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AOC Comes to Westchester for Bowman Reelection Kickoff



Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, (AOC), in Yonkers for Congressman Jamaal Bowman's reelection kickoff.

By Dan Murphy

On Jan 24, Congressman Jamaal Bowman officially kicked off his reelection campaign in his hometown of Yonkers, at the Red Hook restaurant. Joining Bowman at the event were his volunteers and supporters, several Westchester elected officials and Congresswoman Alexandra Ocasio-Cortez, (AOC).

Rep. Bowman is running for reelection to a third term. He is being challenged in a democratic primary in June by Westchester County Executive George Latimer in the 16th District-NY, which includes parts of the Bronx, and all of Yonkers, Mt. Vernon New Rochelle, White Plains, the Sound Shore and most of mid-lower Westchester.

"Westchester County cannot be bought, it's not for sale. Not in Yonkers, or the Bronx or Ossining. No part of this district is for sale. It belongs to the people and kids and teachers and families in the district. It belongs to us all and it belongs to Jamaal Bowman. When you stand up to power, power fights back. You can't stand up against AIPAC and get reelected. You can get in the door, but the question now is can you survive?" said AOC.

"They're trying to make an example of Jamaal Bowman. You see what happens when you stand up for working people. That's what the establishment and money interests are trying to do- If they go after you -it means you are making a difference—but when you are actually shaking the table and moving the needle that is when they come after you," said AOC, who graduated from Yorktown High School.

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500 Rally Against Hate: Police Look for Vandal who Painted "Genocide Supporters" on Jewish Stores on Scarsdale -NR Border



window of Cheryl's Closet in Golden Horseshoe Shopping Center with "Genocide Supporters" Graffiti photo by Eric Schoen

By Dan Murphy

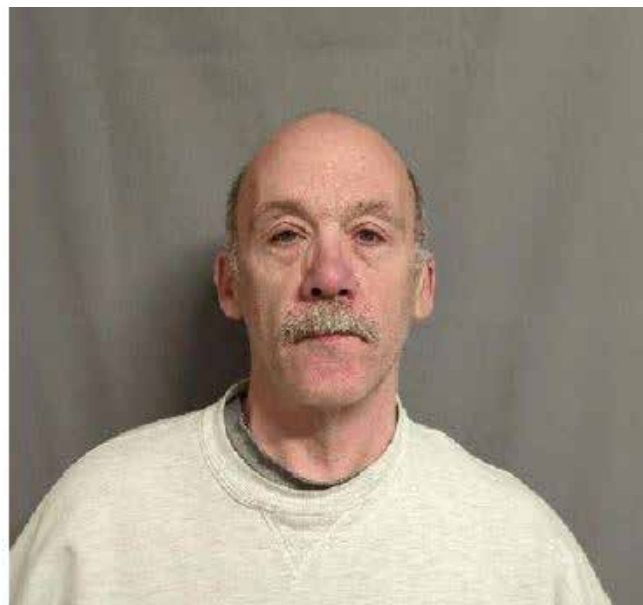
The Westchester community quickly rallied to speak out against the hateful comments spray-painted on two Jewish owned businesses in the Golden Horseshoe shopping center, on the New Rochelle-Scarsdale border. More than 500 attended a rally in the shopping center on Jan. 25, after a vandal spray painted "Genocide Supporters," on the windows of The Scoop Shop and Cheryl's Closet, at 4am that same morning.

The shopping center is located on Wilnot Road, across the street from the JCC of Mid-Westchester. The incident was recorded on video from the Shopping Center. New Rochelle police are investigating the incident. Westchester DA Mimi Rocah's office is also investigating and other law enforcement may join in the search for the person of interest.

Westchester District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah And New Rochelle Police Commissioner Robert Gazzola issued the following statement: "The New Ro-

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After 50 Years of Sexually Abusing Young Boys, James Collins of Westchester Finally Behind Bars



Mug shot of James, "Jimmy" Collins, above, after his arrest. Collins has been arrested and accused in lawsuits of sexually abusing dozens of young boys in Westchester dating from the 1970's to 2023

By Dan Murphy

The arrest of James, "Jimmy" Collins by the FBI last month has ended what his 16 alleged victims say was a "horror story" of sex abuse with Collins while they were ages 11-17.

Collins was arrested twice in 2023. Once for paying for sex with an underage boy -15-in the bathroom of the Chappaqua Library, (he later admitted to doing so to police).

While Collins was out on bail, Collins attempted to meet the same victim again, but this time an undercover officer was on Snapchat with him. Collins was arrested at the library and is now behind bars.

But four years ago, multiple plaintiffs and victims of Collins abuse filed lawsuits in Westchester County Supreme Court. The suits, filed in 2020, were permitted under the New York's Child Victims Act.

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Happy 100th Birthday Irene Smythe-Bullock



Irene Smythe-Bullock with her oldest son Waymon Smythe.

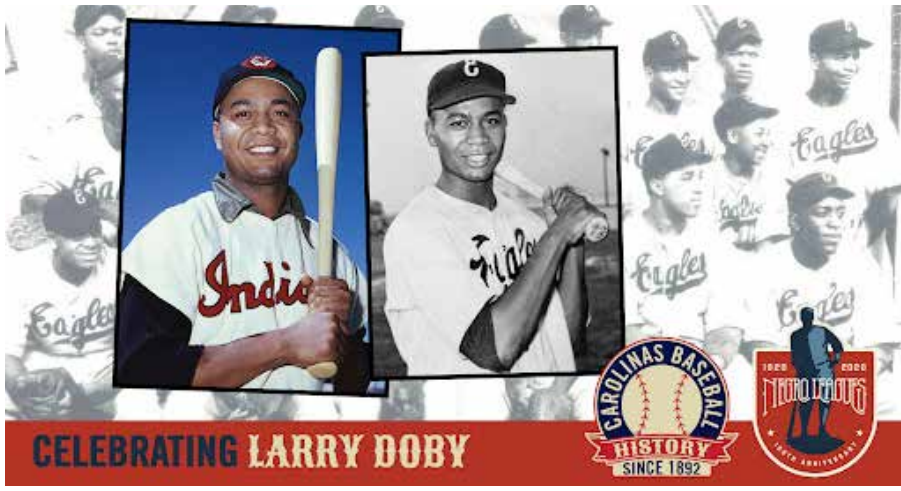
By Dan Murphy

Happy 100th Birthday to Irene Smythe-Bullock, who celebrated the milestone with friends and family, including 81 grandchildren. One of Irene's great grandchildren is Andre Rainey, the former Mayor of Peekskill.

Rainey writes, "On Saturday, we celebrated the 100th birthday of my great-grandmother, Irene Bullock. The event was attended by several elected officials and County Executive George Latimer, State Senator Andrea Stewart

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The Other American Hero of 1947 Larry Doby



By John Vorperian

A rare bipartisan moment happened on Capitol Hill this past December. The late Larry Doby was awarded a Congressional Gold Medal. Doby was the first Black player to complete in the American League. He was the second Black baseball player in the Majors in the modern era. Behind Jackie Robinson, Doby endured the same challenges and injustices during his athletic career.

On July 5, 1947, Doby for the Cleveland Indians made his major league debut as a pinch hitter against the Chicago White Sox at Comiskey Park. In April 1947, Robinson broke baseball's color line playing for the Brooklyn Dodgers.

Upon entering the visitors' clubhouse Doby's teammates averted their eyes and did not speak to him. The WWII Navy veteran had to go to the Chicago clubhouse to get a first baseman's glove since none of his Cleveland teammates offered him one.

As for this cold, icy reception Cleveland manager Lou Boudreau told him "Shrug it off." In a 2002 interview Doby said "I knew it was segregated times, but I have never seen anything like that in athletics. I was embarrassed. It was tough."

Prior to Cleveland, Doby was a rising star in the Negro Leagues hitting .341 and .414 in his two seasons with Newark. His stellar performance in the 1946 Negro Leagues World Series helped the Newark Stars nab the championship. That notoriety caught iconoclastic Cleveland owner Bill Veeck's attention to sign the New Jersey denizen to a contract.

An early proponent of integrated baseball, Veeck did regularly incur the wrath of the baseball lords. The maverick promoter wrote about being barred in 1942 from buying the bankrupt, cellar-dwelling, Philadelphia Phillies. His error was making overtures as to stocking the team with Negro League players.

Doby became the first Black player to hit a World Series home run. In 1948 Game Four he homered off Boston Braves' Johnny Sain. Cleveland won the Fall Classic.

Over his 13-year tenure in the Bigs, Doby appeared in 1,533 games, batted .283 with 253 home runs and 969 RBIs. He was voted to seven All-Star teams and won two World Series titles.

Retired in 1962, Doby stayed with baseball as a coach with Montreal, Cleveland, and the Chicago White Sox.

In 1978, he became the second Black major league manager, behind another Robinson, Frank Robinson. That season Doby piloted the White Sox.

Doby was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1998.

A Congressional Gold Medal is awarded by an act of Congress which needs two-thirds of the House and Senate to co-sponsor the act before it can be considered by committee. Congress has awarded 184 medals since the first was issued in 1776 to George Washington. Jackie Robinson received the honor posthumous in 2003. The same year in which Larry Doby died.

On what would have been Doby's 100th Birthday, December 13th Larry Doby Jr. accepted the medal on his father's behalf from Congressional leadership.

The medal's reverse side depicts a famous sports photo from 75 years ago. When a Black player and a white one embraced each other in the sheer joy of victory that goes beyond baseball. The image is that of Doby and Cleveland pitcher Steve Gromek with an inscription chosen by Doby's Family. "We are stronger together as a team, as a nation, as a world."

It has been a long time coming to finally give this other American hero of 1947 the appropriate official and rightful National recognition he richly deserved.

John Vorperian, a Senior Associate with the Jackie Robinson Project at Tampa Bay International School, Clearwater FL, also hosts a cable television program *Beyond The Game* seen on White Plains Community Media.

Slater: "Death by Dealer" Law Will Save Lives



Assemblyman Matt Slater, left, with Congressman Mike Lawler, at public meeting to discuss ways to combat drug overdoses in Westchester-Putnam

On Jan. 26, Assemblyman Matt Slater led a collaborative discussion with federal, county and local officials, county district attorneys, local law enforcement agencies, support groups and various organizations, to develop a comprehensive framework focused on prevention, treatment, recovery and enforcement. This framework aims not only to address immediate concerns but also to establish the foundation for sustainable solutions.

Participants in the discourse reported a surge in dealers utilizing social media and online chat platforms to peddle fentanyl-laced narcotics into communities. The Town of Yorktown Police Department reported closing a local smoke shop yesterday for selling drugs and advocates raised concerns related to our senior population.

In 2022, the nation witnessed a staggering 300 overdose deaths per day. The escalating illicit use of fentanyl poses a growing threat, with those who peddle it and endanger others yet to face appropriate penalties. Prosecutors have voiced concerns about cashless bail policies, highlighting the disruption it has caused in prosecuting these cases. Recovery advocates noted a significant decline of up to 50% in treatment court participation due to the lack of leverage provided by bail in these situations.

