

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in Westchester: Twelve Historic Visits over Eleven Years



L-R-Ossie Davis, Dr. King, Rev. Wyatt Tee Walker, Rev. Ralph Abernathy, Phyllis Brown, Rev. Richard Dixon Jr. photo from White Plains Library Collection
By Dan Murphy

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. visited Westchester on 12 occasions over an 11-year period (1956-1967) before his life was cut short on April 4, 1968, at the age of 39. In 2007, a memorial was built in front of the county office building in White Plains to memorialize his life and his time spent in Westchester. Dr. King's birthday on Jan 15 1929 was made a federal holiday in 1983.

One of the best summaries about Dr. King's visits to Westchester was written by Andy Bass for the Westchester County Historical society in 2018. A special edition of the Westchester Historian, the society's quarterly magazine, features Bass's lengthy, detailed and interesting piece. We encourage our readers, and lovers of Westchester history or MLK Jr., to purchase this magazine and read Bass's piece, available at the Westchester Historical Society's office in Elmsford for \$10.

This story is not online. We thank Bass for his historical masterpiece and use it as a reference for our story about King's Westchester visits for our readers.

Dr King's visited to Westchester to give speeches, visit friends and colleagues in the civil rights movement, and to raise money for the Southern Christian Leadership Conference, his organization that was fighting to secure civil rights for black Americans in the south. We have taken out King's two visits to Yonkers, to use as a separate story for our Yonkers Rising paper and online at Yonkerstimes.com.

Dr. King's first visit to Westchester was in May of 1956, when he stayed at the Hastings on Hudson home of Psychologists Kenneth and Mamie Phipps Clark. The Clark's studies on the effects of racial segregation on black children were used in the Brown vs. Board of Education case before the United States

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Who Killed Stephen Spina? 2007 Unsolved Murder in Mamaroneck



By Dan Murphy

A new True Crime Podcast called APB Cold Case has featured the mysterious death of Mamaroneck resident Stephen Spina in 2007. In one of its first episodes. APB Cold Case explores unsolved murders and missing persons cases from across the nation, and the 25 minute podcast, <https://apbcoldcase.com/episodeshttps://apbcoldcase.com/episodes> tells the story about this 36 year old single father and postman found dead in his locked apartment 16 years ago.

The notes from APB Cold Case-Who Killed Stephen Spina give our readers the story. "On Long Island Sound, about a 40-minute train ride from Manhattan, is the Village of Mamaroneck, a quaint residential community. In 2007 it was home to a well-known and much beloved 36-year-old named, Stephen Spina who lived in a multi-unit apartment building on a quiet, tree-lined street called, Richbell Road. Stephen was a handsome, athletic guy who loved

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Topic of APB Cold Case Podcast

Libs of Tik Tok Posts "A Very Disturbing" Personality Test from Lakeland Middle School



Screen shot of recorded meeting between undercover Mom and parent of CBMS students, with Copper Beach principal Frank Ruolo and Science Teacher Steve Trinkle
By Dan Murphy

An "undercover mom" has uncovered a disturbing "personality test" that included sexually explicit content for 11 and 12 year old students at the Copper Beach Middle School, CBMS, in the Lakeland School District.

And the same mother of a CBMS student recorded a meeting that she asked for with CBMS Principal Frank Ruolo and CBMS teacher Steve Trinkle. That video has now gone viral and has been distributed first by @SageOps, and then picked up by Libs of Tik Tok.

In the video, the mom confronts Ruolo and Trinkle with what she found out about the test given to her son. The video is from 2022, but has only recently surfaced.

"Any kid can see this. It's got the best penis pumps its got the best sex dolls. Heavy petting, groping," says Undercover Mom.

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Teach (NYS) Announces Nonpartisan Get Out the Vote Initiative in Westchester's Jewish Community Ahead of 24' Election



Effort Includes Multiple Voter Sites Which Will Offer In-Person Voter Registration, Voter Education, Absentee Ballot Assistance, Jewish Community Engagement, and Volunteer Opportunities

Teach New York State (NYS), a division of Teach Coalition, has announced a new and unprecedented nonpartisan 'Get Out the Vote' initiative focused on the upcoming elections in Westchester County. Teach Coalition advocates for equitable funding and resources for all nonpublic schools including Jewish day schools and yeshivas.

The Jewish community of Westchester County is mobilizing to counter a wave of anti-Jewish hate incidents and other antisemitic threats and rhetoric in New York in the aftermath of the 10/7 attacks in Israel. Teach Coalition is responding to and providing support for the parents of children in Jewish schools who are concerned about security threats to their children, their educational institutions, and their houses of worship.

As a part of this campaign, Teach Coalition will open a voter site at 1297 North Avenue in New Rochelle, offering residents voter-registration support, absentee-ballot assistance, as well as community outreach to engage current and newly registered voters. The voter site will open in early February. In the following weeks, Teach Coalition will open other field offices for nonpartisan voter mobilization across southern and central Westchester County.

Teach Coalition is preparing to spend up to \$1.6 million on voter-registration and voter-turnout operations and has already raised over \$1 million to fund the initiative. Teach Coalition has set a goal of registering thousands of

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Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

Greenburgh Town Board at Odds with Stewart-Cousins Over “Village of Edgemont”

GREENBURGH TOWN BOARD HIRING LEGAL COUNSEL TO OPPOSE NYS SENATE BILL S8001

We, the members of the Greenburgh Town Board, write this letter to you at what we believe to be the most critical moment in our tenure representing the wonderful people of Greenburgh: the harmful effects of NYS Senate bill S8001 denying the Town and its residents of the equal protection of the laws and due process of law.

Please be aware the entire Town Board takes this matter so seriously we have scheduled a Special Meeting for Friday, January 12, 2024, at 5:30 PM, to adopt a resolution hiring experienced legal counsel to protect you, regardless of where you, our constituents, live, against this inequitable legislation based upon its irrational and exclusionary attack on the protections our residents deserve. See <https://youtu.be/311ekijViIM> for a discussion on this issue. We will surely keep you informed as to our progress.

Regrettably, during these past few days, legislation, called a Chapter Amendment, was introduced by our NYS Senator, Andrea Stewart Cousins, to exempt Edgemont, a hamlet in a section of the Unincorporated Area of the Town of Greenburgh, and the rest of the Unincorporated Area, from a NYS Law adopted last year. That law amended a 100-year-old Village Law that was created when most of the Town’s Unincorporated Area was farmland. The Chapter Amendment, if it becomes law, as expected, provides a near “hurdle free” path for Edgemont to incorporate and become a separate Village, exempt from the fiscal and social scrutiny that is applicable to every other area of NYS experiencing an incorporation petition.

To be clear, last year’s amendment to the antiquated Village Law provided real protection for all of the more than 20 million residents and myriad communities within NYS. The Chapter Amendment introduced by Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins last Friday and rapidly adopted by the Senate on Tuesday specifically excludes the Unincorporated Area of Greenburgh and only the Unincorporated Area of Greenburgh from those protections. There is another looming petition that may be filed by a group of Edgemont residents called the Edgemont Incorporation Committee (EIC). The EIC supports Edgemont incorporation. The Senator’s Chapter Amendment exempts the EIC’s expected third petition attempt from those state-wide requirements, and, shockingly, any subsequent petition filed by Edgemont residents until 2040, 16 years into the future, essentially ensuring Edgemont will be able to become a Village and separate from the Unincorporated Area, regardless of its impact on the new village or the remainder of the Unincorporated Area.

The Chapter Amendment passed the State Senate just days after being introduced by the Senator, and we believe it will pass the State Assembly as early as next week. It will then go to the Governor to sign. There is no reason to believe Governor Hochul will veto a Chapter Amendment to exempt the EIC’s petition efforts, since it is sponsored by Senator Stewart Cousins, the Senate’s Majority Leader, whose home district is Greenburgh.

The Town Board has been fighting for legislation which provides voter rights and equal treatment/representation under the law for Unincorporated Greenburgh for nearly seven years. We believe that last year’s Bill also protects the residents of Edgemont, both for and against incorporation, by requiring accurate, vetted fiscal and service provision information prior to their having to vote in a referendum. Voting blindly without information is not acceptable, which is why the 100-year-old Village Law was amended last year to have informed voters. Why doesn’t Unincorporated Greenburgh deserve the same protections deemed necessary state-wide?

In the two previous EIC petition attempts in 2017 and 2019, the NYS Court system agreed with our attorneys that their petitions did not meet the minimum standards of the then prevailing 100 year old law. The EIC is now circulating a third petition, which, if successful, would allow Edgemont to leave Unincorporated Greenburgh, taking with it nearly \$17 million in criti-

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250 Community Members Join Day of Service on MLK Day at Shames JCC on the Hudson



State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, with volunteers

250 Community Members and NY State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins United For a Day of Service on MLK Day at Shames JCC on the Hudson

In a powerful display of interfaith unity and service, 280 community members of all ages from the Shames JCC on the Hudson and St Barnabas Episcopal Church in Irvington came together at Shames JCC on the Hudson for a Day of Service on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, Monday, January 15. They were joined by New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins.

The event was organized by Shames JCC on the Hudson in collaboration with UJA-Federation of NY and various partner organizations. It aimed to honor the legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. by making a positive impact on the community and beyond through meaningful volunteerism.

Families gathered to pack 1,400 items of food into 600 "Blizzard Boxes"—complete meal packages for food pantries in Westchester and the Bronx. Additionally, adults and teens worked collaboratively to sort two truck pallets of medical supplies for the Afya Foundation. These supplies will be sent to global crisis settings and under-resourced community centers in New York State.

New York State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins addressed volunteers with inspirational words, highlighting the importance of community engagement for positive social change.

This Day of Service exemplified the spirit of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s teachings, emphasizing the transformative power of collective action and community service. Shames JCC on the Hudson extends gratitude to the UJA-Federation of NY for its generous funding that allowed this event to be possible, and to all participants, partners, and Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins for their dedication to building a stronger and more compassionate future for our community.

For more information visit-



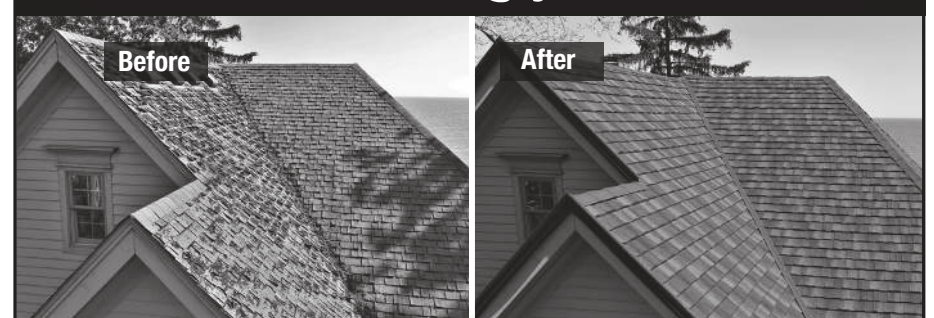
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DiNapoli: School District Tax Levy Cap Set at 2% for Third Straight Year

Property tax levy growth for school districts and 10 of the state's cities will be capped at 2%, the same as last year, according to data released today by State Comptroller Thomas P. DiNapoli.

The tax cap, which first applied to local governments (excluding New York City) and school districts in 2012, limits annual tax levy increases to the lesser of the rate of inflation or 2% with certain exceptions. The law also includes provisions that allow school districts and municipalities to override the cap. DiNapoli's office calculated the inflation factor at 4.12% for those with a June 30, 2025 fiscal year end.

"While inflation continues to decline from recent highs, it remains well above 2%," DiNapoli said. "With one-time pandemic relief aid nearly exhausted, school district and municipal officials should carefully monitor cost growth to effectively manage their budgets and ensure they comply with the tax cap law."

The 2% allowable levy growth affects the tax cap calculations for 676 school districts and 10 cities with fiscal years starting July 1, 2024, including the "Big Four" cities of Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse and Yonkers.

