assumed a decrease of 35.6% for the securities industry.

The securities industry also has a significant impact on the city's employment and overall economy. In 2022, the sector employed about 190,800 people, the highest level in more than two decades. DiNapoli estimates that 1 in 11 jobs in the city is either directly or indirectly associated with the securities industry. While the city remains the capital of the U.S. securities industry, its share of jobs has been declining over time as large firms have left the city.

Sector employment in 2022 was 5.1% lower than in 2000, which represented the peak for securities employment in the city. More securities employees are back in the office, which contributes to increased spending in the city and subway ridership. Financial services firms reported 59% of employees were in the office on a given day in January 2023, compared to 52% for all firms in the city, according to the Partnership for New York City's survey.

Additionally, 43% of securities employees ride the subway, a higher rate than the citywide average for workers. DiNapoli estimates Wall Street was responsible for 16% of all economic activity in the city in 2021, and thus the financial sector's ability to generate revenue and turn profit is critically important to New York.

Letter to the Editor:

Dear Honorable State Senator Mayer

In the Westchester Rising March 17th edition here in Westchester an article pointed out the lack of instruction in civility, citizenship and character in educating our youth as described in EDN Chapter 16, Title 1, Article 17 are not being fully informed or educated on.

While attending grammar school I can remember some of these topics partially covered by teachers that were History 'buff's. It was the earlier teachers from the 1950's and early 60's that made a point of doing so. These teachings seemed to die out during my high school years at Valhalla in the early 70's even amongst the high school history teachers this issue was not presented.

Proof is in the pudding. Trying to get anyone active in this community, in civic activity or meetings is like pulling teeth. Is as though we are dead from the neck up and dont seem to know the basic principles our forefathers started the revolution over to become the free nation we live in.

As you are a co-chair on the state education front I would like to hear you speak up on this topic and pass some meaningful legislation to get citizenship back into our schools.

John Junker Tax payer North Castle NY

Report Finds \$14.8 Billion of Waste/ Corruption Prone Pots of Money in NYS Budget

Reinvent Albany

Watchdogs Release Joint Report: "Lump Sum Warning"

Watchdog groups Reinvent Albany and Citizens Budget Commission today released a joint report, "Lump Sum Warning," which found \$14.8 billion in proposed lump sum pots in Governor Hochul's Executive Budget, including \$8 billion in COVID emergency pots that are not subject to review by the State Comptroller.

The report also reviewed the Legislature's one-house budget bills, which would add millions in new lump sum pots, including a notable \$2 billion in new lump sum pots proposed by the Senate to be distributed to hospitals.

Lump sums are appropriations that authorize spending on a broad range of projects or purposes to be determined and allocated at a later date. In New York, lump sums are often also called "discretionary funds" because the Governor and the Legislature decide where, when, and how they are spent, typically months or years after they are budgeted, and without public scrutiny.

Both watchdog groups and the Office of the State Comptroller (OSC) have issued repeated warnings about the elevated risk of waste and corruption from lump sum spending. Aggravating the risk of abuse is the private process for awarding the money, which is typically not subject to Comptroller's contract oversight—a crucial check against abuse and a way to help ensure the taxpayer gets the best value on goods and services.

The groups said public dollars should not be spent through lump sum appropriations that increase the risks of waste, distortion of priorities, low return on investment, and corruption.

Recommendations:

This budget, the Governor and Legislature should:

- Not enact any new lump sum appropriations.
- Omit the \$6 billion Special Public Health Emergency Appropriation from the budget.
- Reduce the Special Emergency Appropriation to \$1 billion, and ensure it is subject to OSC oversight and competitive procurement rules.
- Fully and completely disclose distributions from all lump sum pots currently being spent. The Executive should improve the transparency of existing lump sum databases and disclosures by consolidating them as much as possible. The Senate and Assembly should also provide a centralized database of lump sum funding, with much more detail than currently provided in resolutions passed by each house.

Within the next few years, the Governor and Legislature should:

- Pass a law codifying the Governor's discretionary lump sum database. This should include improved requirements for disclosure. As spending from prior lump sums continues, there should be robust transparency and accountability for that spending.
- Provide full data for lump sum spending dating back to at least 2020.

The entire report can be viewed at this link: https://reinventalbany.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/03/CBC-and-RA-Joint-FY-2024-Executive-Budget-Lump-Sums-Report-2023.pdf?mc_cid=e7939ec884&mc_eid=0d3d3aea6b

9/11 Victims continued from pg 2-

who can assist with the process and their fees for services are capped by the federal government and may not exceed 10% of any award received.