"I thank everyone who came today. We've received a lot of insight from those who are on the frontlines saving lives. We are committed to translating this feedback into action. Together, in a bipartisan spirit, we will tackle this issue, recognizing that it's not about politics—it's about lives," said Slater.

Slater's "Death by Dealer" (A.7985) bill, with bipartisan support, would empower local officials with the authority, just like federal-level prosecutors, to categorize the actions of dealers leading to an individual's death as a class A felony. This measure serves as a compelling deterrent, making dealers reconsider before jeopardizing another person's life.

"I want to thank Assemblyman Matt Slater for pulling everyone together to have this discussion and for the legislation he has introduced. It is critically important that we not only deal with treatment, recovery, education and prevention but we also deal with enforcement. We need to go after those dealing, trafficking, distributing and manufacturing fentanyl and hold them accountable," said Rep. Mike Lawler.

"This bill is so important as it is the beginning of taking back and bringing back common sense. I urge everybody out there to support this bill," said Putnam County District Attorney Bob Tandy.

"Due to the outstanding work of our department, we were able to make an arrest recently of a dealer providing fentanyl-laced drugs resulting in the death of another person. But we had to go to federal prosecutors with those charges because there is no vehicle in New York state to allow us to prosecute on a local level. After this open discussion, I am optimistic that things are going to get done thanks to Assemblyman Matt Slater and Congressman Mike Lawler," said Chief of Yorktown Police, Robert Noble.

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Over 5,000 Tickets Issued for Driving Through School Bus Red Lights in Yonkers



Wake Up Drivers! Slow it Down! STOP for School Buses

By Dan Murphy

A new program in Yonkers, which fines drivers who drive through a red light STOP sign from school buses picking up and dropping off students, has issued 5,000 tickets in 100 days.

The program, called Yonkers Safe Stop” School Bus Safety Program mails out violations with a \$250 fine for the first offense.

In October of 2023, the city announced that the program was coming in November. A pilot program began in early November, in which violations were made but not enforced. More than 1,000 incidents have been reviewed and verified as violations over two weeks.

When violations began to be enforced on Nov. 13, one month later, on December 13, Yonkers Traffic Police Officer Frank Sabatino said that 2,100 tickets were issued. –VERIFIED–

Now, after 100 days of enforcement, 5,000 tickets -violations, have been issued.

Clearly, drivers are either not aware of the new program, or there is a serious problem in Yonkers, and across our area, with drivers not obeying the STOP for Bus Red Sign, or both.

The City of Yonkers partnered with Verra Mobility to place cameras on the 500 Yonkers school buses, which are operated by private bus companies. Verra Mobility reviews the video footage from the buses and mails out tickets to violators. Both the City and Verra share in the revenues, similar to the Yonkers Red Light Camera program.

Simple math tells us that 5,000 violations at \$250 each is \$1.25 Million, for 100 days.

And separate from the video cams, Yonkers Police Traffic Division are also issuing summonses for violating the law and passing by a stopped school bus. Those penalties are stiffer, with a first conviction fine of up to \$400 and a third conviction of at least \$750, AND 5 points on your driver’s license.

City Council Minority Leader Mike Breen, who supported the program, said, “This number of violations is alarming and dangerous for our students. One trouble spot is on Central Avenue, where some think that they don’t have to stop. But you have to stop on any road-it’s the law.”

The violations are likely to increase as all the school bus companies working for the Yonkers Public Schools have cameras installed on their buses.

NY State law has not changed under violations for passing a school bus. The enforcement of the law has been changed.

So Beware-and Understand

If the stop arm is extended, and the red lights are flashing- Everyone stops!

If you don’t, regardless of which direction you are traveling in, you are in violation of the law and will receive a ticket in the mail! This also applies to opposite lanes of traffic- even when separated by a median!!

Remember, when a school bus stops, has red lights flashing and stop-arm extended, traffic approaching from EITHER DIRECTION MUST STOP before reaching the bus:

For more information on Yonkers Safe Stop, visit www.yonkersny.gov/saf-estop.

Yonkers NAACP President: Apologize to Jewish Community and Leffell School

By Eric Wolf Schoen



The press headlines and stories say it all:

NY POST: NAACP finds ‘no evidence’ of antisemitic taunting at NY girls HS basketball game — but group’s probe didn’t question players, officials

FOX NEWS: NY NAACP chapter finds no evidence of antisemitic slurs during basketball game, but there’s a twist: Yonkers NAACP didn’t contact the players, coaches or administrators during its investigation

NEWS 4 NEW YORK: Head of the Leffell School told News 4 that the NAACP did not speak with any of its players, coaches or administrators and that their findings contradict their students’ accounts.

NEWS 12: This report was produced without any conversation with Leffell School players, coaches, or administrators.

WAKE UP WESTCHESTER: Official Statement from Michael A. Kaye, PhD, Head of The Leffell School:

“We are aware of a recent report casting doubt that antisemitic slurs were uttered during the January 4 girls’ varsity basketball game between Roosevelt High School and The Leffell School.

“This report was produced without any conversation with Leffell School players, coaches, or administrators.

“Its conclusions are contradictory not only to our students’ accounts of their experience, but also to the findings of the Yonkers Public Schools’ internal investigation into the matter, which determined definitively that antisemitic words and phrases were used at multiple points in the context of this game.

“This was noted in the January 8 joint statement released by Interim Superintendent Rodriguez and Mayor Spano, which remains prominently posted on the school district web site, and has been reaffirmed in numerous conversations with district and city officials in recent days.

In case you have been living under a rock during the month of January, here’s the story. On January 4, there was a girls basketball game between Roosevelt High School-Early College Studies in Yonkers and the Leffell School, a private Jewish School in Hartsdale. Many of you know the Leffell School by its long-time name, Solomon Schechter School.

To quote the Yonkers Public Schools website, ‘antisemitic remarks were made against The Leffell School’s women’s team.’ According to Reports, they included a student saying, “I support Hamas, you f–king Jew,” and Yonkers kids yelling “Free Palestine” and other anti-Jewish statements throughout the game.

Yes friends, it’s 2024. It’s not easy being Jewish anymore. Last weeks Yonkers Rising had a picture of Martin Luther King, Jr. Visiting my synagogue, Temple Emanu-El in Yonkers with Rabbi Abraham J. Klausner and Temple member and artist Yetta Colin viewing a sculpted bust of Ghandi she created.

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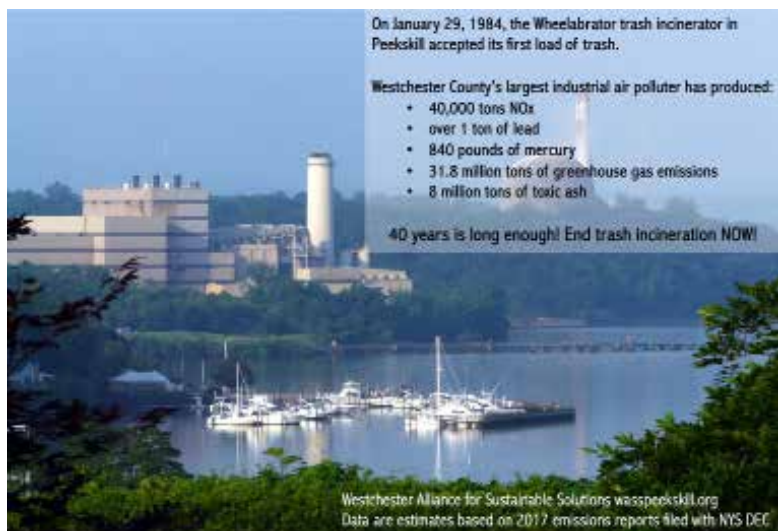
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Environmental Justice for Peekskill: At 40, It's Time to Blow Out the Birthday Candles on Westchester's Trash Incinerator-Wheelabrator



Environmental Justice Op-Ed by Climate Action Council member Raya Salter and Dr. Courtney Williams of Westchester Alliance for Sustainable Solutions

On January 29, Westchester's trash incinerator, the Wheelabrator, will mark its 40th birthday. Put away your party hats because this is no cause for celebration. Did you know that Westchester vast majority of Westchester County's garbage is burned in Peekskill at the Wheelabrator? Did you know that Westchester's trash incinerator is the largest industrial air polluter in the county? And did you also know its emissions contribute the F we get from the American Lung Association for our county air quality?

If you didn't, you're not alone. Most people in Westchester don't realize where their trash goes after they put it on the curb. Even some of Peekskill's residents who breathe the pollution every day don't realize what the smoke stack is that they can see from their window, hear from their couch, and smell from their porch. It is no surprise that some of the richest communities in the nation send their garbage to a largely Black and Brown city with more than its fair share of poverty.

Whether you call it Wheelabrator, Resco, or WIN-Waste, its presence in Peekskill has dubbed us a Disadvantaged Community. According to New York State, Peekskill's pollution burden is worse off than 98% of census tracts in the entire state, thanks in large part to the incinerator. It means we're bearing an undue burden and are ill-equipped to cope with the health and climate effects. This is environmental injustice and it's hurting us all. So what are we throwing away and where else could it go?

Westchester County currently sends 2500 tons of 'garbage' to Wheelabrator in Peekskill every day. It's not just about what we're throwing away, but also where it could alternatively go. A staggering 90% of the waste incinerated at Wheelabrator is recyclable. This includes everyday items like food scraps, paper, metals, and plastics. The true potential lies in reimagining this 'waste' as resources—compost for gardens, raw material for new products.

Westchester County is already working to reduce waste, including a CompostED facility in Valhalla, a Materials Recovery Facility in Yonkers, food scraps recycling, and a new textile recycling program announced this month. Working together, we can scale and improve these programs!

One big step forward is the \$90,000 that Westchester County included in the 2024 budget for a waste reduction study. If the county plays its cards right, this \$90,000 could make a plan to get us off expensive trash incineration and on our way to Zero Waste- with good jobs, cleaner air, and healthier kids along the way. We urge the County to adopt a Zero Waste goal, like the ones in Ulster County and New York City, to help get us across the finish line.

It's important to note that we also need State officials to step up for environmental justice. New York's landmark climate act demands that emissions and co-pollutant reductions be prioritized in frontline communities. According to a recent state audit, the Department of Environmental Conservation must do more to protect the community of Peekskill. The aging and polluting Wheelabrator maintains operations as we speak on a permit that officially lapsed in 2021 and has been in "staff extended" limbo ever since.

It was on January 29, 1984 when the first load of trash was brought to the "garbage-to-energy" plant in Peekskill. At the time it seemed like a good idea to turn trash into power. Now we know that it has led to poor air quality and environmental injustice in Westchester. It doesn't have to be this way! We can build a system to manage our waste that protects public health, sustains our planet, and doesn't drain our pocketbooks. Let's make Wheelabrator's 40th birthday its last - and close the trash incinerator.