Yorktown Police Arrest Lewisboro Resident for Possession & Sale of Fentanyl That Caused Overdose Death of Yorktown Resident

Yorktown Police report the arrest of a 34-year-old Lewisboro resident who is charged with Criminal Sale of a Controlled Substance 3rd Degree and Criminal Possession of a Controlled Substance with Intent to Sell 3rd Degree, both of which are Class B Felonies.

Yorktown Police report that on October 23, 2023, at approximately 9:31 PM, Yorktown Police responded to a residence on Baldwin Road for an apparent overdose. Upon arrival and despite extraordinary lifesaving efforts on scene by Yorktown Patrol Officers, Yorktown Volunteer Ambulance Corp, and Empress Paramedics, the victim was pronounced deceased. Yorktown Police Detectives Hannigan and Curtis were assigned to investigate the incident. Upon conclusion of the investigation it is alleged that the defendant did possess and sell a quantity of Fentanyl to the victim which allegedly resulted in the Victim's death.

On 1/11/24 the defendant was located outside of his residence and was taken into custody by the Yorktown Police Detective Division. The defendant was transported to Yorktown Police Headquarters where he was processed on the above listed charges. After processing on the above charges, the defendant was arraigned by the Honorable Judge Cohen-Pierson in the Yorktown Justice Court. Bail was set in the amount of \$100,000 cash, \$200,000 bond, or \$300,000 partially secured bond. The defendant, unable to post bail at this time, was remanded to Westchester County Jail. The defendant is due to appear in the Yorktown Justice Court on January 25, 2024 at 1800 hours.

The investigation was assisted by the Westchester County Department of Public Safety Forensic Investigation Unit as well as the Westchester County District Attorney's Office.

Note: We are in the process of trying to obtain through FOIL, more information on this case, including the name of the defendant and the name of the victim who overdosed.

Enforce Handicap Parking; No Pedaling Frozen Deserts on Highways?

By Eric Wolf Schoen



The column this week will have a serious part and a not so serious, what were they thinking, did anyone in City Hall read the legislation before they approved it part. Let's start off serious.

Yonkers and WESTCHESTER County have too few handicap parking spaces particularly in areas such as Ridge Hill where parking on the streets has been taken over by many OFFICIAL USE ONLY' signs and '15 minutes only for Loading and Unloading' signs. Handicap parking must be adjacent to stores where people go shopping, not far away in parking lots making it difficult for people with mobility issues to access.

The big problem with handicap parking is people who do not have a handicap parking placard or handicap license plate using the spot. If I have seen it once I have seen it a thousand times on the streets and in the parking lots of Yonkers and WESTCHESTER. The spots cannot be used if you are running into a store quickly to get something. They can't be used by people waiting to pick up a friend or relative from the supermarket. They can't be used by the Uber or Lyft driver waiting for their fare. Nor the food delivery man running in to pick up their order.

Handicap spots are only to be used by handicapped persons with plates or placards who would otherwise find it difficult to walk to and from a regular parking place. If a non-handicap driver is in the car, he/she must be sure the handicapped person is safely where they need to be and park in a regular parking place. During Christmas and Chanukah the handicap parking spot is not for those who want a closer place to park.

The placard is to be used by the handicap person it was issued to and not by family members or friends. If someone makes a request for a street parking handicap spot on the street where they live, anyone with a handicap parking placard or license plate can use the spot at all times. The spots are not reserved exclusively for the one who initially requested the spot.

The Yonkers City Council refined the schedule of and types of fines for cars and trucks illegally parked in December. The legal notice was posted in this fine, no pun intended newspaper. For some reason the fine for illegally using a handicap spot on the street was set at \$200 and the fine for illegally using a handicap spot off street was set at \$100. There is no difference in the violation so why the different fees. And some communities in WESTCHESTER charge \$250 in fees or jail time and have severe penalties including loss of license if you do it too often, let's say 3 or more times in a year.

Yonkers likes to put the dangerous, unfair, light time uncoordinated Red Light Camera fees in full effect collecting \$50 plus a \$15 surcharge. If the handicapped parking fines are enforced at full strength, the city would make a lot more money. But thereby lies the problem. Who is going to enforce these fines and ticket the vehicles.

Is it the job of the Police? The City Parking agents who ride in their cars giving out tickets? Or as some communities do, have volunteers who take pictures of the illegally parked cars and turn them into the court who sends out a summons signed by a judge.

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Mayor Mike Spano
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US Secret Service Partners with Iona to Forge Hiring Pathway for Students



Left, Assistant Special Agent Kent McCarthy

Iona University will serve as the recruitment hub for Hudson Valley college students interested in joining the Secret Service

Iona University is proud to announce a partnership with the United States Secret Service that will include campuswide recruitment sessions for Gaels and other college students from across the Hudson Valley to help expedite the hiring process. Kicking off the partnership this week at Iona, U.S. Secret Service agents spoke to six criminal justice classes about various career opportunities available within the agency as well as agency qualifications and duties. The special agents recounted their own academy experiences, providing valuable insights and advice so students are well-prepared for the rigorous process.

College seniors will be eligible to apply January 1, 2024. Students can visit USAjobs.gov or contact the Career Center for the latest list of vacancies. Underclassmen will also be aware of the agency's requirements and policies early in their college career to ensure preparedness.

"The Secret Service is excited to partner with Iona University as we work to recruit the next generation of Secret Service agents, officers and professionals," said Patrick J. Freaney, Special Agent in Charge of the Secret Service's New York Field Office. "Our goal for this partnership is to provide students with the insight and information they need to jumpstart a career with the Secret Service."

Matthew Cardin, assistant vice president for Enrollment Management and Career Initiatives at Iona University, said: "We are excited to partner and serve as a recruiting hub for the Secret Service and see it as a great fit for some of our students and the agency. We look forward to seeing the placements that will come from this partnership overtime."

The Gerri Ripp Center for Career Development will also offer guidance to interested students throughout the entire application process. The Secret Service will return in the Spring 2024 semester to host additional recruitment sessions and administer interviews, written examinations, and a fitness test. Applicants from the Hudson Valley will be welcomed to visit Iona University's New Rochelle campus.

To learn more about the opportunity, please contact Matt Cardin at mcardin@iona.edu.

Attorney Melissa Andrieux Named BCW's Ambassador of the Year



L-R-BCW President & CEO Marsha Gordon, Ambassador of the Year Melissa G. Andrieux of Dorf Nelson & Zauderer LLP; BCW Senior Director of Membership & Programs Linda Tyler and BCW Chairman Jamie Schutzer

Melissa G. Andrieux, Chief Diversity Officer and Chief Client Relations Officer for the law firm of Dorf Nelson & Zauderer LLP has been awarded the BCW's prestigious Ambassador of the Year Award. The award was presented at the BCW's Annual New Year Blast held January 10 at the Surf Club in New Rochelle.

Andrieux is an experienced litigator who leverages her background in law to lead Dorf Nelson & Zauderer LLP's Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, and Belonging (DEIB) initiatives. She is responsible for developing and executing the firm's strategy to attract, recruit, and retain talent and to foster a firmwide culture of equity, inclusion, and belonging. She also consults and assists firm clients and other businesses with the development of their own diversity and inclusion programming and related initiatives. As a leading DEIB professional, Andrieux is regularly called upon to share her insights through speaking engagements and magazine features.

Andrieux also serves as the firm's Chief Client Relations Officer, tapping into her extensive experience in marketing, business development, and recruitment to drive business growth within the firm. Outside of the firm, she serves as Ambassador to the BCW, as well as a Board Member of the Westchester Women's Bar Association (WWBA) and co-chair of the WWBA's DEI Committee.

Andrieux received her B.S. from St. John's University and her J.D. from New York Law School. Before joining Dorf Nelson & Zauderer LLP, she was an Assistant District Attorney in Queens County, New York, and a civil litigator at a New York based litigation firm.

The BCW's Ambassador Program was created 18 years ago and has become one of the BCW's signature programs. Longtime BCW members volunteer their time, energy and expertise to mentor and guide new members through their first year of membership. Ambassadors attend all of BCW events and their responsibilities include welcoming members at every program and event we offer. Every member who joins the BCW is partnered with an Ambassador

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Sound View Summit: Strategies & Resources for “Successful Aging”

Panelists Share Ideas and Information with Local Summit Audience

By Rina Beder

There are approximately 248,000 individuals over the age of 60 currently residing in Westchester County, an area with one of the highest longevity rates in the nation. And, according to a recent AARP survey, over 80% of the U.S. population want to age in place. While few people want to discuss living and care options in advance of needing to make a change, the key to successful aging is to be proactive, said panelists at the Larchmont-Mamaroneck Local Summit’s first program of 2024, held on January 9th.

“Successful aging is really about pivoting and taking the time to recognize that we are at a different phase of our life and that we are heading toward a different phase of life” said Susan Keating, a licensed life care professional and founder and Director of Honora Care Management and Consulting, a private pay company that provides specialized advice for finding and ensuring the best aging care options.

Westchester County has a number of resources to assist individuals in identifying important questions and issues at ages spanning 20 to 80+. One such resource is “My Aging Plan” said Colette Phipps, the Director of Program Development in the Westchester County Department of Senior Programs and Services. Phipps, also an adjunct professor at Fordham and NYU, stressed the importance of staying informed about the field of aging and the resources available. While County services are means tested and directed to the most vulnerable residents, there are also resources available to residents regardless of income.

For example, a caregiver coaching program developed with Fordham University and the County Department of Aging has a comprehensive guide and is staffed by volunteers who have acted as caregivers. In addition, in 2006 the County launched The Livable Communities Initiative dedicated to “help seniors remain in their homes as they grow older with independence, dignity and civic engagement.”

Being part of a community is a major component of successful aging said Matt Anderson, the President and CEO of The Osborn, an award winning life plan community that spans from independent living to memory care and skilled nursing care. The Osborn is private pay and offers “one stop shopping and allows seniors to continue to live, learn and grow and do that in an environment with friends and near family”. Individuals should tour places before there is a need to move. Many places, including The Osborn, have monthly events and sales offices with information, said Anderson. “Our biggest competition is home and not the place down the road” he went on to say.

Given the cost of aging and healthcare, part of taking a proactive approach is to “realistically plan for what your expenses are going to be” said Keating. She went on to say that you need “real numbers”; for example, assess the cost of an assisted living community together with skilled nursing, compared to remaining in your home with a private aide, if one should become needed. “Many times you need to educate your financial advisor on the actual costs” Keating went on to say, as many seem to underestimate these expenses. Additionally, although the skilled nursing facility at The Osborn does accept some medicare, “reimbursements do not keep up with the rapidly growing cost of healthcare” added Anderson.

Some individuals purchase long term care policies which are helpful for both defraying costs and for overcoming some resistance to making a change, but like any insurance policy, these must be purchased in advance. “When it comes time that you need care, it is too late to buy a policy” Keating said.

Options vary depending on individual needs but given that the overwhelming preference is to age in place, available community resources are important in making this a reality. Locally, At Home on the Sound provides an informal support network through outings to movies and museums and Mah Jong groups. The organization’s volunteers also provide rides for seniors who can no longer drive. Not every community in Westchester is fortunate enough to have these type of organizations, pointed out County Executive George Latimer who was in attendance, but the County’s Livable Community Collaborative has a range of services and nine regional hubs “that coordinate programs and advocacy activities for the municipalities in their area”.

Planning, learning, and staying engaged are some of the keys to successful aging. “I know that there's one thing that transcends all of this”, said Phipps “and that is that a person is able to live and to die where they want to be and as far as I'm concerned that is success”.

Visit the Local Summit online: <https://www.localsummitlm.org/> LMC Media: <https://lmcmedia.org/>.

Harrison Man Arrested for Collecting \$\$\$ for Never Completed Construction Jobs



Robert Stewart

The Sixth Squad reports the arrest of a Harrison man for an incident that occurred on Monday, January 8, 2024 at 2:55 pm in Great Neck.