Like many, I was there on the day of the attacks. My office is just two blocks from the World Trade Center and we all returned to work after the federal EPA told us that "the air is safe to breathe."

We now know that was inaccurate, and it turns out that listening to the EPA's guidance resulted in half of the people at our firm coming down with cancer related to their toxic exposure. Two colleagues who were only in their 40s lost their lives to cancer.

I consider myself fortunate to only have 9/11-related respiratory issues. I don't have uterine cancer but knowing that I and thousands of other women will be protected moving forward is critical.

Now, after 21 long years of waiting, we must do everything possible to reach these women. There is no making up for lost time when it comes to cancer, and there is no time to waste.

Dana Cohen is a partner at the law firm of Barasch & McGarry, lawyers for the 9/11 Community. She can be reached at dana@baraschmcgarry.com

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has no legislative power whatsoever. This means that agencies of the Executive Branch, and also the federal Courts in the Judicial Branch, are prohibited from making law. If an Act of Congress fails to create a specific liability for any tax imposed by that Act, then there is no liability for that tax. Executive agencies have no authority to cure any such omission by using regulations to create a liability. “[A]n administrative agency, may not create a criminal offense, or any liability, not sanctioned by the lawmaking authority, especially a liability for a tax or inspection fee.”

Q- How many classes of citizens are there, and how did this number come to be?

Answer: There are two (2) classes of citizens: State Citizens and federal citizens. The first class originates in the Qualifications Clauses in the U.S. Constitution, where the term “Citizen of the United States” is used. Prior to the Civil War, there was only one class of Citizens under American Law. The second class originates in the 1866 Civil Rights Act, where the term “citizen of the United States” is used. Notice the lower-case “c” in “citizen”. The pertinent court cases have held that Congress thereby created a municipal franchise primarily for members of the Negro race, who were freed by President Lincoln’s Emancipation Proclamation (a war measure), and later by the Thirteenth Amendment banning slavery and involuntary servitude. Compelling payment of a “tax” for which there is no liability statute is tantamount to involuntary servitude. Instead of using the unique term “federal citizen”, as found in Black’s Law Dictionary, Sixth Edition, it is now clear that the Radical Republicans who sponsored the 1866 Civil Rights Act were so attempting to confuse these two classes of citizens. Then, they attempted to elevate this second class to constitutional status, by proposing a 14th amendment to the U.S. Constitution. As we now know, that proposal was never ratified.

Q-Who was Frank Brushaber, and why is he so important

Answer: Frank Brushaber was the Plaintiff in the case of *Brushaber v. Union Pacific Railroad Company*, (1916), the first U.S. Supreme Court case to consider the so-called 16th amendment. Brushaber identified himself as a Citizen of New York State, and nobody challenged that claim.

The Union Pacific Railroad Company was a federal corporation created by Act of Congress to build a railroad through Utah (from the Union to the Pacific), at a time when it was a federal Territory, i.e. inside the federal zone.

Brushaber had purchased stock issued by the company. He then sued the company to recover taxes that Congress had imposed upon the dividends paid to its stockholders. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled against Frank Brushaber, and upheld the tax as a lawful excise, or indirect tax.

The most interesting result of the Court’s ruling was a Treasury Decision (“T.D.n) that the U.S. Department of the Treasury later issued as a direct consequence of the high Court’s opinion. In 27 T.D. 2313, the U.S. Treasury Department identified Frank Brushaber as a “nonresident alien, and the Union Pacific Railroad Company as a “domestic corporation”. This Treasury Decision has never been modified or repealed.

T.D. 2313 is crucial evidence proving that the income tax provisions of the IRC are municipal law, with no territorial jurisdiction inside the 50 States of the Union. The U.S. Secretary of the Treasury who approved T.D. 2313 had no authority to extend the holding in the Brushaber case to anyone or anything not a Party to that court action. Thus, there is no escaping the conclusion that Frank Brushaber was the nonresident alien to which that Treasury Decision refers. Accordingly, all State Citizens are nonresident aliens with respect to the municipal jurisdiction of Congress, i.e. the federal zone.

Q-What is “tax evasion” and who might be guilty of this crime?

Answer: “Tax evasion” is the crime of evading a lawful context of federal income taxes. This crime can be committed by persons who have a legal liability to pay a withholding agent. If one is not employed by the government, one is not subject to the Public Salary unless one chooses to be treated “as if” one is a government “employee.”