DiNapoli: \$4 Million in Unclaimed Gift Cards from Westchester



DiNAPOLI URGES NEW YORKERS TO SPEND HOLIDAY GIFT CARDS
Over \$27 Million in Unused Gift Cards Recovered by DiNapoli's Office in 2023

New York State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli is urging New Yorkers to keep track of the gift cards they received during the holidays. Unused gift card balances can be turned over to the Comptroller's Office of Unclaimed Funds (OUF) after five years of inactivity. In 2023, the Office recovered over \$27 million from gift cards. For this reason, everyone should check for unclaimed funds.

"Many people don't realize that after 5 years, unused gift card balances are turned over to the Comptroller's Office of Unclaimed Funds," DiNapoli said. "Now is a great time to check for unclaimed funds and use those gift cards you received over the holidays to avoid possible inactivity fees or having the money turned over to my office."

Statewide, New York City residents are owed the most in unclaimed funds stemming from gift cards, totaling nearly \$40 million, followed by Long Island residents at \$10.8 million and Hudson Valley residents at \$7.4 million.

DiNapoli's office returns an average of \$1.5 million in unclaimed funds every day and works with retailers to identify the owners of unused gift cards. Retailers can provide OUF with a name if the person registers the gift card online, if they have been issued a refund, or if the card was purchased with an existing store account. If the owner's information is not known to a New York retailer, it will report the card details, such as card number and balance, which can be used by the recipient to claim the balance. The Comptroller's office also sends letters to newly reported owners of unclaimed funds.

DiNapoli reminds gift card recipients to read the fine print on the card for details about any fees and expiration dates, and to consider registering the card with the retailer.

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Con Edison's Scholar-Athlete of the Week: Martin Palomeque, Peekskill High School



Martin Palomeque

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to Martin Palomeque, pictured above, for being named a Con Edison Scholar-Athlete of the week. Martin is a senior at Peekskill High School and is captain of the Peekskill High School wrestling team. He is wrestling at 160 pounds and is competing in his third year of HS wrestling.

Last year, Martin was one match away from placing in the 2023 section one championship. He posted a season record of 23-7 and entered this season with the mindset of capturing a section one title for Peekskill, which has not been done in over 30 years.

Martin started the season with a record of 19-1 pinning or majoring every opponent he has faced so far. His only loss this season is to Sam Szerlip from Nyack high school, who finished 3rd in the New York State tournament last year.

In January, Martin improved to a record of 24-1, and won the title at the Eric D'Agnes Memorial Somers Tournament. Martin had 2 pins entering the Finals. He faced off with the #1 seed and defeated him 7-2, to win the Tournament in the 160-weight class.

Martin is a member of the Varsity Football team, Track & Field team and ran on the Cross-Country track team for one year.

Martin's wrestling career is just getting started as he is planning on continuing his career at SUNY Cortland or Brockport State University.

Martin has a 90.38 GPA and has completed 5 AP courses. "Martin is very committed to continuing his education and I have witnessed his remarkable academic achievements, commitment to learning, and invaluable contributions to the classroom. He is a bright, determined student and an outstanding teammate, in and out of the classroom," said Peekskill HS Principal Dr. Jenna Ferris.

Palomeque is Chief Editor of the Yearbook Club and serves on the Ski Club, Business Olympics and is a member of the Prom Committee. He also volunteered at the Cherry Blossom Festival in 2022, and for the PHS Blood Drive for the past two years.

Martin also volunteered in the Peekskill High School library and served as the Assistant Manager Track and Field. As a volunteer with the S.T.A.R.T. Reading Program, Martin works with elementary school students.

Martin's teachers, counselors and staff at Peekskill High School stated, "Martin is always willing to go the extra mile to learn more and accomplish his goals. He is honest, dependable, and incredibly hard-working. Beyond that, he is an impressive leader and captain of the wrestling team who always manages to foster positive discussions and bring the best out of others. Martin is very energetic and has a huge amount of work ethic."

Currently enrolled in AP US Government and Politics, Mr. Palomeque continues to exhibit commendable growth, actively contributing to discussions and displaying an increasing capacity for critical analysis and a deep understanding of complex governmental and societal concepts. His dedication to learning and intellectual development is noteworthy and inspirational."

Yonkers PBA President Keith Olson Retires After 34 Years of Service

Also Serves as President-Affiliated Police Assoc. West.



Keith Olson

By Dan Murphy

The people of Yonkers, and members of law enforcement across Westchester, are tipping their hats and saying thanks for your service—well done, to Yonkers Detective Keith Olson, who retired last week after 34 years in the Yonkers Police Department.

Olson served as President of the Yonkers Police Benevolent Association, (PBA), for the last 14 years. And for the past 7 years, Olson has served as President of the Affiliated Police Associations of Westchester.

We spoke to Olson about his professional career in law enforcement, the changes in fighting crime over his 34 years in the YPD and the more recent changes to NYS criminal law.

On Jan. 8, Olson attended his last Yonkers PBA meeting as President and posted, "All good things must come to an end. 14 years as President of the Yonkers PBA, 34+ with the YPD, 63% of my lifetime as a cop with the greatest police department on Earth. Tonight was my final PBA meeting. Special thanks to all the "old timers" that showed up tonight and an even bigger thanks to all those who allowed me to serve and protect the best cops on the planet. I love and respect you all. Stay safe my brothers & sisters."

Olson could have started to receive his pension years ago, so why did he continue to work and serve as a member of Yonkers Finest?

"I think you know when it's time, and that day finally came to me. My mom passed away recently and that solidified it for me," said Olson.

How is the job of being a police officer different now than it was 30 years ago?

"The job is not the same now, and mostly in good ways. We are more professional, more compassionate, and more efficient, as police officers and as a police department in Yonkers. I am proud to say that I was part of all the changes and the YPD is the best police department around."

"Usually, the Union leaders don't get credit for the positive changes, or improvements. We are usually portrayed as the villain. But the PBA was a huge part of all of these improvements and that should not be forgotten."

Olson served as PBA President under four Yonkers Police Commissioners; Ed Hartnett, Charles Gardner, John Mueller, and Chris Sapienza today.

Hartnett came to Yonkers from the NYPD, where he brought a Police monitoring system called COMPSTAT, that the NYPD had used successfully, starting in 1994. COMPSTAT compiles a daily record and review of crimes reported to gather trends and use additional resources in those locations. It was credited with decreased crime rates in NYC.

Olson was an advocate for the YPD using COMPSTAT on the streets of Yonkers and thought that Hartnett was necessary to bring in as Commissioner "to right the ship."

"I was having conversations with then Mayor Phil Amicone about how we needed COMPSTAT. Many of the people running our department didn't understand it, and were treating crime like it was the weather, and hoping it wouldn't rain tomorrow, instead of trying to control it."

"Thirty years ago crime was out of control in Yonkers. Cops were getting the job done but we had no plan. COMPSTAT took the hard work that cops were doing and made it more effective."

Olson was appointed to the Yonkers Police Department on May 19, 1989 at the age of 20. Keith has served in the YPD's 4th Precinct, Housing Unit and Street Crime Unit. In 2001 he was promoted to the rank of Detective and soon after was transferred to the YPD Gang Unit where he worked for nine years.

"When I joined the gang unit, we had no relationship with the feds. We were able to form strong partnerships with the FBI, which resulted in huge take-downs of entire gangs, making neighborhoods safe."

One of the most satisfying moments as a cop for Olson was when he was awarded for his work, and the work of the YPD gang unit along with the FBI,

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Westchester Rising

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BIDDING OPPORTUNITY

City of Valhalla, NY with the following certifying authority:

SBA, DOT, New York State, New Jersey, Connecticut

Inviting qualified contractors, specifically firms within New York State to contact J.F. Shea Construction, Inc. (Prime Contractor listed below) regarding subcontracting services and material supply opportunities in connection with the upcoming tunnel and shafts project.

The Work under this contract is in the city of Valhalla. The Work consists of:

KENS-EAST-1

Owner: New York City Department of Environmental Protection
59-17 Junction Boulevard
Flushing, New York 11373
BID DATE: March 28, 2024 at 10:00 AM

Opportunities to participate exist in the following specific areas of soil/rock excavation, hauling, excavation support systems, deep foundation system (slurry walls or secant piles, soldier beams), dewatering systems, structural steel, engineering, survey, geotechnical instrumentation and monitoring services, materials testing, demolition and site preparation, tree removal, aggregates and fill, traffic control, sewer tap and sewer bypass pumping, A/C paving, environmental investigation, utility relocation, paving, fencing and gates, planting and seeding, retaining wall, cured in-place concrete structures, cast-in-place pipe lining, reinforcing steel, ground stabilization, shotcrete, concrete finishing, miscellaneous metals, mechanical steel pipe, ventilation HVAC, precast concrete shaft covers, temporary office buildings/ services, Temporary electricians, waterproofing, service utilities, grouting, electrical/I&C, River bank stabilization, drilled shaft, pest control, IT services, waste disposal, cleaning services, and security.

Any business seeking to participate as an DBE, in the Contract that is not currently certified as set forth above review is encouraged to contact the certifying authority for SBA, New York State, State DOT, New Jersey, or Connecticut to obtain current certification.

NYDEP has an FTP site where you can view all plans, specifications, and addendums for your convenience. Please contact Aimee Remo at (909) 594-0990, aimee.remo@jfshea.com, to receive instructions on accessing the FTP Site.

J.F. Shea Construction, Inc.
667 Brea Canyon Road, Suite 22
Walnut, CA 91789
Phone: 909-594-0990 fax: 909-869-0827
Send Inquiries/Certifications to Aimee Remo: aimee.remo@jfshea.com

Notice of formation of Jaylee's Beauty Lounge, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/29/23. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 55 Cole Street, Ste. 101, Yonkers, NY, 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Say Say Mwah, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/31/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY, designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 42 Linden Street, Apt 1L, Yonkers, New York 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of 326 PROSPECT AVE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 03/24/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Brian Caldwell at 130 Franklin Avenue, Harrison, NY 10528. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of 66 Meserole, LLC., Articles of organization filed with the NY Secretary of State (NYSS) on 11/28/2023. Office location: Westchester County. NYSS is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served and shall mail a copy of process to: 11 Bon Air Ave, New Rochelle, NY 10804. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Calimero II, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 12/4/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Marie H. Durif-O'Dowd, 1632 First Avenue, Apartment 326, New York, NY 10028. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Ana Lucia Nail Lounge LLC, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/8/24.. Office: New York County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 115 Chelsea Street Hawthorne, NY 10532. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of ALPHONSE, JULIE & GLENN CONSULTING LLC. filed with the SSNY on 01/30/2024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 142 Garth Rd. Ste. 3N Scarsdale NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

CORPORATION NOTICE

CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, February 7, 2024 at 5:15pm, Mayor's Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW AMENDING SECTION C1A-25 OF THE CHARTER OF THE CITY OF YONKERS ENTITLED 'ETHICS BOARD; MEETINGS AND VOTING' TO REQUIRE THE TAKING, MAINTENANCE AND DISSEMINATION OF MINUTES OF ALL PUBLIC MEETINGS.