According to Detectives, Sixth Precinct officers responded to an Aster Lane residence for a possible Burglary in progress. After a thorough investigation of officers were able to locate Robert Stewart, 39, of 248 Harrison Avenue, Harrison, in front of 4630 Iris Lane and he was placed under arrest without incident.

Defendant Stewart was charged with Criminal Possession of a Forged Instrument 2nd Degree and three Solicitation violations. He was arraigned on Tuesday, January 09, 2024 at First District Court, 99 Main Street, Hempstead.

Subsequent to the investigation it was determined that the defendant was also responsible for a Grand Larceny that occurred in Great Neck on Thursday, January 04, 2024. The defendant was soliciting work for construction jobs on homes, he would accept partial payment for these jobs then never complete the work.

Detectives request if anyone feels they may also have been a victim of the defendant to contact the Sixth Squad at 516-573-6653 or call 911. All callers will remain anonymous.

Westchester County Parks Hiring Lifeguards for Summer 2024

Work outdoors, build your resume and make new friends as a Westchester County Parks Lifeguard this summer. Applications are now available to be considered for employment as a Westchester County Lifeguard. Applicants must be 15 years of age or older to apply. Lifeguard training courses will be announced for those who need to train to become a lifeguard.

Watch Westchester County Parks’ Lifeguard Recruitment Video:

https://youtu.be/--Fz4Xv0e30?si=_JiUPbCS2Jj72EH8

Westchester County Executive George Latimer said, “Lifeguarding teaches teenagers and young adults a great deal of responsibility and makes for a great first job to lay the foundation of what is to be expected in the work force. I encourage those who are interested to apply and sign up for training.”

Westchester County Parks Commissioner Kathy O’Connor said, “By becoming a Westchester County Parks Lifeguard, you will be joining an esteemed team that teaches life-long skills, while working in the beautiful Westchester County Parks system.”

Applicants should possess a current American Red Cross Lifeguarding/First Aid and CPR/AED for Lifeguards certifications or equivalent, and pass the Westchester County practical skills test. County parks offers training for new guards, which includes waterfront training for the option to guard at either a pool or beach.

Those applying must be able to work at varied locations including Saxon Woods Pool in White Plains, Sprain Ridge Pool and The Brook at Tibbetts in Yonkers, Willson’s Waves Pool in Mount Vernon, as well as Croton Point Park Beach in Croton-on-Hudson and Glen Island Beach in New Rochelle if waterfront certified. For more information contact the County’s aquatics team at prc-aquatics@westchestercountyny.gov or (914) 231-4556.

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Notice of Real Estate Auction**By Order of the City of New Rochelle**

Notice is hereby given by the City of New Rochelle (the "City") of the public auction of the surplus City property listed below, which is in New Rochelle, NY.

The public auction will take place January 29 beginning at 10:00 AM and will end January 31 at 12:30 PM.

Bid online only at www.auctionnetwork.com.

The auction will be conducted in accordance with, and all bidders agree to be bound to, the terms and conditions of the auction and sale.

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WilliamsAuction.com/NewRochelle

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Philip R. Heiliger Re Lic 10311207661

Williams & Williams Re Lic 109911428

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 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 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.

Formation of TAQUERIA MARQUITO, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/8/2023 with formation date of 1/1/2024. 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 Lundy, Beldecos & Milby, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Ave., Ste. 200, Narberth, PA 19072. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Formation of EVERYBODY EATS FOOD GROUP, LLC filed with the Secy. of State of NY (SSNY) on 12/8/2023 with formation date of 1/1/2024. 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 Lundy, Beldecos & Milby, P.C., 450 N. Narberth Ave., Ste. 200, Narberth, PA 19072. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

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.

CORPORATION NOTICE

CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the City Council of the City of Yonkers, New York will hold a Public Hearing on Tuesday, January 30, 2024 at 7:00 P.M. in the City Council Chambers, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York on the following General Ordinance, to wit:

PROPOSED GENERAL ORDINANCE

A PROPOSED AMENDMENT OF CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, COMMONLY KNOWN AS THE ZONING ORDINANCE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS, AND THE ACCOMPANYING ZONING MAP TO RECLASSIFY AND REZONE THE PROPERTY LOCATED AT 900 NORTH BROADWAY ON THE TAX MAP AS BLOCK 3415, LOT 23, SECTION23, SECTION 3, FROM ITS PRESENT PEP DISTRICT DESIGNATION TO THE MG DISTRICT.

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

VINCENT SPANO
City Clerk

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.

A Soft Delicate Flower by Kae, a domestic LLC, filed with the SSNY on 1/3/24. Office location: Peekskill 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.



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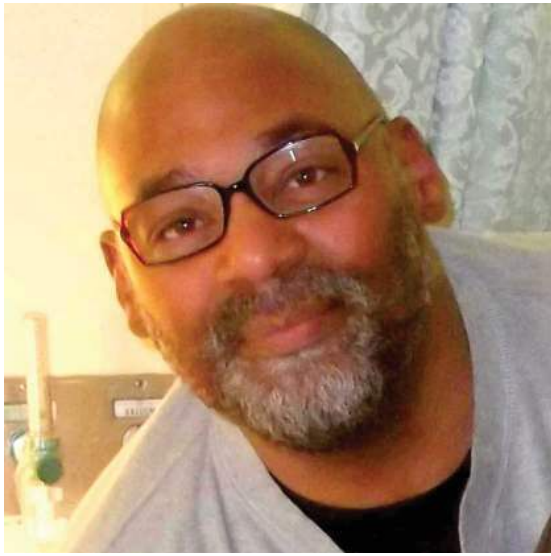
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Obituary: Dennis Richmond Sr.



Dennis Richmond Sr.

It is with deep sadness that the Yonkers Times announces the passing of Dennis Richmond, Sr., a beloved member of our community. On January 11th, 2024, he peacefully departed this life at Calvary Hospital in the Bronx, New York. Dennis, born on September 30th, 1955, in New Rochelle, New York, was a loving father, a pillar of strength, and a source of inspiration to many.

Survived by his children, Denise Richmond, Charnise Richmond, and Dennis Richmond, Jr., Dennis leaves behind a legacy of love and enduring connections with family and friends. His impact extends beyond his immediate circle, touching the lives of numerous individuals in the Yonkers community.

Residing in Yonkers from the 1980s until approximately 2022, Dennis became a familiar face through his work at Total Automotive Warehouse, where he delivered car parts. His dedication to his job mirrored his commitment to his family and community. In his retirement, Richmond loved to play at the Empire City Casino. He would have good days, sometimes bringing home prizes worth close to \$3,000.

To celebrate Dennis Richmond, Sr.'s life, a private dinner will be held in Mount Vernon, New York, on Thursday, January 18th, 2024. Yonkers Times extends heartfelt condolences to Mr. Richmond's family during this difficult time, acknowledging the profound loss felt by all who had the privilege of knowing him.

"He was my Superman," said his son Dennis Richmond, Jr. I cried so much on Thursday and Friday that it almost became a normal part of my day.

Instead of flowers, the family kindly requests that you cherish the fond memories shared with Mr. Richmond. May he rest in peace, and may his memory forever live on in the hearts of those he touched with his warmth, kindness, and spirit.-We Love You Dad.

Greenburgh-Edgemont, continued from pg 2-

cally necessary revenues.

Losing any substantial portion of these revenues would, we believe, cause irreparable, and permanent fiscal harm to our community, and, regrettably, both a new Edgemont Village and the remaining Unincorporated Area would become less racially and economically diverse. This would be an attack on the values we in Greenburgh have practiced and enjoyed for decades, values in which we take much pride.

The Law adopted last year required that a three person NYS committee, appointed by the State's Comptroller, Attorney General and Secretary of State, study and review the fiscal and social issues related to any incorporation effort in NYS, and the three person committee would have the power to block an incorporation referendum vote if they found that either the residents of the new village or the remaining Town would be badly injured by such an incorporation. Senator Stewart Cousins' Chapter Amendment exempts Unincorporated Greenburgh from such protections should the EIC file a petition this year or any year until 2040.

We cannot understand why Senator Stewart Cousins and Assemblywoman Paulin, who together initiated the Chapter Amendment, believe that this law, which they deem critical for 20+ million NY residents, is unimportant for Unincorporated Greenburgh and the residents of Edgemont, who are their actual constituents. Newly elected Assemblywoman MaryJane Shimsky, who represents part of Unincorporated Greenburgh, has not yet voiced an opinion on the Amendments.

For those interested in joining the increasing struggle for proper representation, equal treatment under the law, appropriate fiscal and social information standards, and voter rights, please email us at TownBoard@GreenburghNY.com.

Respectfully, The Greenburgh Town Board, Supervisor Paul Feiner Councilwoman Joy Haber, Councilwoman Ellen Hendrickx, Councilwoman Gina Jackson, Councilman Francis Sheehan.

Bronx Woman Sentenced to Two Years Prison for Assaulting a Metro-North Conductor



Defendant threw a pumpkin in victim's face following dispute over train fare; pumpkin stem caused lacerations under victim's eye that required stitches

Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah and Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Chief of Police John Mueller announced today that a Bronx woman was sentenced to two years in state prison for assaulting a Metro-North Railroad conductor.

DA Rocah said: "Today's sentence holds the defendant accountable for violently attacking an essential worker who was simply doing her job. We thank the MTA Police Department for their collaboration on this case."

Chief Mueller: "Any attack against an MTA worker is unacceptable, and this case demonstrates again that perpetrators of such assaults will face justice. We are grateful to the Westchester County District Attorney's Office for ensuring successful prosecution and for its continuing collaboration to protect Metro-North employees who are serving the public."

The defendant, Alexis Adams, 23, pleaded guilty on Dec. 7, 2023, to Assault in the Second Degree, a felony. In addition to her term of incarceration, the defendant will be subject to three years of post-release supervision.

On Oct. 11, 2021, at approximately 6:02 p.m., the defendant, following a verbal dispute over train fare, struck the conductor in the face with a pumpkin before fleeing the train at the Mount Vernon West station, leaving behind her purse and IDs. The victim was transported to a local hospital where she was treated for lacerations around her eye and ear.

The defendant was arrested by the MTA Police Department following their investigation.

The case was before Judge James McCarty in Westchester County Court and was prosecuted by the Trials and Investigations Division.

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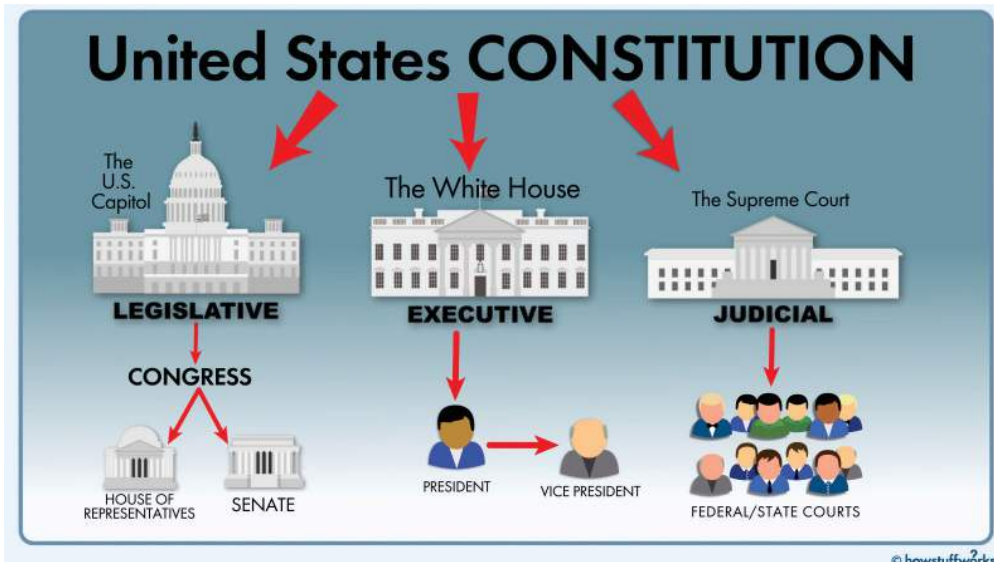
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Above the “Branches” of Government is the Constitution and YOU!