This is typically done by executing a valid Form W-4. However, as discussed above, Form W-4 is not mandatory for workers who are not “employed” by the federal government. Corporations chartered by the 50 States of the Union are technically “foreign” corporations with respect to the IRC; they are decidedly not the federal government, and should not be regarded “as if” they are the federal government, particularly when they were never created by any Act of Congress.

Q-Why does IRS Form 1040 not require a Notary Public to notarize a taxpayer’s signature?

Answer: This question is one of the fastest ways to unravel the fraudulent nature of federal income taxes. At 28 U.S.C. section 22 1746, Congress authorized written verifications to be executed under penalty of perjury without the need for a Notary Public, i.e. to witness one’s signature.

This statute identifies two different formats for such written verifications: (1) those executed outside the “United States” and (2) those executed inside the “United States”. What is extremely revealing in this statute is the verifications executed “outside the United States.”

The statute adds the qualifying phrase laws of the United States of America”. Clearly, the terms “United States” and “Unites States of America” are both used in this same statute. They are not one and the same. The former refers to the federal government -- in the U.S. Constitution and throughout most federal statutes. The latter refers to the 50 States that are united by, and under, the U.S. Constitution.

It is painfully if not immediately obvious, then, that verifications made under penalty of perjury are outside the 50 States of the Union (read “the state zone”) if and when they are executed inside the “United States” (read “the federal zone”). Likewise, verifications made under penalty of perjury are inside the 50 States of the Union, if and when they are executed outside the “United States”. The format for signatures on form 1040 is the verifications made inside the United States (a federal zone) and outside the United States of America (state zone).

Q-What does it mean if my State is not mentioned in any of the federal income tax statutes?

Answer: The general rule is that federal government powers must be expressed and enumerated. For example, the U.S. Constitution is a grant of enumerated powers.

If a power is not enumerated in the U.S. Constitution, then Congress does not have any authority to exercise that power. This rule is tersely expressed in the Ninth Amendment, in the Bill of Rights. If California is not mentioned in any of the federal income tax statutes, then those statutes have no force or effect within that State. This is also true of all 50 States.

Strictly speaking, the omission or exclusion of anyone or anything from a federal statute can be used to infer that the omission or exclusion was intentional. In Latin, this is tersely stated as follows: *Inclusio unius est exclusio alterius*. In English, this phrase is literally translated: Inclusion of one thing is the exclusion of all other things [that are not mentioned]. This phrase can be found in Black’s Law Dictionary. If a place is not mentioned, every American may correctly infer that the omission of that place was intentional.

Q-Has Title 26 of the United States Code (“U.S.C.”) ever been enacted into positive law, and what are the legal implications if Title 26 has not been enacted into positive law?

Answer-No, Congress has never passed a law enacting a federal income tax for every American citizen. If you go online or ask a congressman, or senator, if you are required to pay a “federal personal income tax”. They will tell you that the 16th amendment requires you to pay personal income taxes on your labor. That statement is false- the 16th amendment was never ratified and I can prove it. The TRUE holding by the Supreme Court, is that the 16th amendment

1) did not amend the constitution;
2) did not authorize a direct, unapportioned income tax;
3) did not grant Congress any additional taxing authority— none;
and 4) it’s sole affect is to prohibit the Supreme Court from considering the source of income in determining whether an income tax is a direct unapportioned tax or a indirect tax.

Q-What is the status of your Federal Case?

Answer-I have filed a case in federal court (civil law)against the United States government(requesting trial by jury).I have also filed a case in state supreme court(common law trial by jury)against two IRS agents, the Social Security administrator, Chase Bank and the Bank of Greene county for liens placed upon my property. The federal government has made a motion to move my case from the New York State Supreme Court to federal court.

A jury trial that government will try to deny me would expose the biggest fraud on the American people in the history of this great country.

Politicians-Do Your Job, Fix Our Problems and Help Your Constituents



OP-ED By Frank Spotorno

I think we can all agree that there are many of our fellow New Yorkers who are struggling, living paycheck to paycheck, and don’t have the money to pay their supermarket bill or their prescription medications. And many are afraid of taking the subway and living their lives the way they did before COVID.

I live n Yonkers, but travel to Queens during the week, so I see firsthand what is happening. Unfortunately, I see a lot of our politicians trying to make headlines and pass laws that will not help everyday New Yorkers. Or they refuse to see the problems facing all of us:

Some examples of this dysfunction are:

George Santos legislation. In 2016, I ran for Congress against Joe Crowley in the Queens district now represented by AOC. I was vetted by my party and by my opponent. George Santos was not vetted by his party, and if the democrats had the goods on him, they couldn’t get the major NYC media to write about it. Now Westchester County government has passed a law which will have a committee, or civil servants, review the resumes of candidates for office. I read a letter in this paper last week from John Vorperian which I agree with. He writes that any attempts to legislate against another George Santos is a waste of time and tax dollars. That is the job of both political parties and the media.