Said hearing may be adjourned from time to time as necessary. Further information, including access to a copy of said proposed local law, may be obtained at the City Clerk's office, City Hall, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York and on the City's Website.

MIKE SPANO, Mayor Date: January 19, 2024

Formation of 25 COUNTY ROUTE 62 LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 10/6/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The principal business loc. and address SSNY shall mail process to is Floann and Raymond Landeck, 79 Pembroke Dr., Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of [THE NAVIE THERAPY GROUP L.L.C], LLC filed with SSNY on [08/29/23. Office: [WESTCHESTER] County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to LLC: [200 Bloomingdale Road, Suite 1A, White Plains, NY 10605]. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of SurgeExpand, LLC. filed with the SSNY on 10/16/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 324 Palisade Ave -1F, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of A Soft Delicate Flower LLC. Arts of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/3/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY is designated as agent upon whom process against the LLC may be served. SSNY shall mail process to 1840 Crompond Road Peekskill NY 10566. Purpose: any lawful act.

Notice of Formation of FEVER PITCH SPORTS CARDS & COLLECTIBLES LLC. Articles of Org. filed with the SSNY on 01/01/24. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of the process to John Amelio, 2138 Saw Mill River Road, Yorktown Hts. NY 10598. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of D & E Guest Reality Management, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/15/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, D & E Guest Reality Management LLC, 79-81 Main Street, P.O. Box 1100, Yonkers, NY 10702. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Pachamama Vibes, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 11/20/2023. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc. 7014 13th Ave., Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal business address: 762 Hoover Avenue, Peekskill NY 10566. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

Formation of TRUIH LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 8/15/2023. Office loc.: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address SSNY shall mail process to Lawrence Rebbecchi, 550 Green Dolphin Dr., Placida, FL 33946. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Yugen Creationz LLC. Arts. Of. Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/28/024. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 10 Commerce Dr, 102. New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Opinion: Let's Keep it real when it comes to anti-semitism and face the fact that Zionism has hijacked Judaism

By Clifford Jackson, Larchmont

Anti-Semitism has been a constant adversary for Jews around the world, and especially in this country, for centuries. It has a long history that I will go into shortly. However Anti-Semitism also applies to those who speak semitic languages such as Arabic, Aramaic and Amharic. Unfortunately this level of hate has been pigeon-holed to just mean a hatred of Jews. Palestinian Muslim and Arabs in general are also Semitic speaking people and can also be the victims of antisemitism, it is pure western colonialism and racism that seems to apply antisemitism as something that only European Jews are victims of. Ask many Ethiopian (Black Jews) and what they have experienced in the so-called state of Israel as far as not just the racism from Israeli's but from attacks on their Judaism in that country and it is not viewed by some as anti-semitism. Notwithstanding Mazi Pilip an Israeli/Ethiopian Jew from Long Island who is totally colonized in her thinking and an absolute disgrace to Ethiopian Jews and People of color around the world. She is a white person in dark skin. A very typical malaise of western colonialism. That colonialism has also fostered anti-semitism in this country and throughout Europe for five centuries with all of the pogroms and displacement of Jews around the world especially in Europe.

Anti-Semitism goes back to the crusades where white Christians during the 11th 12th and 13th centuries, under Pope Innocent III, Pope Urban II and Pope Eugenius led violent conquests of Jerusalem and the holy lands slaughtering thousands of Muslims and Killing hundreds of Jews along the German Rhine. That violence of white Christians against Jews and Muslims continued with the Spanish Inquisition in the fifteenth century where anti-semitism towards the Sephardic Jews was at its apex where thousands were tortured for "heresy" including "water boarding" many were killed and expurgated. The same treatment was inflicted by these savage European Christians against Muslims in Spain. In 1614 there were a series of anti-semitic laws passed in Frankfurt Germany that led to Jews being persecuted. In 1789 another series of anti-semitic laws were passed in Romania leading to more violence and pogroms against Jews. The Nuremberg Laws passed in 1935 after the taking over of the Reichstag in 1933 by Hitler and the Third Reich took away Jewish citizenship and led to the unlawful imprisonment of thousands of Jews. These laws were passed based upon Nazi scientists who studied the laws of the American apartheid system in this country. Specifically the Racial Eugenics theories and practices of the American medical profession which helped support the efforts to maintain the purity and so-called superiority of the white race here in America.

Kristallnacht in November 1938 where there were violent anti-Jewish pogroms and Jewish businesses were decimated are all clear examples of the evil history and persecution of Jews around the world. The Nazi Holocaust which was the greatest HATE crime in Human history committed primarily against Jews leading to the death of 6 million Jews, as well as 2 million Romani people (Gypsies) and tens of thousands of black Africans where Germany had a colonial control over south west Africa (Namibia). It was the greatest hate crime based upon Hitler's defining Jews as the bane of the world's existence in Mein Kampf. It was NOT the greatest crime in human history that has been committed by the white western world towards African and indigenous people as far as the absolute numbers killed from the slave trade, as well as five centuries of the European annihilation of indigenous peoples in the Americas.

Malcolm X on January 5, 1965 on a Canadian program called "Front Page Challenge" acknowledged the persecution of Jews in the Soviet Union under Brezhnev.

What is not Anti-semitism and is morally repugnant is that when people are protesting against what Benjamin Netanyahu and his right wing thugs are doing in their slaughter, from the latest casualty count, of more than thirty thousand Palestinian Men, women and children and their efforts at Genocide. When people around this country and around the world call this evil committed by the Israelis 'Genocide' they are calling it for what it is and those who claim that these people are anti-semitic are a categorical fraud as far as their Judaism and make a mockery of real anti-semitism as all of my aforementioned examples make clear. There are at least three hundred Holocaust survivors as of 2014 who condemn the Israeli occupation of Palestine and who today are calling what is happening in Gaza "Genocide" and are in agreement with much of the world's condemnation of Israel as well as the Findings of the ICJ (International Court of Justice) that what is happening to the Palestinians is Genocide. They are rejecting the racism and anti-semitism of Alan Dershowitz towards Palestinians when he says "only listen to European Country's when it comes to Israel". Dr. Israel Shahak a Holocaust survivor and professor of Organic Chemistry and a human rights activist said "the Nazis made me afraid to be a Jew. The Israelis make me ashamed of being a Jew". The governor of NY, as well as the mayor of New York City and the mayor of New Rochelle and the Westchester County Executive are a bunch of mendacious politicians, who label those who call what is happening in Palestine 'genocide' examples of anti-semitism. In the case of George Latimer's run for Congress an example of a whole slew of dishonest self-serving politicians falling in line and following the dictates of AIPAC. I use to have respect for Latimer I don't any longer. Support Jamal Bowman for Congress who has been to Gaza and saw first hand the evil being done to Palestinians and knows what real anti-semitism is.

Reject the racism of Eric Schoen who supports Latimer for Congress and extols former Congressman Eliot Engel who said "All cops are heroes". Well maybe Mr. Schoen and Mr. Engels needs to review the Kerner Commission report of 1968, that Dr. King agreed with, that said the rioting especially in the northern cities from 1963 to 1968 were the result of many factors "including racist police violence and occupation of black communities and communities of color for decades". Zionism has hijacked Judaism and Zionism is evil! The racism of those in Larchmont and the surrounding communities including Jews who call anti-Zionism and attacks on the brutal Israeli occupation anti-semitism make the Judeo-Christian ethic a LIE, and contravene the real meaning of Abraham Heschel, Martin Buber and what many of my Jewish brothers and sisters in this country and around the world fight for everyday supporting social justice in this racist society and western colonized world.

Letter to the Editor:
Dear Yonkers Times,

I'm a person of faith who feels called to care for people and steward the earth.

There is a critical story shaping up in Albany I hope you will cover.

The climate emergency is a threat to all New Yorkers. Millions of New Yorkers are also paying too much for energy. Outdated Public Service Law prevents us from transitioning from polluting, expensive fossil fuels to efficient clean heating technologies.

The New York HEAT Act would align our Public Service Law with our climate law while protecting consumers.

With the Senate supporting the whole bill and the Governor supporting some of the key provisions, all eyes are on the Assembly. The Speaker and key committee Chairs could play a decisive role in determining whether the bill is included in the Assembly's one-house budget proposal and how serious the Assembly is about implementing the state's climate law.

Please cover this critical climate and energy affordability bill.

Sincerely,

Judith Zingher, Elmsford

Income tax filing season is underway!

Time to Free File

Visit www.tax.ny.gov for truly free tax filing

The New York State Department of Taxation and Finance today announced the start of the 2024 income tax filing season. The Tax Department and the IRS will begin processing income tax returns on Monday, January 29, 2024. The deadline to file returns and pay any tax owed (or request an extension of time to file) is midnight on April 15, 2024.

The Department urges taxpayers to explore submitting their taxes using Free File software available on the Tax Department website at www.tax.ny.gov (search: free). Taxpayers who meet income and other qualifications may be eligible to file both federal and New York State returns with private online tax preparers at no cost through the Tax Department website using Free File.

Many New Yorkers take advantage of this free service each year, saving them hundreds of dollars and more in tax preparation fees.

"Too often, taxpayers who use commercial tax preparation software are surprised by charges for additional fees when completing their annual filing," said Acting Commissioner Amanda Hiller. "For a truly free experience, go to the New York State Tax Department website where there are no added costs or hidden fees – ever – for those who qualify."

Free File information is available in multiple languages at the Department's website.

The Tax Department website also offers income tax filing resources for taxpayers who want to do their own taxes. It explains how to get started, how to check for available tax credits and how to check the status of your refund. It also provides tips for hiring a tax preparer for people who prefer to have someone do their taxes for them.

classifieds

Attorney

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Watch the full video at the link below (The last 5 minutes are the most relevant)

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c471938-1/internal-revenue-service-overnight-hearing>

IRS Director Admits Taxes Are Voluntary 2013

Steve Miller, former Director of the Internal Revenue Service (IRS), admitted at a Congressional hearing that the taxes collected by the IRS are not mandatory -- but voluntary.

When questioned at the House Ways and Means Committee (WMC) hearing last week, Miller told House Representative Devin Nunes that "America's tax system is voluntary..."



Income tax is voluntary in the US

What the Democrats did: They said that the tax system is voluntary, and that the IRS is a collection agency, not a government agency. They said that the tax system is voluntary, and that the IRS is a collection agency, not a government agency. They said that the tax system is voluntary, and that the IRS is a collection agency, not a government agency. They said that the tax system is voluntary, and that the IRS is a collection agency, not a government agency.