So why does a government that works for and represents us refuse to answer our questions?

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

Answer: Section 1 of the Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”) contains no provisions creating a specific liability for taxes imposed by subtitle A. Aside from the statutes which apply only to federal government employees, pursuant to the Public Salary Tax Act, the only other statutes that create a specific liability for federal income taxes are those itemized in the definition of “Withholding agent” at IRC section 7701(a)(16). For example, see IRC section 1461. A separate liability statute for “employment” taxes imposed by subtitle C is found at IRC section 3403.

After a worker authorizes a payroll officer to withhold taxes, typically by completing Form W 4, the payroll officer then becomes a withholding agent who is legally and specifically liable for payment of all taxes withheld from that worker’s paycheck. Until such time as those taxes are paid in full into the Treasury of the United States, the withholding agent is the only party who is legally liable for those taxes, not the worker. See IRC section 7809 (“Treasury of the United States”).

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

What is a “Withholding Exemption Certificate”?

Answer: A “Withholding Exemption Certificate” is an alternative to Form W 4, authorized by IRC section 3402(n) and executed in lieu of Form W 4. Although section 3402(n) does authorize this Certificate, the IRS has never added a corresponding form to its forms catalog (see the IRS “Printed Products Catalog”).

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

Answer: “Tax evasion” is the crime of evading a lawful tax. In the context of federal income taxes, this crime can only be committed by persons who have a legal liability to pay, i.e. the withholding agent. If one is not employed by the federal government, one is not subject to the Public Salary Tax Act unless one chooses to be treated “as if” one is a federal government “employee.” This is typically done by executing a valid Form W 4.

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

Can the IRS levy bank accounts without a valid court order?

Answer: No. The Fifth Amendment prohibits all deprivations of life, liberty, or property without due process of law. Due Process of Law is another honored and well developed feature of American constitutional practice. Put simply, it requires Notice and Hearing before any property can be seized by any federal government employees, agents, departments or agencies.

Was the so-called 16th amendment properly ratified?

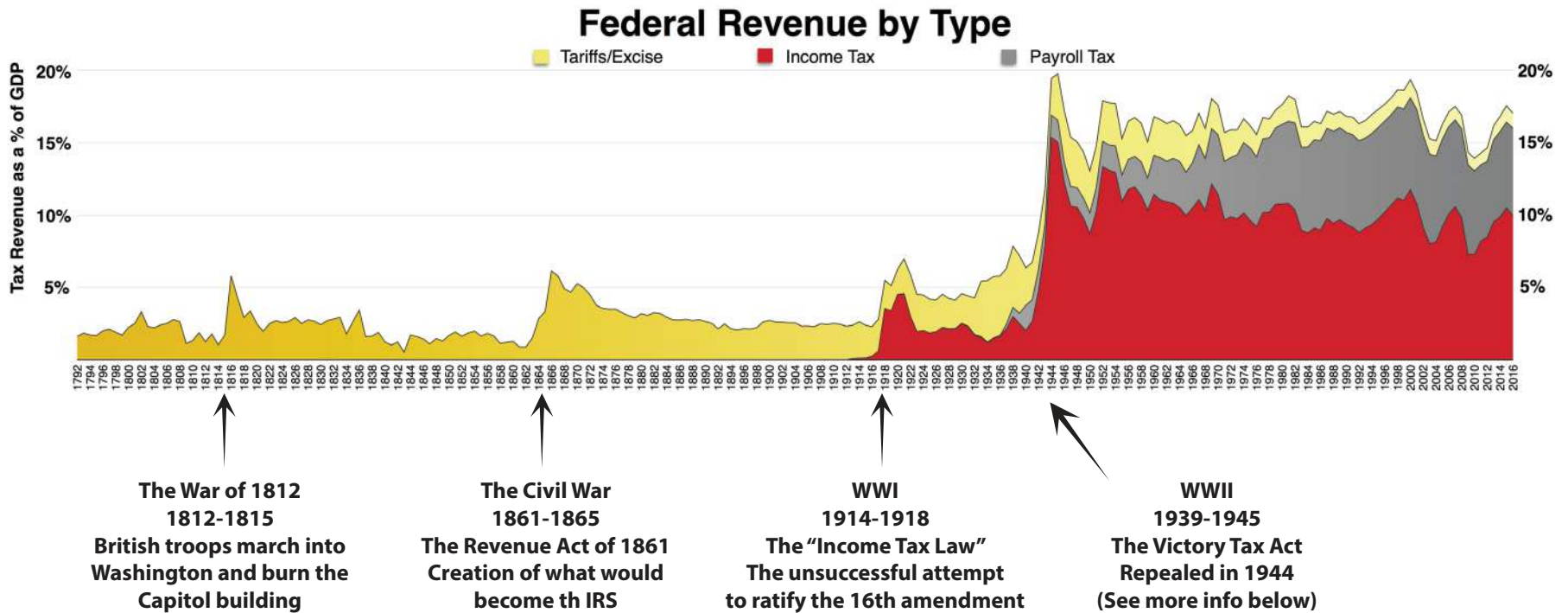
Answer: No. Neither was properly ratified. In the case of People v. Boxer (December 1992), docket number #S-030016, U.S. Senator Barbara Boxer fell totally silent in the face of an Application to the California Supreme Court by the People of California, for an ORDER compelling Senator Boxer to witness the material evidence against the so-called 16th amendment.

The U.S. Constitution requires that constitutional amendments be ratified by three-fourths of the several States.

That so called “amendment” allegedly authorized federal income taxation, even though it contains no provision expressly repealing two Constitutional Clauses mandating that direct taxes must be apportioned. The Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals and the U.S. Supreme Court have both ruled that repeals by implication are not favored. See Crawford Fitting Co. et al. v. J.T. Gibbons, Inc., 482 U.S. 437, 442 (1987).

For more Questions and answers go to: <http://www.supremelaw.org/sls/31answers.htm>

DID YOU KNOW PAYING FEDERAL INCOME TAX IS VOLUNTARY?



Prior to World War II, no one outside the Federal government paid income tax; the people were, and understood themselves to be, immune from that tax. During WWII, Congress passed the Victory Tax ([56 Stat. 884](#)) to impose an income tax on every individual in The United States of America, something which had not been done by any previous income tax act. Excepted from that tax were those already paying income taxes per [I.R.C. 211\(a\)](#) - nonresident alien individuals with no United States business or office but living in a "[contiguous country](#)" and having income from United States sources.

Because the Victory Tax, a wartime measure, was imposed on individuals in the states of the union (and not countries such as Canada or Mexico), those already taxed by section [211\(a\)](#) had to be excepted from the Victory Tax or they would be taxed twice. This suggests that the nonresident alien individuals living in "contiguous countries" were in fact living in states such as Virginia and Maryland - being outside the United States (District of Columbia).

The Victory Tax was repealed by [section 6 of Income Tax Act of 1944](#), which in amending the I.R.C. includes the states of the union in the terms "certain foreign countries" ([section 6 \(b\)\(3\)](#)) and "foreign countries and possessions of the United States" ([section 6 \(b\)\(4\)](#)). **This restored the scope of income taxation to what it had been prior to the Victory Tax, as not including individuals in the states of the union.**

The states of the union (like New York) are then seen to be included in the terms "[contiguous countries](#)", "certain foreign countries" and "foreign countries and possessions of the United States". This shows that every state of the union is foreign to the United States. Those taxed under I.R.C. 211(a) must then be those living in a state of the union and working for Federal government or one of its agencies - drawing income from "sources within the United States".

But because Congress failed to make it generally known that the Victory Tax was no longer in effect, people did not know to discontinue the withholding begun for the Victory Tax. One was then considered as being a volunteer in paying income tax.

The Federal Income Tax- What If?

What if individuals were to stop filing and paying the income tax and employers, would stop withholding the tax from the paychecks of their employees and there was no new federal tax to take the place of the individual income tax? "Would we be able to fix the bridges and maintain a strong national Defense?" "would we be able to avoid chaos?" would we be a stronger nation? Is a mechanism in place that would allow a peaceful and smooth transition from a society with an individual income tax to a society without one?

The answer to each of these questions is a resounding "yes."

Here we are in the year 2023 and the federal government has to start preparing to adopt the federal budget for the next fiscal year. Let's assume that Congress will come to the conclusion that it wants \$30 trillion in tax revenue next year. Let's also assume that Congress expects \$15 trillion to come from the tax already in place and authorized by article 1, section 8 of the constitution. (excise, taxes, tariffs, duties, and imposts). and that those tax revenues were sufficient to maintain a strong defense, and to pay for the other federal programs, needed and authorized by the enumerated powers found in article 1. That leaves \$15 trillion dollars to come from someplace else to pay for everything else Congress wants to do. Assuming Congress decides not to increase the article 1. Section 8 taxes Congress would have to get the other \$15 trillion by taxing the people under the authority created by article 1, section 9 of the constitution.—i.e, by laying a direct tax, on the people, a tax that would have to be PROPORTIONED AMONG THE STATES. This means Congress would have to pass a bill, and the president would have to sign the bill into law, requiring the states to come up with the money Congress wanted. To be constitutional, the bill would have to proportion the \$15 trillion among the 50 states based on the population figures of the last census This is the mechanism that has been in place since 1787, and which could very easily work today. of course, with this approach to funding the federal government, there would be a dramatic shift in power away from the federal government to the states, and to the people. It can be safely assumed that if given the choice, the states will use their power to influence the federal government not to adopt the law, requiring the states to come up with the \$15 trillion deciding, instead, that they, the states don't need the middleman—i.e., that they the states will fund the development of communities of their states, and they will fund the education of the children of their states, without also funding the huge bureaucracies in Washington DC.

Undercover Mom, continued from pg 1-

Trinkle: I'm very sorry. This is never anything I ever wanted anyone exposed to.

Mom-"Who wants to know my son's proclivity to certain sex is. Birth control. herpes home tests"

The several parts series from @SageOps, (https://twitter.com/SageOps_/status/1743382843944812610) a former Director of undercover operations for Project Veritas includes several videos and a detailed summary of what was uncovered in the videos, and the unanswered questions.

LCBMS Science Teacher, Steve Trinkle, admitted to assigning students in his class to take an online personality test. The test included standard questions in which students were asked to categorize their own behaviors and strengths.

But it also included sexual questions, about a 11 or 12 years old "Romantic Relationships," including The Best S*x Dolls, The Best P*nis Pumps, The Best P*nis Extenders, The Best S*x Toys, etc.

After being confronted with what was available for any student to read online, the district blocked the site completely.

Trinkle said that he had given the personality test to his students in previous school years but that the romantic relationships were not included and that the romantic relationships were only given to the 2022-23 class.

But @SageOps reports that YouTube videos related to the test were online from 2017. Many of the YouTube video links posted concerning this incident have been removed.

The more well known, and controversial website LibsofTikTok picked up the @SageOps story (<https://twitter.com/libsoftiktok/status/1743338587112767639>). "Parents, do you know what materials your kids have access to at school and on their school devices," writes LibsofTikTok.

The Lakeland School District issued a statement that included "that material harmful to minors was shared with students."

Mr. Trinkle's explanation is that the test had changed and that he had no idea about the change.

Principal Ruolo said, "that went up prior to us meeting (with Tinkle). We will take that down and put something that is age appropriate.

Mom-"What about every other kid that saw this? Parents don't know their kids saw this?"

Principal-"As parents are bringing their concerns to us, we are addressing them.

Mom-"I think you owe the students and parents the ability to address what they may or may not have seen. What happened to the results? Was he using them for his own personal use?"

Principal-"This is one particular teacher who has given out this test in past years The teacher has apologized. He's taking responsibility and saying I should have reviewed it. Never had another parent or student bring it up-

@SageOps asks How Many Students -How Many Years?