Two more blatant examples of “notice me” legislation:

The proposal to change the name of the Mario Cuomo bridge, back to the Tappan Zee Bridge. First, does anyone care? I see the new signs when I drive across the new bridge, but that’s the only time I think about it or take notice. Is this simply an attempt to punish former Governor Andrew Cuomo?

The proposed removal of Donald Trump’s name from a park on the Westchester-Putnam border. This is another example of highlighting something that nobody knew about or cares about., I decided to go up to the park after reading the story about it in this paper. And I agree with the headline, this is another waste of time. Yes, a lot of Westchester residents dislike our former President. But I don’t, and the majority of residents in Putnam don’t want the name changed. My real question is how do any of these ideas affect the lives of everyday New Yorkers? Does it help them stay safe? Or afford to pay for their food prescriptions?

Three real problems that I am asking our leaders to address immediately are:

Fentanyl-and Overdoes -My stepson overdosed on an Opioid pill that was laced with Fentanyl two years ago. He didn’t know he was taking Fentanyl, and he didn’t want to die. Like millions of Americans, he was in and out of rehabilitation and was fighting addiction.

I don’t think the answers are to provide “safe spaces” where addicts can get high, or turning the other cheek towards the drug dealers who are selling this poison. Where is the Fentanyl coming from and how can we stop it from coming to New York? That is a difficult question, but I don’t hear a lot of suggestions or answers.

Crime and Bail Reform: This is an issue where I disagree with my State Senator from Yonkers, Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. I think judges should be given the discretion to set bail and put repeat offenders in jail. The visual of having someone shoplifting 13 times, and walking out of court and doing it again and again, is demoralizing to those of us who play by the rules and pay our taxes.

I take the subways in NYC, and people are afraid when they get on. But they have no choice, they have to get to work or go to school. But the criminals now have the control, and that cannot continue. I agree with Governor Hochul, who sees that something needs to be done. I don’t want someone going to jail, or dying in Rikers, for possession of a small amount of drugs. But in my conversations with police, there are a few hundred repeat offenders in Yonkers, and a few thousand repeat offenders in NYC, that are committing most of the crimes. Something needs to be done.

Economy jobs: As a proud Union member, I have always believed in demanding that construction jobs that use public funds, or have tax incentives, be built with union labor. In New York City, and in Yonkers, that it not what is happening, even though there is a prevailing wage law that mandates it. In my travels to hundreds of construction sites, I find undocumented migrants taking the jobs of taxpaying union members. I don’t see any Jobs Plans, or Jobs Programs, from anyone in government.

Instead of suggesting that we change the name of Trump Park or the Cuomo Bridge, I would recommend that our elected officials begin to address these problems, and there are many more. Many voters are getting frustrated when they see their lives getting more difficult, and the responses from our leaders doesn’t help them when they sit at the kitchen table and figure out what to cut next.

Please-Do Your Job, Fix Our Problems and Help Your Constituents. Or Maybe I Will Run Myself.

No Menthol Ban, continued from pg 1-

tion Partnership (LEAP),Nassau County Sheriff Guardians, Nassau County Police Guardians,

Individual justice practitioners affiliated with: National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives (NOBLE), National Association of Blacks in Criminal Justice (NABCJ), National Association of Black Law Enforcement Officers (NABLEO), National Association of Criminal Justice Practitioners (NCJP)

The ACLU wrote this in a 2021 letter to the FDA: “Well-intentioned efforts to continue to reduce death and disease from tobacco products must avoid solutions that will create yet another reason for armed police to engage citizens on the street based on pretext or conduct that does not pose a threat to public safety. Of adults, approximately 80 percent of Blacks and 35 percent of Latinx who choose to smoke prefer menthol cigarettes. Banning menthol cigarettes risks massive setbacks to our criminal justice system at precisely the moment we should be advancing reform. If menthol cigarettes are banned, their sale and distribution would be a crime punishable as a felony under federal criminal statutes.”

Do Not Criminalize a Public Health Issue

NLOA acknowledges the negative health impacts of tobacco use. However, numerous reports find that overall, smoking rates in the U.S. are the lowest they have ever been in public health history. In addition, people of color who are menthol smokers have the same overall cessation rates as their non-menthol-smoking white counterparts.