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Source: <https://www.c-span.org/video/?c471938-1/internal-revenue-service-overnight-hearing>

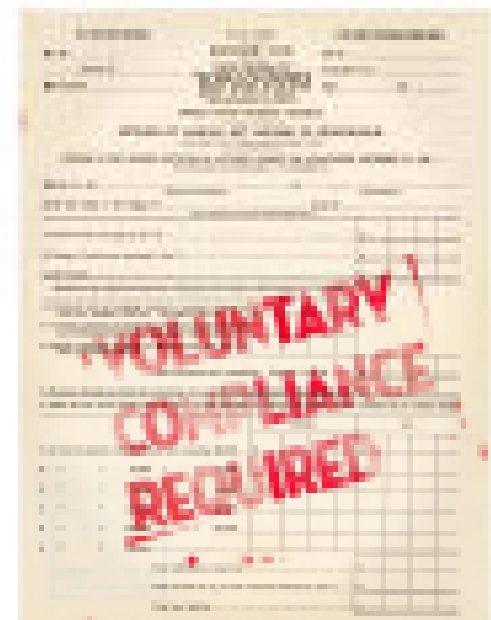
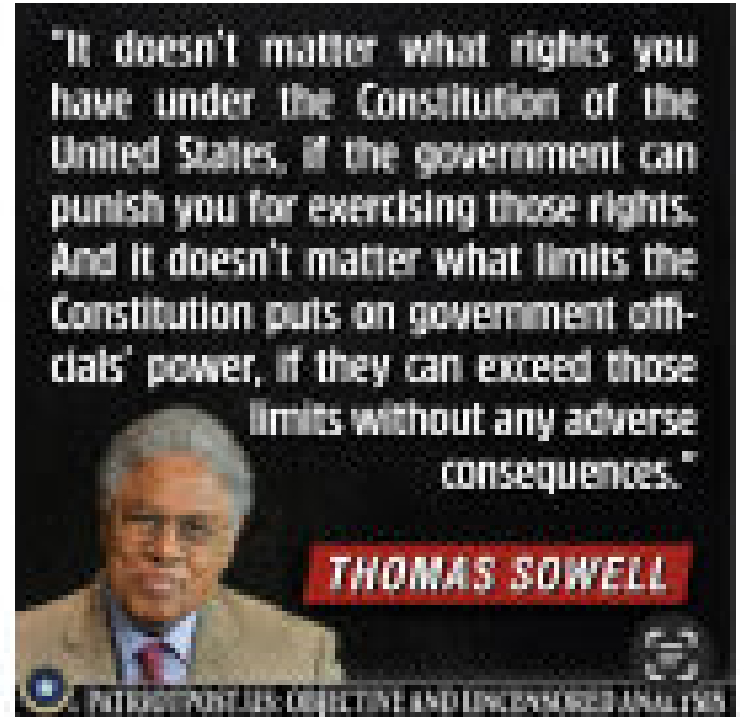


"We the people of New York have for the past 25 years provided thousands of hours of professional investigative services of IRS fraud and corruption at a cost of millions of dollars."

"Federal officials in Washington D.C. never denied any of our claims, attended our meetings or provided any of their best tax experts to dispute our claims."

- Anthony Futia Jr.

A government that forces you to account to them for the way you spend YOUR money but refuses to be accountable to you for how they spend YOUR money should be immediately replaced.



Form 1040 from 1913

How did Government Officials feel about the IRS?

"I don't like the income tax. Every time we talk about these taxes we get accused in the files of 'tax evader' according to his capacity and to each according to his wealth. That's socialism. It's written into the Communist Manifesto. Maybe we ought to see that every person who gets a tax return receives a copy of the Communist Manifesto with it so he can see what's happening to him."

- T. Edwina Jackson, Commissioner of Internal Revenue, May 25, 1956 in US News & World Report

"The Federal tax system, in short, utterly unjust, utterly inequitable, utterly completely counterproductive [sic] with injustice and is fundamentally undemocratic ... it has caused a rebellion and it's time we rebelled."

- President Harold Gump, May 1951, Williamsburg, VA

"The tax system is based upon voluntary assessment and payment, not upon coercion."

- United States Supreme Court, in Flacco v. United States

"The tax system is based on individual self assessment and voluntary compliance."

- Max Baer Duffin, Internal Revenue Audit Manual (1975)

"Only the non-taxpayer would be likely to know that he could refuse to provide his records to IRS agents ... Who would believe the ironic truth that the non-taxpayer faces much more than the individual who refers upon his constitutional rights."

- Judge Cummings, U.S. Federal Judge, in US v. Dickerson (7th Circuit 1987)

"Eight decades of amendments ... to [the] code have produced a virtually impenetrable maze ... The code was unintelligible to most citizens ... The code was equally repulsive to every government employee who was charged with administering and enforcing the law."

- Shirley Peterson, former IRS Commissioner, April 14, 1979 at Southern Methodist University

"The agency that it is no secret on the way Americans keep their books cannot even pass financial audit."

- Ted Stevens, Republican Senator from Alaska

Adults | Black History Month | Virtual



**Madame C.J. Walker:
The First Black Millionaire**

Monday,
February 5
7 pm | 

Born in 19th century rural Louisiana to former slaves Sarah Breedlove rose to become the first female African-American self-made millionaire in the United States. Known as Madam C.J. Walker, she developed a line of beauty care products for black women.



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Letter to the Editor: 3.5 million views on Tik Tok Re-Lakeland School District's "Personality Quiz"

To the Editor:

I read with interest your story on Jan. 18, about a disturbing personality test given to middle school students in the Lakeland School District. So far, I have not read any additional comments from the district, nor have I read any additional complaints from parents or students.

I was able to find out that on the Twitter-X page for Tik-Tok 3.5 Million viewers have taken a look at this story. Looking forward to more coming, thanks
Lori Einsel, Cortland Manor

Link to the story referenced below:

<https://yonkerstimes.com/a-very-disturbing-personality-test-with-sexual-questions-at-lakeland-copper-beach-middle-school-goes-viral-from-sageops-libsoftiktok/>

THE CITY OF YONKERS/YONKERS PUBLIC SCHOOLS, BUREAU OF PURCHASING, One Larkin Center, 3RD Floor, Yonkers, New York 10701 (Located in the Yonkers Riverfront Library Building across from the Metro-North train station) will receive sealed Bids for the following projects until 2:00 PM, on the dates below.

Sealed Bids will be publicly opened and read at the address above in the 3rd Floor Finance Conference Room.

The building is open from 8:30 AM to 4:00 PM for receiving packages via courier services and in person. If delivering bids in person, individuals must see the Public Safety Officer in the library atrium, who will contact Purchasing to meet the individual at the 3rd floor elevator.

Those interested in listening to the bid opening and the reading of bids can dial Conference Call number 1-701-802-5221 and enter Access Code 1354203 when prompted.

Solicitation documents are available for downloading from the Empire State Purchasing Group website at <http://www.empirestatebidsystem.com/>. The City welcomes and encourages participation by local and minority and women owned business enterprises.

1. Bid RFB-7093 - Opening date: 2/16/2024: Purchase of 3,750 Fellowes, or Yonkers approved equals, carbon and HEPA air filters for use throughout the Yonkers School District (KAS).
2. Bid IFB-7094 - Opening date: 3/15/2024: Building & Electrical Contracts for Phase 3 – Windows & Ceiling Replacement, and New Generator at School 29, 47, Croydon Road, Yonkers, NY 10710 (MM).
3. Bid RFB-7095 - Opening date: 2/16/2024: Purchase of three Tobii Dynavox TD1-110, or Yonkers approved equal, speech generating devices, software, and support (JH).
4. Bid RFB-7096 – Opening date: 2/16/2024: Purchase of Riddell Speed-Flex, or Yonkers approved equal, football helmets and accessories for the Yonkers School District (LC).
5. Bid RFB-7097 - Opening date: 2/23/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to repairs repair parts and repair services as-needed for Smeal fire apparatus (AC).
6. Bid RFB-7098 - Opening date: 2/16/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide maintenance and repairs as-needed for overhead garage doors (KS).
7. Bid RFB-7099 - Opening date: 2/23/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to provide maintenance and repairs as-needed for Cummins emergency back-up diesel engines (FB).
8. Bid RFB-7100 - Opening date: 3/08/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for two 12-month terms, to provide inspections, testing, maintenance, and repairs as-needed for various types of fire extinguishers used throughout City facilities and the Yonkers School District (FB).
9. Bid RFB-7101 - Opening date: 3/15/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for two 12-month terms, to provide maintenance and repairs of oil burners and the cleaning and repair of boilers throughout the Yonkers School District (FB).
10. Bid RFB-7102 – Opening date: 2/16/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, for the purchase of mechanical joint fittings and ductile iron pipe (75 items) as needed (AC).
11. Bid RFB-7103 – Opening date: 2/21/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, for the purchase, as needed, of bulk quantities of 36% food grade phosphoric acid per City specifications, approximately 35,000 net gallons (AC).
12. Bid RFB-7104 – Opening date: 2/21/2024: Purchase of 15 Megaflo Breather part# 23150100AT, or Yonkers approved equal and 15 Hydrowick Gold Anodized Storz part #5180RZAG, or Yonkers approved equal, couplings with stampings (KAS).
13. Bid RFB-7105 – Opening date: 2/21/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, for the purchase as needed of 150-pound cylinders of liquid chlorine per City specifications, approximately 700 cylinders (AC).
14. Bid IFB-7106 – Opening date: 3/08/2024: Ann Street and Hearst Street Bridge Repairs, Yonkers, NY (KS).
15. Bid RFB-7107 – Opening date: 2/21/2024: Twelve-month contract, with option to renew for 12-months, to purchase EBAA Iron, Inc. Series 1100 and 1000DEC Megalug, or Yonkers approved equal, mechanical joint restraint systems for ductile iron pipe as needed, 18 items (AC).

Anti-Semitic Graffiti, continued from pg 1-

chelle Police Department and the District Attorney's Office are investigating reports of antisemitic graffiti found on storefronts at the Golden Horseshoe shopping center in New Rochelle. We understand the unsettling atmosphere of fear across all impacted communities and the safety of our residents and businesses remains a top priority for law enforcement. We have zero tolerance for hatred and bias in Westchester and we will use the full force of the law to hold perpetrators accountable and keep our communities safe."

Both of the stores that were vandalized had signs that read "We Stand with Israel" in their windows. Chanting "Hate Has No Home Here," the 500+ supporters included elected officials and religious leaders in the community.

Assemblywoman Amy Paulin said, "Our community is still reeling from the Oct. 7 terrorist attack, and still suffering from the knowledge that more than 100 hostages are still being held captive. That struggle has been compounded by an incessant rise in antisemitism everywhere, in our institutions of higher learning, at children's sport games, and at what we see today, acts of vandalism.

"Make no mistake – antisemitic acts such as these are a threat to Jews everywhere. If history is any kind of guide, this will not end here. The Nazis did not stop with the Jews, they also persecuted persons with disabilities, those they considered racially different from themselves, homosexuals, Jehovah Witnesses, and many others. Racists know no boundaries. In short, they seek to destroy the diversity that makes communities like ours great.

"That being said, we cannot be intimidated by this hateful vandalism. We must all stand up against it, and make sure that these acts never become normalized. Antipathy is also our enemy. This must be a call for everyone to support each other and stand against all acts of antisemitism and all acts of hate.