The only way that a determination can be made is if students come forward.

After the principal refused to notify all of the student who had a class with Tinkle, the Mom said, "I'm going to have to take this higher." Anyone wishing to come forward can contact us at dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

Mt. Vernon Man Sentenced to 10 Years Prison for 2021 Fatal Shooting at Sleepy Hollow Park



Manuel Salazar, right, with his family

Defendant also injured a second victim who survived shooting

On Jan. 5, Westchester County District Attorney Miriam E. Rocah announced that a Mount Vernon man was sentenced on Thursday to 10 years in state prison for the fatal shooting of 32-year-old Sleepy Hollow father of two, Manuel Salazar.

DA Rocah said: "This senseless act of gun violence took away a father and husband leaving a family devastated. We must be vigilant in our fight to keep guns out of the hands of people who use them for harm."

The defendant, Emmanuel Valentin Perez, 21, pleaded guilty on Aug. 17 to Manslaughter in the First Degree and Assault in the Second Degree, both felonies. He will be subject to five years of post-release supervision.

On June 28, 2021, at approximately 9:32 p.m., the defendant, who was 18 at the time of the incident, used a Lorcin pistol to shoot the victim once in the abdomen during a confrontation at Margotta Courts Park in Sleepy Hollow. The victim was transported to Westchester Medical Center in Valhalla, where he was pronounced dead. The defendant's gunshot also wounded a second victim, who was taken to the hospital, treated and released.

An investigation conducted by the Sleepy Hollow Police Department, with assistance from the Tarrytown Police Department, the Westchester County Department of Public Safety, the FBI's Westchester Safe Streets Task Force and the Greenburgh Drug and Alcohol Task Force, utilized surveillance video, ballistics evidence and witness interviews to recover the loaded gun and identify the defendant as the shooter. The defendant was arrested outside of his Mount Vernon home on June 29, 2021.

In a victim impact statement to the court, the victim's wife stated: "Imagine waking up the next day and telling your kids they will never be able to see, hear, touch, talk, or hug their dad again. Manuel was the most loving husband.... Losing him has changed my life forever."

The case was before Judge James McCarty in Westchester County Court and prosecuted by Senior Assistant District Attorney Catalina Blanco Buitrago, with assistance from Counsel John O'Rourke and Senior Felony Counsel Perry Perrone, all of the Trials and Investigations Division.

Adoption:

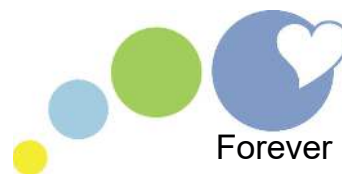
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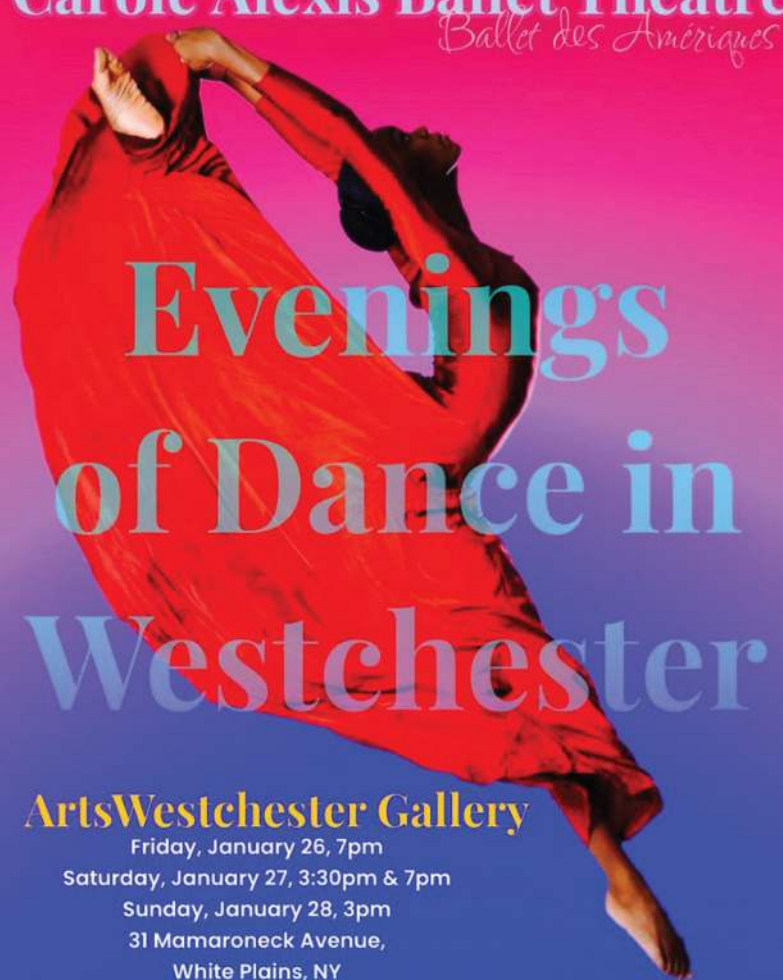
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Grounds for Invalidating a Prenup in New York



Michael Liptrot, Esq.

By: Michael Liptrot, Esq.

Prenuptial agreements are legal contracts that outline the division of assets and responsibilities between spouses in the event of a divorce. While these agreements are generally enforceable, there are specific grounds for invalidating a prenup in New York. Understanding these grounds is essential for anyone considering entering into a prenuptial agreement or facing a divorce where one is in place.

Validity of Prenuptial Agreements: The permissibility for a couple to enter into prenuptial agreements in New York is codified in Domestic Relations Law 236 (B)(3). The statute states, “An agreement by the parties, made before... the marriage, shall be valid and enforceable in a matrimonial action if such agreement is in writing, subscribed by the parties, and acknowledged or proven in the manner required to entitle a deed to be recorded.”

Accordingly, prenuptial agreements, or premarital agreements, are legally binding documents that will generally be enforced so long as they meet the following criteria: The agreement is in writing, The parties actually get married, The agreement is signed and acknowledged in a manner sufficient for a deed to be record, The person seeking to enforce the agreement is doing so within a divorce action.

Prenuptial agreements are capable of outlining precisely how the couple’s assets, debts, and other financial matters will be handled in the event of a divorce and, as such, must be afforded careful consideration before execution. Due to the significant consequences of signing a prenuptial agreement, parties are strongly encouraged to have an independent attorney of their own choosing represent them to negotiate and review the prenuptial agreement prior to execution; however, this is not a requirement, and individuals should not rely on their lack of representation as a means of potentially invalidating the agreement in the future.

It is clear from the foregoing that prenuptial agreements are binding upon the parties once properly executed. However, there are specific circumstances under which a prenuptial agreement can be invalidated. These range from issues related to fraud to the absence of proper legal representation. Understanding these potential pitfalls is critical when considering entering into such an agreement, defending against a challenge in the event of divorce, or even challenging the prenup yourself.

Challenging the Validity of a Prenup: If you believe your prenuptial agreement is invalid, there are legal avenues you can explore to challenge it. The New York Court of Appeals, the highest court in the State of New York, set the standard for overturning prenuptial agreements in its decision *Christian v. Christian*, 42 N.Y.2d 63 (N.Y. 1977). In that case, the Court acknowledged that an agreement may be set aside in whole or apart upon a finding of fraud, duress, mental incompetence, or fundamental unfairness.

However, the Court signaled that such grounds to overturn an agreement, if alleged, will be subject to strict scrutiny. The Court opined, “Judicial review is to be exercised circumspectly, sparingly, and with a persisting view to the encouragement of parties settling their own differences in connection with the negotiation of property settlement provisions. Furthermore, when there has been full disclosure between the parties, not only of all relevant facts but also of their contextual significance, and there has been an absence of inequitable conduct or other infirmity that might vitiate the execution of the agreement, courts should not intrude so as to redesign the bargain arrived at by the parties on the ground that judicial wisdom in retrospect would view one or more of the specific provisions as improvident or one-sided.” *Christian*.

Fraud is often difficult to prove but can include instances where one spouse hides assets or misrepresents their financial situation. Case law in New York has shown that the courts take allegations of fraud very seriously, and evidence of such fraud may result in substantial portions of a prenup, or even the entire agreement, being thrown out.

A common belief is that an individual may set aside a prenuptial agreement on the grounds that they did not have proper legal representation when entering into the agreement. However, lack of counsel is not specifically recognized as a grounds for invalidating an agreement, and while New York law emphasizes the importance of each party having independent counsel when entering into a prenuptial agreement, this alone would be an insufficient basis for invalidation.

Mistakes in Prenuptial Agreements: A Legal Perspective: Even minor errors in a prenuptial agreement can have significant legal consequences. Given the significant burden an individual would have to set aside a prenuptial agreement once entered into, it is critically important for the prospective husband and wife to fully understand the full impact of the agreement. The best way to do this, of course, is for each party to retain experienced legal counsel.

Protecting Your Interests with a Solid Prenuptial Agreement: A well-crafted prenuptial agreement can safeguard your financial interests and provide a clear roadmap for asset division in the event of a divorce. To ensure your prenup stands up in court, make sure to follow New York’s legal requirements to the letter.

continued to the right -

Pace Women’s Justice Center Kicks Off “LOVE Isn’t” Campaign

To Promote Awareness and Dialogue on Intimate Partner

In anticipation of Valentine’s Day 2024, Pace Women’s Justice Center (PWJC) is kicking off its ‘Love Isn’t’ campaign for the second year. The focus of the campaign is to engage teens and young adults in the conversation of what ‘Love Isn’t’ – insulting, threatening, gaslighting, controlling or assaulting.

According to the Center for Disease Control National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), females 18-34 experience the highest rates of intimate partner violence. Up to 20% of both men and women, between the ages of 11-17yrs old, first experience some form of physical violence or stalking by an intimate partner. That means the key to prevention is providing earlier education, awareness, and having important conversations around what ‘Love Isn’t’ with teens and college students. PWJC is dedicated to educating and mainstreaming information on how to identify if you are in an unhealthy or abusive relationship and how to get help.

Beginning January 15th, PWJC is excited to reintroduce the ‘Love Isn’t’ media campaign. The focus is to promote awareness and communication on the warning signs of unhealthy and abusive relationships, with an emphasis on positivity and healthy love at the campaign’s center.

PWJC Executive Director Cindy Kanusher shares: “Intimate partner violence is a pervasive problem affecting women and men at alarming rates. Education and conversation are critical tools for prevention and intervention on this issue. This is especially important for young individuals as they formulate an understanding of what love feels and looks like. PWJC is dedicated to providing critical educational resources and sparking dialogue among our community. The Love Isn’t campaign carries an empowering message that recognizes and celebrates real love—not love that exhibits abusive behaviors. We are greatly inspired by the engagement around the Love Isn’t campaign and aim to bring greater awareness toward intimate partner violence this year through ongoing social media and outreach initiatives.”

On February 12th, PWJC will represent the ‘Love Isn’t’ campaign at the Pace University Wellbeing Fair, featuring 70+ info tables hosted by members of the Pace Community and more. Campaign outreach will also include work with Ardsley High School, including participation in their Wellness Fair for students, as well as making presentations to all Seniors during their Government class. The PWJC outreach team is actively preparing additional events in the ‘Love Isn’t’ campaign across Westchester and Putnam. These events will focus on sharing key information and engaging discussions with community audiences.

Throughout the campaign and culminating on February 14th (Valentine’s Day), PWJC is asking its followers and supporters to join in sharing a post or video across social media platforms in support of the campaign. Participants are encouraged to express WHAT LOVE IS to them. WHAT LOVE IS may be a single word, a feeling, an action, or an experience—all are invited to share their take on what healthy love means. With posts and videos that are positive, inspiring, and fun, this social media initiative of the ‘Love Isn’t’ campaign will highlight the truth and power of WHAT LOVE IS. As an option, custom graphics can be found in the PWJC Dropbox folder.