Adopting a public health solution, such as expanding anti-smoking education and prevention and cessation programs, would keep communities safer and healthier far more effectively than a prohibitive policy.

As New York considers a menthol ban, NLOA asks:

- Exhaust all non-prohibition alternatives before removing menthol cigarettes from legal and regulatory channels.
- Evaluate how a ban would adversely impact communities of color, trigger criminal penalties, and increase negative interactions with law enforcement.
- Meet with legislators to provide evidence-based criminal justice resources for pretrial stops and racial profiling.

“Public health and public safety solutions can exist side-by-side. We ask policymakers to choose another path. A menthol cigarette prohibition is not the right answer for New Yorkers, especially in communities of color,” Ret. Commissioner Jiles Ship, former NOBLE Past National President and NCJP coalition member.

Visit <https://nloaus.org/> to learn more about The National Latino Officers Association (NLOA)

AMVETS Donate Blankets to Veterans



Commander Sam Riti of Post 40 AMVETS at Yonkers YMCA presenting lap blankets to Veterans.

Pictured in photo (left to right) Lucia Ortiz CEO of Yonkers YMCA, Commander Sam Riti Post 40 AMVETS, Vincent Taliaferro Marine Veteran and George Negron Army Veteran.

Blankets were donated by the New York State Foundation AMVETS American Veterans.

Commander Riti will be going to FDR Montrose Hospital and Castle Point Veterans Hospital to distribute lap blankets to Veterans there.



Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz receives a proclamation from Adam Levine representing Yonkers Mayor Spano, proclaiming the Lubavitcher Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson's dedication to education. Photos by Robert Kalfus

By Robert Kalfus

In ancient times every seven years Jewish men, women, and children would gather at the Temple on the first day of Sukkot to hear the king of Jerusalem read aloud from the Torah. The gathering was practiced in Jerusalem until the Second Temple was destroyed at 70 CE. There now is no king, and the Temple does not stand, but the ritual continues to inspire Jews from around the world to gather together. The tradition known as Hakhel – “Assemble!” in Hebrew – and appears to be seeing a resurgence of popular interest, especially inspired in mid-20th century by the Hasidic Chabad Lubavitch Rebbe Menachem Mendel Schneerson, who focused the gathering on the spirit of gathering and education of children. Hakhel’s explicit inclusion of women and children makes it an attractive ritual for many Jews today.

Hundreds of Jews from the Bronx and of Westchester Jewish communities gathered on the south lawn of Ridge Hill, next to Whole Foods, and celebrated Hakhel, a Torah commandment to “Gather the people – men, women, children, and the strangers in your communities – that they may hear and so learn and revere your God and observe faithfully every word of His teaching.”

Ten NY Chabads from Westchester and The Bronx united to create the Jewish Unity Celebration’s free activities which included pre-Passover crafts, balloon art, a petting zoo, music by Pumpidisa, one of Jewish music’s most popular bands, cotton candy, face painting, and kosher snacks available for a charge. Rabbi Levi Groner, co-director of Chabad of Pelham, explained “this is a special Hakhel year, which occurs every seven years. This year, we had the idea to do an event pre-Passover” occurring just three days before Pesach. “We decided to create a concert and festival since this, a Hakhel year, which occurs even seven years. I don’t know if there is any better time than before Pesach, the most observed Jewish holiday. Pesach is a time when we all get together and is therefore a special time to have this event.”

Passover begins at after sundown on Wednesday evening, April 5th and continues for eight days.



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ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION

Keeping Hope Alive Across Diverse Communities: Caregiving Resources for Alzheimer's Disease

A virtual symposium from 10-11:30 a.m. Saturday, April 22

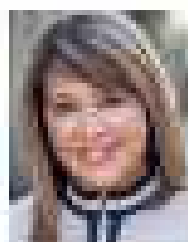


The Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter is pleased to announce our March 2023 equity and inclusion symposium — "Keeping Hope Alive Across Diverse Communities: Caregiving Resources for Alzheimer's Disease." This virtual symposium seeks to address diverse communities and provide information, support and hope for caregivers. Our speakers will talk about the latest research and resources in Alzheimer's disease, the impact of aging and the disease on diverse communities and the perspectives of someone living with the disease.

Guest Speakers



Dr. Roshelle Castillo



Suzanne Jones



Rufus Brown

THANK YOU TO OUR SPONSORS



This program is supported in part by a grant awarded from Westchester County Office of Economic Development.