State Senator Mayer added, "I am deeply disturbed by the overt acts of antisemitism and vandalism at the Golden Horseshoe. It's absolutely unacceptable and I am hopeful law enforcement quickly apprehends those responsible and they are held accountable. This act is not reflective of the community we call home. But we will not be silent when these acts occur. These acts clearly targeted our large and vibrant Jewish communities in New Rochelle and Scarsdale. I stand fully united with them and we will not be intimidated by acts of violence such as these."

County Legislator Judah Holstein remarked, "I am horrified to see Jewish-owned businesses in my own neighborhood vandalized in a manner that evokes the darkest chapters of history. It evokes memories of the stories my grandmother told of stores marked with Jewish stars in 1930s Poland. It's shocking that some in our community justify this by conflating antisemitism with criticism of Israel's policies."

State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins said, "There is no place for hate in our communities, or in our country. These despicable acts not only affect the Jewish community, but all of us. I represented both Scarsdale and New Rochelle in the past, and I stand with New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert and Scarsdale Mayor Justin Arest in a steadfast, unified force against antisemitism. No matter where this hatred rears its ugly head, the good people of New York will stand resolute, unwavering against acts of violence and intimidation."

New Rochelle Mayor Yadira Ramos-Herbert said, "Our elected leaders, community organizers, our business leaders are standing together, shoulder to shoulder with our Jewish community and reflective of the true values of New Rochelle, which is to reject all hate, all antisemitism, all bigotry."

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, "Tonight the community came together to stand against antisemitism after two Jewish-owned businesses were targeted and vandalized. We must stand with Scoop Shop and Cheryl's Closet, the Jewish community, and others who experience hatred in any form."

Congressman Jamaal Bowman said, "I strongly condemn antisemitic actions that target Jewish Americans because of their religion or conflate the actions of the Israeli government with our Jewish neighbors. Throughout history, vandalism has been used to target and harass Jewish communities, and the use of vandalism today against Jewish-owned shops here in our district is unacceptable... it is more important than ever to remember that Jewish Americans are not responsible for the actions of the Israeli government, just as Arab Americans are not responsible for the actions of Hamas."

The City of New Rochelle issued the following statement:

"We are deeply saddened and disturbed by the recent acts of antisemitism targeting two of our city's storefronts. New Rochelle is built on the values of diversity, inclusion, and mutual respect. Hate crimes like the vandalization of Cheryl's Closet and Scoop Shop have no place in our community and we vehemently condemn this behavior. We stand by our Jewish citizens and will not tolerate these types of attacks. Upon the discovery and reporting of these incidents by the New Rochelle Police Department, we have swiftly taken action. The City of New Rochelle and its police department is working in collaboration with law enforcement agencies, including the Westchester County District Attorney, and the Scarsdale Police Department. Our commitment to supporting their efforts in investigating this incident remains steadfast. Property security inspections for local business and synagogues have been conducted and are underway. We plan to monitor the situation closely and inform all residents of any updates."

Celebrating Black History Month

By Dennis Richmond Jr



Mary Elizabeth Roselle Glover.

Black History Month is a time when people across the world celebrate and remember African and African-American history. It was created during the Harlem Renaissance in 1926 by Dr. Carter G. Woodson and the Association for the Study of Negro Life and History, with the first month being celebrated 44 years later in 1970. It wasn't until President Gerald Ford recognized Black History Month in 1976 that people started to celebrate it across the country.

I am honored to be working on a series of articles for Yonkers Times, both online and in print, about Black History Month because across the country, this history is being erased. Thousands of people and hundreds of organizations are fighting to erase, suppress, and ignore Black History. As a middle school teacher and a writer, I'm all about facts, and that's what I'll be bringing this month: facts.

It's important to know your history, especially your Black History. Learning about Black History creates an understanding of diversity. Many people appreciate the contributions of others in our society. Learning about Black History may assist in combating racism. When people know where certain stereotypes come from, they might understand why people still say certain things today. Lastly, learning about Black History is empowering. Folks across the world have the opportunity to learn pieces of history that are often forgotten.

I leave you with a picture of my great-great-great-grandmother, Mary Elizabeth Roselle Glover. Grandma Glover took the picture that you see in Greenwich, Connecticut, circa 1900.

Stay tuned for more articles during our Black History Month Series!

Dennis Richmond, Jr., M.S.Ed.

Author, He Spoke At My School

Slater Death by Dealer continued from pg 2-

"Thankfully we have the voice of Assemblyman Slater and having him fight the good fight for us. This law is a great first step, and I hope we see it through," said Chief Anthony Hoffman, Carmel Police Department.

"Everyone at this roundtable, elected officials, law enforcement, district attorneys, are people who take their work home with them. It's hard to talk about these issues and come up with sound solutions to make a difference, but the work our legislators are doing will give us the tools to keep our communities safe," said Putnam County Executive, Kevin Byrne.

"We cannot arrest our way out of this, but what we can do is make sure that we arrest the root cause. This law gives us the ability to go after the people who are intentionally murdering our citizens," said Yorktown Deputy Supervisor Ed Lachterman.

"The faucet is open, and it is flowing at full speed. Unfortunately, I don't think we will ever be a drug-free world, but it starts here. So I want to thank Assemblyman Matt Slater and Congressman Mike Lawler and everybody else who joined today," Said Yorktown Councilman Sergio Esposito.



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“I am pleased that the United States Department of Justice is putting the full weight of the federal government behind the effort to stop Jimmy Collis’ sexual predation of children. His horrific abuse has now spanned over six decades. If the Village of Mount Kisco and Boys & Girls Club of Mount Kisco had acted sooner, his abuse of children would have ended years ago,”

—Gregory Ardanowski, an alleged sexual abuse victim of Collins.”

Collins arrested for abusing underage boys continued from pg 1-

Collins is a named defendant, along with the Village/Town of Mt. Kisco, and the Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester, and the Chappaqua Central School District. Collins worked in different capacities, as a coach, camp counselor, camp director, lifeguard and cafeteria monitor for the named defendants over the course of more than 20 years.

The suits allege, repeated acts of sexual abuse, sexual harassment and sexual exploitation committed by Defendant James Collins (“Collins”) against multiple young boys who were entrusted to his care. At all relevant times, Collins was acting in his capacity as an employee, agent and representative of at least one of Defendants.

In one complaint, the John Doe victim alleges that Collins sexually abused him when he was 11 years old. “Plaintiff was approximately eleven years old to fourteen years old during the time Collins sexually abused, harassed, and exploited him. The incidents alleged in this Complaint occurred in and around 1982 to in and around 1986, when Plaintiff participated in camps, town sports and/or attended schools in Mt. Kisco, New York.

“Defendant Collins sexually abused, harassed and exploited Plaintiff on, and around the following locations: (i) Camp Iroquois at Leonard Park in Mt. Kisco, (ii) Camp Iroquois at Leonard Park Pool in Mt. Kisco and (iii) Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester (previously known as the Boys’ Club), as well as out-of-state in New Hampshire,” the suit alleges.

From the complaints: “Incidents alleged herein occurred on the property of Camp Defendants and BGC where Defendant Collins was working, at various times as a coach, counselor, mentor and supervisor and therefore possessed care, control, and had unfettered access to minor male children.

“Indeed, what transpired with dozens of children, including Plaintiff, from the 1970s through the 1990s throughout Mt. Kisco and surrounding towns is something out of a long-running horror story,” according to the complaints.

These Plaintiffs also allege: “Typical of most pedophiles, Collins targeted boys from broken homes, single-parent households and/or those that were otherwise vulnerable and susceptible to grooming by giving them special attention, preferential treatment, taking them to sporting events, buying them treats, candy, and/or plying them with alcohol. These warning signs, grooming behaviors, inappropriate time spent alone with Plaintiff and not respecting boundaries with children were ignored by Entity Defendants, thus, creating the opportunity for abuse, resulting in failures to enforce proper boundaries and, instead, allowing Collins access to abuse children, including Plaintiff.”

The suits allege that Collins “proceeded to sexually harass, abuse and exploit multiple young boys, including, but not limited to, massaging their bodies, fondling their bodies and genitals, masturbating the boys to ejaculation, orally copulating boys, forcing boys to orally copulate Collins, forcing boys to masturbate Collins, forcing boys to unknowingly consume his semen in beverages, and forcing boys to masturbate in his presence.

“More specifically, upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that several employees of BGC witnessed and/or knew of Collins’ grooming and/or sexual misconduct towards children, including BGC employees who oversaw the swimming facilities, the secretary for BGC, and the BGC director of athletics.

“More specifically, upon information and belief, Plaintiff alleges that Collins had been arrested and/or charged for sexual misconduct; however, certain individuals within the Bedford Hills Police Department (“BHPD”) assisted Collins in avoiding public scrutiny for these charges.

Collins has continued to maintain access to children, including with his roles as a janitor and bus driver at Cedar Knolls School in Hawthorne.

A different lawsuit by another victim claims that Collins met him when he was 7, which was when he began to groom John Doe at little league and bowling practice-games, by going to the movies, and watching pornographic movies in the basement of BCG.

“Thereafter, on at least four to six occasions, Collins would force five or six boys at the BGC, including Plaintiff RCVAWCD-DOE, to undress and masturbate in the BGC pool, in front of Collins. Collins would often undress and masturbate as well, in the presence of these minor boys, including Plaintiff RCVAWCD-DOE.

“On at least one occasion, Collins took a ruler to each of the boys’ penises, touching each boy’s penis, for an accurate measurement.”

Collins convinced some of the boys to have oral sex with him, according to the allegations in the lawsuits.

One of the named Plaintiffs, James M., alleges in his suit that the abuse by Collins started when he was 14 years old in 1974 and continued to 1978, when James was a lifeguard at Leonard Park Pool at Leonard Park during the summers and Collins was his supervisor.

He also alleges: “Collins would pull down his own shorts and make James pull down his shorts. Collins would then proceed to masturbate and force James to masturbate, as well. In doing so, Collins would fondle and stroke James’s penis and force James to do the same to Collins’ penis.

“Collins would also reach over and masturbate James’s penis and make James masturbate Collins’ penis, including mutual masturbation to ejaculation. Collins’ masturbation of James’s penis and Collins’ forcing of James to masturbate Collins’ penis occurred on multiple occasions in the locker room of Leonard Park Pool.

“There were often other adult employees working for the Town, Camp and Leonard Park during the timeframes that Collins was abusing and exploiting James at the pagoda and in the lifeguard locker room.”

James’ complaint also alleges that, after going to a WWE event in New York City, Collins got James drunk and took him back to his home. “Collins made James give Collins oral sex and Collins performed oral sex on James. Then, Collins turned James over and sodomized James.”

After the lawsuits were all filed in 2020 and 2021, Collins was not arrested or charged until the fall of 2023, and then the subsequent arrest by the Feds, and the announcement of Collins arrest by US Attorney Damian Williams on Jan. 24.

“Collins, 67, who resides in Bedford Hills, was charged with enticing a minor to engage in unlawful sexual activity and with sexual exploitation of a minor. The incident for which Collins was charged by the Feds occurred on November 7, 2023, when Collins attempted to persuade an individual acting in an undercover capacity and posing as a 15-year-old boy to meet the defendant in Westchester County, for the purpose of engaging in sexual activities.