<https://www.dropbox.com/scl/fo/1xwbo98zqep4pggaq7apw/h?rlkey=7ljragfelkq0sj09954ocg3oe&dl=0>

Example - Love is...(Post or Video)

Patient, kind, consistent, without judgment, feeling safe, thoughtful, a partner that understands me, my partner bringing me morning coffee, a foot rub, a sweet morning text, a hug after a hard day, someone to watch reality shows with, someone who makes me feel seen

PWJC is also offering a collection of merchandise featuring the ‘Love Isn’t’ graphic on t-shirts, hoodies, tote bags, and ceramic mugs at Bonfire/Shop/PWJC. The campaign graphic identifies a series of behaviors that definitively ‘Love Isn’t’ in order to spark awareness and conversation. PWJC is accepting donations to support this campaign and empower additional programming in the spring. For more information go to PWJC or contact jkleidman@law.pace.edu Help PWJC bring awareness and prevention to stop Domestic Violence.

If you’re concerned about issues like spousal support, the division of marital property, or protecting premarital assets, it’s always a good idea to consult a legal expert. They can guide you through the complexities of New York law and help you draft an agreement that accurately reflects your wishes and protects your interests.

Steps to Take if You Believe Your Prenup Is Invalid: If you have doubts about the validity of your prenuptial agreement, take immediate action.

1. Consult with a legal expert to assess the grounds for invalidating your prenup in New York. They can help you understand whether your agreement is fraudulent, whether you lacked proper legal representation, or other issues that could make it invalid.

2. Gather all relevant documents and evidence that support your case. This could include correspondence that proves coercion or duress, or financial records that show undisclosed assets.

3. Be prepared for a legal battle. Challenging a prenup is often a complex and time-consuming process that requires strong legal representation. Make sure you’re well-prepared to present your case in court.

Speak with a Divorce Lawyer About Invalidating a Prenup in New York Understanding the grounds for invalidating a prenup in New York is essential for anyone entering into such an agreement or considering a divorce. While prenuptial agreements are generally enforceable, there are specific conditions under which they can be invalidated. Whether it’s due to fraud, a lack of legal representation, or other issues, know your rights and your options. Michael Liptrot is senior counsel in Tully Rinckey PLLC’s White Plains office, where he focuses his practice on family and matrimonial law. For close to a decade, Michael has practiced family law across the lower Hudson Valley area. He can be reached at info@tullylegal.com or at (888) 229-4988.

Latimer Addresses Federal Issues in Run for Congress: Connecting Metro-North & Penn Station

Westchester County Executive George Latimer is taking proactive steps to address the transportation needs of the region, as outlined in a letter addressed to Chief Executive Officer of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority (MTA) Janno Lieber, Latimer is calling for a study to have the Hudson Line have direct one seat access to Manhattan's Penn Station.

Latimer came to Yonkers on Jan. 17 to highlight the issue.

In his letter, Latimer said: "The advantages of such a connection are abundant. Improved transportation links would not only further ease congestion but also foster economic growth, enhance accessibility to job opportunities, and contribute to the overall quality of life for residents in Westchester County, the Bronx and beyond."

Expressing his continued support for the progress made with West Side Access on the New Haven Line, which links Metro North's New Haven Line service with four new Bronx Stations into Manhattan's Penn Station on the West Side, Latimer said it is time for a parallel initiative on the Hudson River side of Metro North.

According to statistics from the MTA provided in its 2022 overview, the Hudson Line's ridership rose 56.7% from 2021 with approximately 3.6 million more rides. The total annual East of Hudson (Harlem Line, Hudson Line and New Haven Line) ridership was approximately 48 million, approximately 17.9 million more rides than the 30.1 million for 2021. These increased ridership numbers show a serious appetite for greater access to MTA trains.

Latimer wants the MTA to undertake a comprehensive study to evaluate the feasibility and potential benefits of establishing West Side Access from Westchester and the Bronx on the Hudson Line to Penn Station. The existing Amtrak line in the corridor presents a strategic opportunity to leverage the infrastructure for the benefit of the communities along the Hudson River.

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano said: "As the fastest growing big city in New York State and the gateway to the Hudson Valley, Yonkers support Westchester County's quest to expand transportation access to the metropolitan area. I commend County Executive Latimer for advocating for our residents and businesses that will result in economic growth and improved quality of life. Together, we can make access to Penn Station a reality."

Yonkers City Council President Lakisha Collins-Bellamy said: "I join County Executive George Latimer and Mayor Mike Spano in their call urging MTA to explore the viability of Penn Station Access on the Hudson Line of the Metro-North Railroad. The Hudson Line is a vital resource for commuters; an expansion through Penn Station will undoubtedly increase its utility. Beyond improving transportation accessibility, the West Side Access project presents regional economic growth possibilities. Increased ridership on the Hudson Line can generate employment opportunities beyond Yonkers as businesses in nearby towns and cities seek additional employees to meet the growing demand."

Yonkers Councilwoman Corazon Pineda-Isaac said: "I support County Executive Latimer's call to fund a feasibility study which in turn can increase access for Westchester residents, shorten commuter travel times and invests in transit equity."

Yonkers Councilwoman Deana Renee Robinson said: "I firmly believe that exploring the feasibility of establishing West Side access to Penn Station on the Metro North's Hudson Line is crucial for the continued growth and accessibility of our community. A comprehensive study will provide invaluable insights to ensure that we make informed decisions that benefit the residents and future generations. Let us embrace this opportunity to enhance connectivity and continue to foster progress."

Latimer said: "I am confident that the leadership and expertise of the MTA can bring this vision to fruition, ensuring that the benefits of improved transportation infrastructure are equitably distributed throughout the region."

Slater Addresses New York's Affordability Crisis Heading Into 2024 Legislative Session



Assemblyman Matt Slater

A Legislative Column by Assemblyman Matt Slater (R,C-Yorktown)

As we begin a new legislative year, I return to Albany with a renewed focus, energy and optimism. I always believe our best days are ahead of us, and with the right mindset, we can deliver a state government that works for us all.

To no surprise, New York is still grappling with an affordability crisis. From everyday goods and services to the cost of housing, soaring utility bills, health insurance and property taxes, we are facing the most severe affordability crisis we have seen in more than two decades. Formerly proud New Yorkers are now tired and frustrated, opting to relocate to neighboring states. In fact, more New Yorkers made the decision to relocate than any other state in the nation, which has shifted the tax burden onto those of us who continue to stay.

During the governor's State of the State Address on Tuesday, not once did she mention a solid plan to address this escalating crisis. She did offer a revised plan from her failed Housing Compact, which tried to take away local control of zoning decisions and mandate high-density housing projects in the Hudson Valley. Thankfully, a bipartisan coalition of local and state officials defeated this proposal but the question of, "Now what?" must be answered.

Hudson Valley families are tired of Albany talk and want to see real meaningful reforms that will ease the ongoing affordability crisis. That is why I have taken the initiative to introduce legislation that will help alleviate the crushing property tax burden our residents continue to grapple with beginning with our retirees. Currently, the limit on retirement tax exemptions is \$20,000, and that was set back in 1981 and hasn't been increased since. That amount does not suffice in today's economy with the rising costs of living and inflation. Neighboring states like New Jersey have increased the same tax exemption to \$100,000 while their cost of living is arguably lower. I have authored legislation (A.7973) that will recalibrate the retirement tax exemption by bringing it in line with neighboring states while alleviating an archaic tax on our seniors.

The affordability crisis also impacts our young families, specifically those trying to figure out how to pay for child care. Let's be clear, the pandemic proved child care is an essential service that keeps our economy moving. However, the cost of child care is equivalent to a second mortgage payment in many cases. A driving factor in the sky-high cost for child care is the property tax burden these businesses face. Other states, like Texas, are solving this problem by authorizing property tax exemptions to childcare facilities that will instantly reduce the costs being passed onto our families. In Texas, child care facilities are now eligible for property tax breaks, and I have authored and introduced legislation for New York state to allow for the same.

The business community also needs Albany to take meaningful action focused on the affordability crisis that will reduce the costs of goods in our communities. During the pandemic, New York state borrowed billions of dollars from the federal government to pay for the explosion of unemployment benefit requests. As part of the borrowing, the federal government levied interest at 2.28%, which New York State failed to account for. As a result, New York state currently owes \$7.2 billion to the federal government, which Albany has passed onto businesses across New York state to pay. I am proud to sponsor A.2982, which would suspend the interest assessment surcharge that equates to a tax on New York state's businesses because of Albany's mismanagement.

As we return to Albany, we must address these pressing issues with the same renewed focus, energy and optimism that our constituents deserve. It is time for our government leaders to put New Yorkers first—because we simply cannot afford government as usual.

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Letter to the Editor:

The 95th birthday of the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and the categorical perversion of his legacy

By Clifford Jackson, Larchmont

January 15th 2024 would have been the 95th birthday of Dr. King. What we are seeing today in this country is what Dr. King said about America “it is a SICK society”, and his legacy has been categorically perverted over the last 56 years. MLK Day has been defined by the corporate media as a “Day of service”. What this message is conveying is an absolute prefabrication of his message as far as what he went through being arrested more than thirty times protesting American apartheid and the fact that he was bearing the cross like Jesus of Nazareth.

I am not a fan of organized religion for many reasons especially Christianity in this society which is a total fraud on so many different levels. One thing I do know from my journalism over the past 40 years as well as reading and doing previous pieces on Dr. King is that the essential message of Jesus of Nazareth is feeding and helping the poor and the infirmed. As well as fighting for social justice for your fellow human being.

Dr. King epitomized the meaning of that. Martin Luther King was a revolutionary in the same way as Malcolm X. That definition of him has been erased and replaced, especially by the corporate media, with a commercialized and sanitized image of him that in essence makes him more acceptable to white America. Malcolm X understood America as a country that was rooted in evil.

All you have to do is to look at Americas foundation: the enslavement of black Africans more people than any other country during the civil war, and the rape murder and genocide of indigenous peoples. Malcolm X said black people “we’re living in a cycle of disease, poverty and death in America because they are defined as sub human beings”.

Martin Luther King Jr. understood that also, he saw the barbaric conditions that black people and indigenous people experienced because of sub standard housing that included rat and roach infested dwellings especially in the north, poor medical care, brutal violence against black people and indigenous by the white community in general and certainly by the police. Those conditions existed north and south because of the pathological violence of whites and that treatment continues in various degrees to this day.

Dr. King beared the cross on so many different levels but it was summed up when he said, in Alabama in February 1968. “I’m not only concerned about black poor, I’m concerned about white poor, Puerto Rican poor, Mexican poor”.

Dr. King was walking and talking the same path as Jesus of Nazareth when he organized with labor unions the Judaic community as well the student movements under the tutelage of Bayard Rustin to fight the many injustices of the American political economic and social system. Dr. King said “the United States is the biggest purveyor of violence”.

Does this sound like a man that was just interested in having people perform a day of service once a year? Dr. King saw the grinding poverty in this country that affected all groups but disproportionately impacted black, brown and indigenous people. Who were as he saw despised and had a much more dehumanizing every day existence especially the south.

Dr. Kings “i have a dream speech” has been commercialized to the extent that it has become perverted in this society just like the holiday season. Where his real meaning of having all of us “sit at the table of brotherhood” meant a revolutionary change of this society from top to bottom. We see that need today with a society and culture that is morally depraved, with all of the excesses that are concomitant to that depravity. The 25,000 that die from gun violence a every year in this society as well as the tens of thousands that die every year from opioid overdoses, that is glaring in westchester county, brings home what Dr. King also said of America “this is a soulless society”.

Martin Luther King jr was the most hated man in America during the last year of his life especially after his speech that he made on April 4, 1967 “Beyond Vietnam”. Condemning Americas unmitigated violence around the world. In America the real god is not Moses, Jesus or Jehovah and certainly is not Allah its Money. That is one of many reasons why this holiday is such a perversion of as the late Gil Noble said “An Amazing Grace”

Clifford Jackson, Larchmont

Ben & Jerry, continued from pg 16-

Bushong. “This is the kind of quality and thought-provoking documentary we like to show, particularly as it supports such a worthy community organization responsible for employing so many people who might not otherwise have had a chance at success.”