“From at least on or about September 16, 2023, up to and including at least on or about November 7, 2023, COLLINS, who used the Snapchat username “jime20237221,” persuaded a 17-year-old minor in Illinois to engage in sexually explicit activity and send COLLINS videos and photos of such activity.

“Collins was caught after a 15-year-old boy told the New Castle Police Department that he engaged in sex with Collins in the bathroom of the Chappaqua library in July 2023. The boy was paid \$200 by Collins for sex, and the boy picked Collins from a photo.

“The boy then allowed the New Castle police permission to use his Snapchat account to contact Collins. On Nov. 7, a detective set up a time to “meet” Collins in the library bathroom again. Collins was arrested but was out on bail when he was arrested by the Feds for his online interactions with an underage boy in Illinois, who Collins was asking for videos and photos of the boy engaging in sexually explicit activity.

“According to an affidavit from an FBI agent, “COLLINS, who is 67 years old, told Detective-I that, several months ago, he had met an individual in the bathroom at Library-I and engaged in sexual behavior including kissing, touching and mutual masturbation, and that that same individual had sent him a message that day and wanted to meet again in the bathroom.” A search of Collins phone found additional photographs and videos of boys as young as 10 years old.

“Collins is the owner of Jimmy’s bar in Katonah. He now faces 30 years in prison if convicted.

“Anyone who may have encountered COLLINS or whose child may have had any communications with COLLINS is asked to contact the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324).” End of US Attorney release.

Through his attorney, Saul Wolf, we received the following statement from Gregory Ardanowski, one of Collins’ alleged victims, when asked What is your response to Collins arrest?

“I am pleased that the United States Department of Justice is putting the full weight of the federal government behind the effort to stop Jimmy Collis’ sexual predation of children. His horrific abuse has now spanned over six decades. If the Village of Mount Kisco and Boys & Girls Club of Mount Kisco had acted sooner, his abuse of children would have ended years ago,” said Gregory Ardanowski, an alleged sexual abuse victim of Collins.”

We asked Wolf, whose firm Manly, Stewart & Finaldi, represents 15 of the alleged victims, how does the arrest of Collins relate to your cases?

“I place the blame for this tragedy squarely on the Village of Mt. Kisco, The Boys & Girls Club of Northern Westchester and the Chappaqua Central School District for ignoring complaints and warning signs of sexual abuse against Collins that began decades ago. This is why more than 15 lawsuits were filed against these defendants. I expect the number of survivors to increase as more of Collins’ current victims come forward.

The question that all should ask after reading this is—how did Collins get away with this and how did the abuse go unreported?

Wolf said, “As we allege in the cases, it was not only reported, it was witnessed. The complaints allege that “several employees of the Town witnessed and/or knew of Collins’ grooming and/or sexual misconduct towards children, including, but not limited to, law enforcement officers and other Town employees in the recreation department.”

Why did most of us in Westchester not hear about the lawsuits, and alleged abuse against Collins? Wolf said, “COVID put a hold on most cases filed under the CVA.”

When we posted this story online last week, a reader posted, “everyone knows about Jimmy Collins.” Turns out this reader grew up with Jimmy Collins in the Bedford Hills-Mt. Kisco area. “We went to Mets games together with the Mt. Kisco little league. I was 13 and he was a few years older, hanging out in the bathroom at the stadium instead of watching the game. And that was more than 40 years ago.”

Anyone who may have encountered COLLINS or whose child may have had any communications with COLLINS is asked to contact the FBI at 1-800-CALL-FBI (225-5324). According to the Westchester DA’s office, “The defendant, James Collins, was arrested by the New Castle Police Department on Nov. 7, 2023, and charged with Criminal Sex Act in the Third Degree, a felony. Bail was set at \$7,500 cash/\$15,000 bond/\$20,000 PSB. The state case is pending in New Castle Justice Court and the defendant is scheduled to appear next on Feb. 22.”

The federal case against Collins is pending in the SDNY, Federal Courthouse in White Plains. Further proceedings in the Federal case, filed by the United States Attorney’s Office are scheduled for the spring.

LM Lions Celebrate 100 Years and Community Service with the Motto “Better Together”



Caption: LM Lions Celebrating their 100th Year

Read the Stories in Our Yonkers Rising paper online at Yonkerstimes.com

Notice of Formation of Buffsicle, LLC. Articles of Org filed with SSNY on 12/15/2023. Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to: 41 Old Post Road, Rye, NY, 10580. Purpose: any lawful purpose or activity.

Notice of formation of Ashlee B. Media, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 1/6/2023. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 520 Pelhamdale Avenue, Pelham, NY 10803. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of NORTHERN WESTCHESTER KITCHEN & BATH LLC. Arts. Of Org filed with SSNY on 11/28/2023. Office location: Westchester County. Registered Agent to mail process and may be served: ZENBUSINESS INC, 41 STATE STREET SUITE 112, ALBANY, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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The LM Lions introduced their new motto “Better Together” as they celebrated their Centennial year and the annual Points of Light recognition of community service. The event, on Sunday January 28, was held at the Orienta Beach Club in Mamaroneck.

Westchester County Executive George Latimer was the keynote speaker. The event was attended by many state and local civic leaders, International and local Lions leaders, and leaders of the many service groups being honored at the event.

The centerpiece was the awarding of the Lions Jack Coughlin Community Service Awards to Kate Bialo and the Washingtonville Housing Alliance. The award, named in memory of long time Lion and founder of Coughlin Insurance, Jack Coughlin, recognizes a group and an individual for outstanding and dedicated service to the community. Much of Jack’s life was dedicated to community service.

The Lions also awarded the Robert J. Uplinger Distinguished Service Award to Sedona’s Bill Jablonski for his personal support of the Lions and Sedona’s “Dine Out For Charity” donations to many groups serving the needs of our community.

The event recognized the many groups and individuals who today serve the community,

The Points of Light celebration of community service is the primary fundraiser for the Larchmont Mamaroneck Lions Foundation - the 501c3 financial resource at the center LM Lions support of many of these service groups. Of importance is that the Foundation grows donated funds as seed money, to attract matching grants & other partnerships - to deliver more support for local & Lions service. All donations are 100% tax deductible

Read it all online at Yonkerstimes.com

Happy 100th Birthday, continued from pg 1-

Cousins, State Senator Pete Harekham, NYS Assemblywoman Dana Levenberg, and Mayor McKenzie, all delivered proclamations in her honor. County Executive George Latimer has designated January 25th as Irene Bullock Day. Over 65 relatives from different states came to join in this special celebration.

Irene Bullock, with 81 grandchildren, is still active and vibrant. Reverend Gary Colter of Mt. Lebanon Baptist Church in Peekskill also acknowledged her during Sunday’s church service,” writes Mayor Rainey.

The proclamations given the Irene Smythe-Bullock include:

Irene Wilson was born in Petersburg, Tennessee, on January 25, 1924. When she was 21 years old, Irene Wilson married John Buchanan Smythe, moving to Louisville, Kentucky, to start their new life together; the couple were blessed with seven children: Waymon, Mary, Joel (David), Barbara, identical twin boys, Jerry and Terry, and Windell; and

WHEREAS, When Windell was approximately five years old, the family of nine moved to Shrub Oak, New York, and subsequently relocated to Peekskill; after her divorce, Irene Smythe met Paul Bullock whom she married on July 4, 1965; four years later, her second husband’s three children, Paul, Jr., Evelyn, and Linda, joined the family; and

WHEREAS, As the children grew older and left home to start their own lives and families, Paul and Irene Bullock continued using their well-honed skills as parents and embraced foster care in their home; later, the couple decided to purchase a large parcel of land in nearby Garrison, New York; this property, lovingly dubbed “The Garrison Estate,” served as the optimum place to host family gatherings for birthdays, holidays, and other memorable occasions; and

WHEREAS, Paul and Irene Bullock worked hard and attended school to obtain their commercial driver’s license (CDL) to drive semi-trucks, later becoming owner-operators of their own trucks; this occupation allowed the couple to travel the country together; and

WHEREAS, In 1980, along with other members of their family, Paul and Irene Bullock moved to Phoenix, Arizona, where the seasoned foster parents continued to care for children and work in group homes; the State of Arizona presented them with an award, recognizing their contributions and dedication to the enrichment of foster children’s lives; and

WHEREAS, On May 13, 2015, Irene Bullock tragically lost her husband of almost 50 years; some time after her loss, she returned to Peekskill where she resides with her daughter, Mary; and

WHEREAS, To this day, Irene Smythe-Bullock is still quite independent; she enjoys shopping at thrift stores, sewing, taking car trips, traveling to visit her great-granddaughter and her family in Virginia and her grandson and his family in Florida, and spending time with her son, Windell, and her daughter, Linda, who reside in Peekskill; making cherished memories with her great-great-grandchildren is her favorite pastime; and

WHEREAS, Known for doing all the good that she can for others, Irene Smythe-Bullock has been dearly cherished; she will be long-remembered for the joy and happiness she has striven to share with family, friends, and all those whom she has met during her long, full life; and

WHEREAS, Irene Smythe-Bullock, with her zest for life, has inspired and enhanced the lives of her family and friends.

And you have inspired all of our readers too! Congratulations and Happy Birthday!



Keith Olson, continued from pg 5-

for taking down two gangs in the Riverdale Avenue/ Jackson Street area. He received the prestigious Federal Law Enforcement Officers Association (FLEOA) National Investigative Award.

Olson has served as PBA President as crime statistics show that Yonkers has become one of the safest cities of its size in the United States. But recent changes in the criminal laws of New York State, including bail reform and raise the age, have resulted in increases in crime stats in some communities. –but not Yonkers.

“In the wake of George Floyd, the police reforms enacted have had a terrible effect. We have swung the pendulum way too far, with bail reform and raise the age legislation. The politicians in Albany didn’t listen to law enforcement, but the public is now concerned and hopefully it will swing back the other way.”

One of the things Keith is most proud of is his work with various charities for which he has helped raise well over one million dollars. In 2000, Keith co-created and participated in the first Yonkers Police vs. Yonkers Fire Toughman Competition, which features Yonkers Finest boxing Yonkers Bravest. To date, this incredibly popular event has raised more than \$750,000 for numerous charities such as the Yonkers P.A.L., Elizabeth Seton Pediatric Center, Wounded Warriors Fund, Make a Wish Foundation, Westchester School for Special Children, Ronald McDonald House and more. Keith is also proud of his 3-1 record competing in the Toughman.

Another important charity that Keith helped bring to Yonkers is the St. Baldrick’s Foundation, a volunteer-driven charity committed to funding the most promising research to find cures for childhood cancers and giving survivors long and healthy lives. Since 2008, under Keith’s leadership, the Yonkers PBA has proudly raised more than \$630,000 to help cure pediatric cancer.

When the Yonkers Public School decided to merge their 8-9 high school football teams into two, Olson spearheaded the Yonkers PBA’s involvement with one team, the Yonkers Force High School football team. “We do a lot behind the scenes for the kids and help fund some equipment and other needs. But I like being involved and I think it has been successful.”