Bartlett (Director/Writer/Producer) said her goal in making the film was to highlight “kind, inclusive, and profitable leadership.”

The film’s producer Michael Pirson, a professor at Fordham University, said, “Our film showcases humanistic business practices that create a world that works for all.”

The film will be shown at The Picture House, 85 Kraft Avenue in Bronxville, at 6:30 p.m. followed by a second feature Wide Open Dreams and a panel discussion featuring the filmmaker, producer, wife of founder Bernie Glassman and Ben Cohen of Ben & Jerry’s. Tickets are \$20 for the general public and \$15 for TPH members and are available online at Zen Brownie at The Picture House Bronxville. The show is almost sold out.

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Teach Coalition, continued from pg 1-

new minority voters.

This initiative builds on prior successful ‘Get Out the Vote’ campaigns organized by Teach Coalition across multiple states and communities. This includes the recent New Jersey election which saw the Jewish community voting in higher numbers than district averages across the state. In Florida, the Jewish community more than doubled average citywide voter turnout in the 2023 Miami Beach and North Miami Beach mayoral elections following Teach Florida’s efforts.

“Now more than ever, it is essential that our communities come out and vote,” said Dan Mitzner, Director of Government Affairs for Teach Coalition. “We are excited to leverage our expertise in voter engagement to work with the Westchester community at this time. This is a first of its kind effort, and we are confident Jewish communities across the county will do their part to vote and make a difference.”

Synagogues, Jewish day schools and Jewish institutions throughout Westchester representing the broad Jewish community have signed on in support of this effort, encouraging their communities to mobilize and vote. The full list of partner organizations is in formation and can be found below.

“These elections hold critical implications for our Jewish communal institutions and especially for our schools,” said Rabbi Dani Rockoff, Principal of Westchester Day School. “Right now, it is our responsibility to show up and vote in large numbers in this election. We are grateful for the efforts of Teach NYS to mobilize our communities around this.”

Teach Coalition is a 501(c)(3) charitable organization and does not support any political party or candidate.

The New York State Primary Election is set for June 25, 2024; Federal Congressional primary election dates are yet to be determined. The New York State General Election is November 5, 2024. For more information, head to: <https://teachcoalition.org/voteny/>

Schools

Kinneret
Ohavei Torah
SAR Academy and High School
The Leffell School
Westchester Day School
Westchester Hebrew High School
Westchester Torah Academy

Synagogues

Anshei Shalom
Congregation B’nei Yisrael
Hebrew Institute of White Plains
Riverdale Jewish Center
Young Israel of New Rochelle
Young Israel of Scarsdale
Young Israel of White Plains

Organizations

UJA-Federation of New York
Westchester Jewish Council

About Teach Coalition

Teach Coalition, a project of the Orthodox Union, is a nonpartisan, multi-state, grassroots movement devoted to advocating for equitable funding for nonpublic schools. Teach Coalition works to make nonpublic schools better, safer and more affordable. Teach Coalition advocates on behalf of approximately 90% of Jewish day school and yeshivah students nationwide and counts more than 90,000 dedicated volunteers, activists and subscribers among its supporters.

For more information about Teach Coalition, visit teachcoalition.org.

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Who Killed Spina? continued from pg 1--

sports. He was employed as a postal worker in the nearby village of Larchmont and he was a devoted single father who was on very good terms with his ex – he would check in with her at the end of each day to make sure that she and their 11-year-old daughter Skyler were okay. Stephen spent as much time as he could with his daughter and she routinely stayed with him on his days off from work. She had her own bedroom in his apartment.

“Skyler has fond memories of her time with her father. “We used to go to Yankee games all the time, he had season tickets...”, remembered Skyler. “He taught me how to drive stick when I was little. He helped me with homework... He was a great dad.”

“Stephen Spina stood about 5’ 10”, he weighed around 130 pounds and by all accounts he was a charming and charismatic man who had a wide circle of friends and acquaintances and who never seemed to lack for female companionship. He had dated many women in the past – perhaps... simultaneously. But Stephen adhered to one strict rule, no girlfriends were allowed in his apartment when his daughter, Skyler was there.

“In 2007 Stephen was dating a woman named, Tamara. On Monday, September 17, 2007, Stephen and Tamara began the morning together at his apartment where she had stayed the night. Tamara left for work at 8:00 AM. Stephen was not feeling well when he woke up, but they made loose arrangements anyway to meet for lunch. Later that morning, Tamara called Stephen’s apartment to firm up their lunch plans, but there was no answer. She called again and again – still no answer. It was around noon when Tamara decided to drive over to Stephen’s apartment. She entered the common door of the building and went up to the second floor to Stephen’s door. She knocked, but there was no answer. Now concerned, Tamara summoned the building superintendent who arrived with a key. When he opened the door, they both stared in shock.

“Lying in a pool of blood was the lifeless body of Stephen. Tamara jumped forward and started CPR, but the superintendent recognized that her efforts were futile, and he pulled her back and escorted her away from the apartment where he called police. Once police arrived, they cleared the apartment to make sure that no one else was inside, and then confirmed that they had a homicide on their hands. The county’s forensic investigative unit began an investigation along with Mamaroneck Police. As part of that investigation, they spoke with Stephen’s neighbors. One of them recalled seeing Stephen leave his apartment around 9:30 AM, walking toward the lot where he parked his car. That witness did not see Stephen return, but he obviously returned at some point before 12:15 PM when Tamara and the superintendent went to check on him.

“One of the detectives that responded from the Mamaroneck Police Department that day was shocked when he arrived on the scene. He had seen gruesome crime scenes before – that was not the problem. As it turned out, Detective Dave Castarella and Stephen Spina were friends. Spina was active in local baseball and softball where he served as an umpire, and he regularly played ball with several of the police officers from Mamaroneck, including Castarella.

“Spina’s cause of death was found to be multiple stab wounds to his chest and back – police are not disclosing the number of wounds. Police also told APB Cold Case that there were some defensive wounds on Spina’s arm and thigh, leading them to believe that he was ambushed as soon as he opened his door.

“Who could have killed Stephen Spina? That was the question facing police, and there were a number of theories surrounding a possible answer to that question.

- There had been a confrontation with a man who believed that Stephen was having a relationship with his girlfriend.

- Stephen also allegedly had an intimate relationship at one time with a woman who we will call Trudy who came to his apartment one day claiming that she was pregnant with Stephen’s child. It was reported that Stephen’s other girlfriend walked in on that conversation.

- Prior to Stephen’s murder, his car had been vandalized at his apartment complex. He mentioned that fact to his friend, Detective Castarella, who suggested that Spina make a police report. But as Castarella and other detectives would learn during the murder investigation, Tamara’s car had also been vandalized and notes had been left on her car. But apparently wanting to keep his private life to himself, Stephen did not disclose that fact to Castarella.

Police deduced that there could be motive from any one of these prior incidents – an angered boyfriend; a former girlfriend who may have been pregnant; and vandalism to Stephen’s and Tamara’s cars; and of course, was the vandalism tied to either of the other theories? Or could it have been some other disgruntled relationship?

“But one of the nagging questions that ate at Detective Castarella back in 2007 was, ‘why did Stephen Spina leave his apartment earlier that morning?’ He thought that the answer to that question would reveal a suspect. Was it to meet someone? Did he have a conversation or argument with someone? Did someone follow him back to his apartment?

“At the time of Spina’s murder there were not any surveillance cameras covering the buildings or parking lots where he lived. It appeared that Spina had a cell phone and a landline, but the retrieval of information and the data details at the time were not what investigators can obtain today.

“APB Cold Case asked retired Mamaroneck Police Detective Castarella if he believed the notes that were left on the vandalized cars were from a female; or from a male on behalf of a female. Castarella told us, “...my theory on the homicide, there was somebody else involved. I can’t prove that. There’s no evidence that says that. I truly have a feeling from the evidence that there was a second person, a female party was involved, and a male party was there to assist in this, to take over.”

“In the early weeks of the investigation detectives interviewed Stephen’s girlfriend, Tamara, and the man with whom he had a previous confrontation over an alleged affair; as well as the woman we’re calling Trudy who alleged she was pregnant with Stephen’s child. But none of them would agree to take a polygraph examination, even though they had initially been cooperative with police, at least to some extent.

continued right-

Editorial-Charting a Positive Course: Steering Teens Towards a Drug-Free Future

By Angelo M. Valente, Executive Director of the Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey

Adolescence is a time of immense discovery and exploration, a pivotal period that, while rich with growth opportunities, can also lead children down paths of risk-taking that can have harmful consequences. A recent study by researchers at the University of California offers crucial insights into teenage marijuana use, shedding light on why some teens turn to it and the consequences that follow. This news can serve as a wake-up call for parents and communities, challenging the perception of marijuana as harmless and underscoring the urgency of guiding our youth towards safer, healthier paths.

Marijuana is the drug most widely used among teens, with nearly 31 percent of 12th graders using it within the past year and more than 6 percent using it in the past month, the researchers noted. Teens often use it for enjoyment or to escape their problems.

This usage, unfortunately, can lead to increased dependency and spending, coupled with adverse outcomes like anxiety, memory issues, and academic or workplace troubles. These findings highlight a critical need to provide our young people with supportive, engaging environments where they can thrive without the influence of drugs.

The transition from recreational to problematic use of cannabis, as pointed out in the study, is a subtle and often unnoticed shift. Our efforts must focus not just on averting drug use but on offering enriching alternatives that resonate with the youth. Engaging in fulfilling, enjoyable activities can provide the satisfaction and joy that many seek in substance use.

In New Jersey, we’re taking proactive steps to fill this need. The Partnership for a Drug-Free New Jersey (PDFNJ) offers innovative and free school programs that provide compelling alternatives to drug use. Programs like Your Song! Your Voice! Shout Down Drugs, a statewide music competition for high school students, allows teens to channel their emotions and experiences through the powerful medium of music. This isn’t just about avoiding drugs; it’s about empowering teens with a voice and a means to express themselves in a positive, impactful way.

For younger children, initiatives like the Fourth Grade Folder competition lay the groundwork for drug-free living from an early age. These creative endeavors engage students in a fun, meaningful activity while subtly instilling the values of a substance-free lifestyle.

The goal is not just to prevent drug misuse among teens but to enrich their lives with positive experiences and coping mechanisms. By involving them in activities like music, art, and community engagement, we give them tools to handle stress, express themselves, and connect with others.

The insights from the study reinforce the need for a multi-faceted approach to drug prevention. It’s not enough to warn teens about the dangers of drug misuse; we must also show them the immense joy in a life filled with passion, creativity, and community.

By supporting and developing programs like these in New Jersey, we are not just fighting against drug use but advocating for our youth’s full, vibrant potential. Let’s work together to ensure every teen has the opportunity to explore, grow, and thrive.

For additional information on PDFNJ programs, www.drugfreenj.org.

YonkersTimes.com

“Police are not reading a lot into the fact that the common entry door to Stephen’s apartment was bypassed. It appears to have been designed as a locked entry for the tenants in that wing, but over time, the locking mechanism did not work reliably. In fact, Tamara was reportedly able to bypass it when she went to check on Stephen that day. So logically, anyone could have entered the first door without a key or code.

It’s been 16 years since Stephen Spina was murdered, and while police have some theories on who may have killed him, they have been unable to make an arrest.

“Lt. P. J. Trujillo of Mamaroneck PD is now in charge of the case. He told APB Cold Case that police believe the attacker was a male because of the violence at the scene and the number of stab wounds, and the fact that Stephen was overpowered. “It’s safe to say that the door was opened by the victim to someone that he knew”, said Lt. Trujillo. “As he opens the door, we assume that the assailant now comes in, and ambushes Stephen. Stephen has some injuries to the left side of his body, so you’re assuming the attacker is right-handed. It looks like Stephen, in a way, protects himself and kind of puts his arm and leg up and then falls to the ground and the left side of his body is exposed and that’s where some of the wounds were.”

“Dave Castarella told APB Cold Case that even though he has been retired from policing for several years, he will always have a connection to this case. Castarella told us that he wants justice for his friend, and for Stephen’s family. He stays in touch with Skyler from time to time, even meeting with him and Lt. Trujillo at Mamaroneck PD this past year to check in on the status of the investigation.

“Police said that there is a \$30,000 reward for information that will help them to solve the murder of Stephen Spina. GO TO OUR EPISODES PAGE TO LISTEN TO THIS PODCAST,” end of Podcast notes.

We encourage our readers to watch the podcast. We are confident that there is someone in the Sound Shore neighborhoods of Westchester County who have information on this case. Contact APBColdCase@SpawnGroup.com, or the Mamaroneck PD with any information. And yes, there is a \$30,000 reward. Help the Spina family get the closure that they deserve.

Supreme Court in 1954.

King and Dr. Kenneth Clark became friends after the Brown decision, and the Clark's raised money to help the King family's security. When King accepted an invitation to speak at an NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Dinner at the Waldorf Astoria in 1956, the Clark's invited him to stay in their Hastings home.

Dr. King, Coretta Scott King, and their young daughter Yolonda, stayed with the Clark's for one night. Bass writes that the 1956 visit was Dr. King's "only visit to Westchester in which he was accompanied by Coretta or any of his children, "and "the only time he stayed overnight in the country."

Eleven years later, King would return to the Clarks' home once again.

May 22, 1957: New Rochelle

The New Rochelle NAACP invited Dr. King to speak to their branch during the Montgomery Bus Boycott's in Alabama. Reverend Melvin DeWitt Bullock, president of the New Rochelle NAACP, was the Pastor of the New Rochelle Union Baptist Church and was leading a movement to desegregate the New Rochelle public schools.

In 1962 the US Supreme Court found that New Rochelle school authorities had in fact gerrymandered district lines to create segregated school districts. The court ordered the school desegregated and students within its district were permitted to enroll at other New Rochelle schools.

On May 27, 1957, roughly 900 people filled Bethesda Baptist Church of New Rochelle to hear King speak in Westchester for the first time. King did not return to New Rochelle despite several invitations from Rev. Bullock. During the 1960's, King was getting hundreds of invitations to speak across the country.

Bullock and King remained in touch, but as Bass writes, both died before their 40th Birthdays.

In September of 1966, Rev. Bullock was found murdered in his New Rochelle home. There was no forced entry and Bullock was found alone. 57 years later, Rev. Bullock's murder remains an unsolved crime.

April 19, 1958: White Plains

In 1957, King signed a book deal with Harper & Brothers to write about the Montgomery Boycotts. White Plains resident Hermine Issacs Popper was hired to help edit King's book. Popper had also been involved with the Urban League of Westchester. The two met at the Popper's White Plains home on April 19. King's book *Stride Toward Freedom: The Montgomery Story* was a best seller, and Popper went on to work with King on two other books, *Why We Can't Wait*, in 1964, and *Where do We go From Here: Chaos or Community*, in 1967.

April 30, 1959-Mt. Vernon. Bass writes about a little known event, when in early 1959 King was almost killed when a mentally ill woman stabbed King during a Harlem book signing. King underwent surgery and spent two weeks in the hospital. Several months after the attack, King agreed to appear at Mount Vernon's Grace Baptist Church, in part because of the large capacity in the church. More than 1000 attended and heard King urge them to become more active in the civil rights struggle, but to do so without hate or violence. More than \$12,000 was raised for the SCLC.

March 31, 1960 Scarsdale. The Reverend Dr. M Forest Ashbrook, Deacon of the Scarsdale Community Baptist Church invited King to speak. The invitation came in 1959; King agreed to speak in March of 1960, which gives us an indication of King's hectic schedule and backlog of events.

Like King, Ashbrook was a committed pacifist, and King's topic for this address was *Loving Your Enemies* Bass notes how Coretta Scott King later wrote about the importance of this sermon, which she said "was built on many private discussions we had about Gandhi and nonviolence and the power of Jesus's love to change mind's heart to behavior. A standing room crowd filled the Scarsdale community Baptist Church to hear King's words.

September 21st 1962 Mount Vernon: King was invited by Reverend Richard Dixon Jr. to speak at a large voter registration drive in Mount Vernon. Dixon was Pastor at Mt. Vernon's Macedonia Baptist Church. King and Dixon knew each other through their fathers, who were close friends.

Dixon agreed to also hold an SCLC fundraiser and King agreed to attend. The event was held at the larger First Methodist Church in Mt. Vernon. Speakers at the rally included Mount Vernon resident, actor and civil rights legend Ossie Davis. King told the crowd that "a threat to justice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere. We will change the discord into a symphony of brotherhood. I firmly believe that we shall overcome."

More than 1000 heard King's sermon and more than \$28,000 was raised for the SCLC. Dixon later served as the President of the Urban League of Westchester.

December 11 1962 White Plains: The biggest event Dr. King attended in Westchester was held at the County Center in White Plains. Noted civil rights activist, attorney and Rye resident William Kunstler organized the event. King took note of Kunstler's legal work on behalf of the freedom riders.

The 4200 seat county center would host King and Sammy Davis Jr. Prices ranged from \$2.50 to a \$50 ticket that include a reception with King. New York Senator Herbert Lehman and Westchester Congressman Ogden Reid were chairman of the event. Jackie Robinson, Harry Belafonte and Sidney Poitier also lent support. Expectations did not meet the actual attendance, 3500, and money raised was \$12,000.

Three months before the event, in September 1962 a member of the American Nazi party rushed to a platform where King was speaking and struck him twice in the face, explaining that he became enraged with King when he announced that Davis would be on the stage with King at the county center. Davis had married a white woman, Mae Britt, and King's attacker opposed 'race mixing.

1964 Pocantico Hills: Another fascinating part of Bass's story is the relationship between Dr. King and Nelson Rockefeller. Rockefeller became an ally of King's starting in 1958, when he paid for King's medical bills after the stabbing. writing "The importance of your work to make the American dream come true for all our citizens. All who truly share in that dream shall do everything possible to assist you. This is the great moral issue before America today I have complete faith in the ultimate outcome, the only question is how long, oh Lord how long, more power to you," wrote Rockefeller to King in 1962.

When two churches were burned in Georgia, Rockefeller donated \$10,000 to rebuild, and when the SCLC ran out of money to bail out their protestors, Rockefeller had King's NY legal advisor Clarence Jones to the Rockefeller family's Chase Manhattan bank where he was handed a bag with \$100,000 in cash for bail money.

King agreed to attend a Rockefeller fund raiser for the Urban League of Westchester in 1964. 80 guests including Jackie Robinson listened to King talk about the Civil Rights bill before Congress. King argued that the Civil Rights bill should not be watered down, King criticized Senator Barry Goldwater for saying that civil rights should be left up to the states. "If such matters were left to Wallace or Alabama, it would take 200 years to complete...No state has the right to do wrong."

Nelson Rockefeller made a personal donation of \$25,000 to the SCLC after King's remarks. He also helped pay for an organize King's funeral in Atlanta in 1968.

October 29, 1956: Eastchester & Scarsdale:

King's last public appearance in Westchester was thanks to Scarsdale resident and real estate developer John Marquesse, who was close to King advisor Clarence Jones. Marquesse made donations to the SCLC, and was active in the civil rights movement and was a board member of Abbott House. King agreed to attend a fund raiser for Abbott House at Schrafft's Country Restaurant in Eastchester. A private event at the Marquesse home before the dinner was attended by 200, with another 600 attending the dinner.

King's sermon "The Dignity of Family Life" focused on a then recent report by NY Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan about fatherless black family groups. King said that Moynihan's report was alarming" and that the need was "to see it as a social catastrophe and meet it with an adequacy of resources." The dinner raised more than \$6000 for Abbott House and \$3,000 for the SCLC. King's address for Abbott House is the only one that is recorded and published.

May 27, 1967: Hastings-on-Hudson:

King's final visit to Westchester was a return to his friends Kenneth & Mamie Phipps Clark. Kenneth Clark has convened the leaders of the Civil rights movement in the country to his home, including King and Andrew Young of the SCLC.

Some of those in attendance did not agree with King's objections to the Vietnam War, believing that opposition to the war would hurt the civil rights movement.

After King's death, Kenneth Clark said "Martin Luther King was the closest to a genuine saint that I have ever known...Even when he was angry at the thoughtless or cruel things people said or did, he never expressed his anger...Great human beings are rare. I think he is among the greatest spirits civilization has produced."

Bass ends his work by quoting King from his 1965 address-"I have always appreciated the great support and the warm expressions of goodwill that I have gained during my visits to Westchester County."

What a better way to remember Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. than recalling those that he touched personally with his visits to Westchester. And thanks again to Andy Bass for memorializing his 12 visits, documented with 232 footnotes, many of which were used for this story.

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Nick Castellano, Westlake HS, Named Con Edison Scholar-Athlete of the Week

Award-Winning Documentary on Greyston Bakery to Screen at The Picture House Bronxville



Nick Castellano

By Dan Murphy

Congratulations to Nick Castellano, a senior at Westlake High School, for being named a Con Edison Scholar-Athlete of the week.

Nick has been all league in both his junior and senior years as a member of the Westlake HS Boys Basketball team.

Nick was All Tournament team in the Rye Tournament over Christmas Break. Nick had 16 points, 8 rebounds in a 54-41 win over Sleepy Hollow and 15 points, 10 rebounds in a 57-53 loss to Hen Hud.

Nick also stars on the Westlake HS Football team, where he has been named the League Receiver of the Year as a junior.

Castellano has been the team Captain of both the Boys Basketball and Football team.

Nick volunteers for the Mt. Pleasant Youth league, and has coached the town's youth baseball team. He was the recipient of the Wells College 21st Century Leadership Award.

Academically, Nick was inducted into the National Honors Society and Spanish Honors Society. He has a 98% GPA.

"Nick is intelligent, outgoing, athletic and extremely personal. In our classrooms, Nick shines. He is a problem solver who loves to learn. Nick is a natural leader who is kind, patient, curious, determined and eager," said Nicholas DiPaolo, Coordinator of K-12 School Counseling, Westlake High School.



Reception and panel discussion featuring filmmaker and Ben & Jerry, pictured above, will follow

Zen Brownie, an award-winning documentary on the story behind Greyston Bakery, will be shown January 25 at The Picture House in Bronxville followed by a panel discussion and special reception featuring famous ice cream makers Ben & Jerry.

The documentary by Emmy Nominated & Award-Winning Writer/Director Alison Bartlett and narrated by Jeff Bridges tells the tale of Buddhist Monks and how leading with inclusivity, kindness, and compassion has created a well-known profitable business in Greyston Bakery.

Zen Brownie recently won Special Mention from 2023 Impact DOCS Awards Competition. The film was also selected to be part of the YOFI Film Festival in November.

Greyston Bakery in Yonkers creates gold standard brownies enjoyed daily around the world through its inclusion in Ben & Jerry's ice creams. Bakers are employed through an Open Hiring® policy which means no interviews, no background checks, and no resumes are required.

"For 41 years Greyston has been unlocking human potential through inclusive employment. It began with a Buddhist and a bakery and desire to help make communities thrive by being supportive of folks society has cast aside. It has evolved into an employment model known as Open Hiring®, which is being replicated by a growing number of companies," said Greyston's CEO & President Joseph Kenner.

Clayton Bushong, Executive Director of The Picture House Regional Film Center, said The Picture House is excited to bring Zen Brownie to its Bronxville theater. "There is a lot of interest in the film and tickets are selling fast," said

continued on pg 13-



"Right out of surgery, I had no need for pain medication. I felt like a new man!"

- P. Grimaldi, MAKOplasty® hip replacement patient

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