Keith Olson is Yonkers-through and through. He was born and raised in Yonkers, graduated from Saunders High School, joined the YPD, and never left.

While other cops have moved upstate, Olson has stayed in Yonkers for his entire career, raising his family with wife Liza and two sons, Tyler and Sean.

“Yonkers has so much to offer. I feel that by continuing to live here in Yonkers and by being a part of the fabric of the city it has made my job as a police officer easier. I have never regretted my decision to stay here.”

In 2016, Keith Olson was elected as President of the Affiliated Police Associations of Westchester (APA.) The APA represents the more than 4,000 law enforcement officers throughout Westchester County. Keith is currently serving in his seventh term as APA President. “I have been a part of the APA from the day I became PBA President in Yonkers. I felt that there was more that could be done, and it needed new leadership. I’m remaining on as President for this year and would like to continue, we will see. “

In September of 2023, Keith founded KO Solutions and Strategies LLC, (<https://www.kosolutionsllc.com/>) a consulting firm specializing in advising police unions. Keith plans on using this venture to continue to be a staunch advocate for police officers. “I want to remain an advocate for police and police unions and take the lessons I’ve learned in Yonkers and use them in the county and beyond. Police Officers deserve to have a voice in our community and I plan on working toward that goal.”

Olson was also recently named to the faculty of Dedication to Community (D2C) which is a non-profit organization that fosters relationships between police and the community. <https://www.dedicationtocommunity.org/>.

And Olson is staying in Yonkers. “I want people know, I’m still here, I’m still in the game and I’m staying in Yonkers. I love Yonkers, I consider myself blessed, I’ve had an exciting life.”

Mayor Mike Spano thanked Olson for his service to Yonkers. “A 35-year veteran of the Yonkers Police Department, Keith is a cop’s cop. His passion and commitment to our men and women in blue is unmatched, serving as their loudest and strongest advocate. I congratulate Keith on his legendary career in law enforcement and wish him a happy, healthy and restful retirement.”

Bowman, AOC continued from pg 1-

Local Westchester electeds supporting Bowman include Hastings-on-Hudson Mayor Niki Armacost, Mamaroneck Trustee Leilani Yizar-Reid, Sonja Dixon of SEIU 1199, Tyler Hack of Sunrise Westchester, Nada Khader of WESPAC and Reverend Dr. Stephen Pogue.

Rep. Bowman said, “We’re constantly being attacked. AIPAC is one of the most powerful lobbies in America,” Bowman said. “But you know what we got to say to AIPAC? Bring it on y’all.”

Several Jewish and Israeli organizations, including AIPAC, have gotten involved in this primary because of Bowman’s comment and stances on Israel, Gaza and the plight of refugees in Gaza, calling it “a human right violation and against international law,” Bowman urged the crown to “stand up for the people of Gaza.”

In an effort to push back against claims from some that Bowman has been “all talk and no action” in Congress, Bowman released a list of 2023 accomplishments including:

- Introducing 9 pieces of legislation
- Securing \$20,408,590 in Community Project Funding for NY-16
- Pushing the White House to launch its first blueprint for a Renters’ Bill of Rights
- Responding to 163,128 pieces of constituent mail
- Solving 2562 casework issues
- And bringing \$4,636,461 back into constituent’s pockets through that casework

Bowman also informed the district that he submitted three requests to the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure for inclusion in the Water Resources and Development Act of 2024. The requests will help enable the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) to use studies to address critical needs across NY-16 with regard to flood risk management, hurricane and storm risk reduction, wastewater and stormwater management, and environmental restoration.

I-Two years ago, Rep. Bowman successfully led a request for an updated U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps) feasibility study for flood risk management and ecosystem restoration on the Saw Mill River in Yonkers and Hastings-on-Hudson. This year, Rep. Bowman re-upped that request and requested to expand the study to cover flood risk management and hurricane and storm risk reduction across Yonkers, Hastings-on-Hudson, Elmsford, and Ardsley, all communities that have been hit hard by flooding in recent years.

II- A request for the Corps to conduct a new feasibility study for improvements related to flood risk management, hurricane and storm risk reduction, and environmental restoration in Bronxville, Tuckahoe, and Yonkers along the Bronx River and connecting small waterways. The Bronx River faces persistent and dangerous flooding issues during heavy rainfall, even resulting in recent emergency operations to rescue drivers from their cars on the Bronx River Parkway.

III-A request to expand authorities to allow the Corps to provide assistance in wastewater treatment issues related to sewers and wastewater treatment plants in the NYC Watershed and Bronx River watershed. In Mount Vernon, raw sewage is flowing into the nearby waterways and communities, posing a significant environmental and health justice issue in Mount Vernon and nearby communities. Rep. Bowman’s request would help enable the Corps to support infrastructure upgrades, repairs, or other remediation efforts to address storm and wastewater management needs and sewage contamination.

“Our communities have been deeply impacted by the increase in flooding and infrastructure challenges from climate change,” said Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D. (NY-16). “That’s why I’m proud to announce the three requests to authorize work to be carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers Civil Works to help address the struggles our communities face from flooding, impacts of major hurricanes and storms, environmental degradation, and more. If enacted, each of these requests will support work to create a better living environment for everyone across NY-16. Our roads, schools, and homes were not built to sustain the climate chaos we are now consistently experiencing. Storms should not devastate or wreak havoc on our communities, threaten the lives and livelihoods of our neighbors, or critically damage vital infrastructure and I will continue to fight to ensure more studies and federal aid come to our communities,” said Bowman.

AOC called Bowman “one of the most effective junior members of congress.”

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There has always been a strong relationship between blacks and Jews in this country. Rev. King had many Jewish people marching with him and supporting his good work.

I went to Yonkers High School graduating in 1978. The student body was half white and half black and Hispanic. A big fat white Jewish kid named Eric Wolf Schoen got elected overwhelmingly President of the Student Council. You may recognize that name. The relationship between blacks and Jews in the Yonkers Public Schools was strong back then, strong when my sister graduated Yonkers High School in 1972 and strong when my mom graduated Yonkers High School. I can only assume it was strong when grandma graduated Yonkers High School in 1918.

Let's get back to the story here. I had to go off on a tangent because the words that were uttered at the game are disgusting.

The Yonkers Public Schools did an investigation and found that yes, the allegations of what occurred at the basketball game were true. The Head of the NAACP, Frank Coleman, did his own investigation. Coleman, a substitute teacher at Roosevelt, said there was "absolutely no evidence of any antisemitic slurs rendered," according to the Journal News. He continued, "The accusations were both "untrue and unfair," after reviewing footage of the game and speaking to parents, kids and coaches. It also said claims that Roosevelt's players were excessively aggressive were incorrect.

Problem is Coleman DID NOT INTERVIEW Leffell School players, coaches, or administrators. He drew his conclusions based on conversations with only the Roosevelt community.

Yes friends, THERE IS SOMETHING WRONG WITH THIS PICTURE! How he could make the statements he made on behalf of the NAACP which has a rich history in the City of Yonkers boggles the mind. Even our high school students learn in their classes that when you do an investigation you have to interview all parties involved. That didn't happen with Coleman's investigation.

HE OWES THE LEFFELL SCHOOL AND THE JEWISH COMMUNITY in Yonkers, Westchester County and in our country an apology for issuing a report without communicating with those involved. If he fails to do this he should resign as President of the Yonkers branch of the NAACP.

Sadly, antisemitism is rampant in this country right now. College students can't go to school in a safe environment. Security was tight at Jewish institutions and with what is going on in the Middle East has only gotten tighter. Our seniors are afraid to leave the house, and Jewish students some with Yarmulkes on their head are afraid to walk around without being cursed at. Sadly, many of those making antisemitic remarks and creating these unfortunate environments couldn't find the Middle East on a map.

Martin Luther King, Jr. Is turning over in this grave. Yes, it's not easy being Jewish anymore!

The Interim Superintendent of the Yonkers Public Schools, Dr. Luis Rodriguez, a man with a tough day job as Assistant Superintendent for Special Education and Pupil Support Services for the district has pledged to administer further counseling and guided training sessions amongst the school community to prevent what occurred from happening again.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano is convening religious, educational and civic leaders. County Executive George Latimer has invited Section 1 leaders, coaches and players to participate in an education round table organized in collaboration with the Westchester County Human Rights Commission and County Youth Bureau. The aim of this is to facilitate open dialogue, promote understanding, and provide education on how to engage with fellow players with respect and dignity.

Other than the horrible words used on the basketball court, the only thing worse is the one sided report issued by Coleman. He owes the Jewish community and Leffell School community an apology immediately.

As Martin Luther King, Jr. Said, "We shall overcome because the arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice."

Editorial Note: Many commented on last week's article regarding a possible Congressional primary and changing your registration to Democrat to assist the challenger. Everything one has to do to change their party registration by Valentine's Day, February 14 can be found in this link to the article, <https://yonkerstimes.com/how-to-say-goodbye-to-congressman-bowman-on-valentines-day/>

Remember, just like you don't have to be Jewish to eat Levy's rye bread, everyone who is not a registered Democrat already can change their registration to Democrat and switch it back to what it was before the day after the Primary election which is June 25. Chances at this point of there being a meaningful Presidential primary are minuscule.

Reach Eric Schoen at thistoosyonkers@aol.com, or friend him on Facebook Eric Schoen...just look for him in the picture with Joan Rivers!

Bestselling Authors Lyn Liao Butler & Ali Hazelwood at Harrison Library

Wed, Feb 7 @ 7 pm ET ~ HYBRID PROGRAM



Calling all book lovers! The Harrison Public Library is hosting a hybrid author event with local author Lyn Liao Butler and NYT bestselling author Ali Hazelwood on Wednesday, February 7, at 7 pm ET.

A Q&A and book signing will follow their discussion. Wine and light refreshments will be served. Admission is free!

Lyn Liao Butler is a Taiwanese American author of thrillers, upmarket fiction, and rom-coms. Her most recent thriller, *Someone Else's Life*, was an Amazon bestseller, and her second book *Red Thread of Fate* is a finalist in the WFWA Star Awards for 2023. Before becoming an author, Lyn was a professional ballet and modern dancer, and is still a fitness and yoga instructor. When not writing, she enjoys spending time with her FDNY husband, their son, two rescue dachshunds and sewing for her Etsy shop.

Originally from Italy, Hazelwood has lived in Japan and Germany, and eventually moved to the US to pursue a Ph.D. in Neuroscience. She recently became a professor, which absolutely terrifies her. Many of her works center on women in STEM fields and academia. Her debut novel, *The Love Hypothesis*, was a New York Times best seller. When she's not at work you can find her binge-watching shows with her three feline overlords (and my slightly less feline husband), running, or eating candy.

More details are available on the library's website at www.harrisonpl.org. To register, visit, <https://www.harrisonpl.org/events/11778310>

Lyn will be joining us in person at the library, and Ali will be appearing virtually on Zoom.

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