

# Yonkers Rising

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Friday December 18-25, 2020

## A Tree Gets a Second Life at Untermyer Gardens



Joan Dituri, with the tree she donated to Untermyer Gardens Conservancy

By Dan Murphy

Joan Dituri has lived in her Bronxville Lane home, near Sarah Lawrence College, for 32 years. When she first moved to Yonkers, she planted an evergreen tree next to her home. The tree grew so large that her next door neighbor began to complain and she realized that it had to be taken down.

For Joan, the tree had become part of her family, and she was hoping that it could be used by someone as a Christmas Tree so that "it would have a second life." Joan contacted her City Councilman, Mike Breen, to see if he had an idea.

Joan asked around but couldn't find anyone, or any organization interested. So she began to make arrangements to have the tree taken down. The day before the tree removal company was to arrive, Councilman Breen called and said that he found an interested party.

The Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, which has created over the past six years, one of the most interesting Holiday Light displays in Westchester. I had always wanted to take my wife to Untermyer, so we both made a visit last week.

We found Stephen Byrns, President of the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy on hand welcoming visitors. Byrns has spent the past ten years of his life bringing Untermyer Gardens back to life, as it was when Samuel Untermyer build the walled gardens for his wife Minnie.

Spread over 43 acres, the gardens is a marvel, and a peaceful place at any

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## Pajama Program Founder Pens Book About Helping Others--Give a Kid Some PJ's & A Book



Yonkers native Genevieve Pitorro, with kids who benefitted from the non-profit she founded, PajamaProgram.org.

By Dan Murphy

In these final few days before Christmas, one of the most heartwarming non profits in which you can make a donation, and a difference in someone's life, is the Pajama Program, which raises funds to give underprivileged kids a pair of PJ's and a book to read at night. (Pajamaprogram.org).

The founder of this worthy organization is Westchester native Genevieve Pitorro. Pitorro was a successful television marketing executive until she dramatically changed the direction of her life when she founded the hugely successful national non-profit, Pajama Program. Almost twenty years later, Genevieve's Pajama Program has delivered 7 MILLION magical gifts of new pajamas and new books to children throughout the US.

After starting in Westchester, and in Yonkers where Pitorro was born and raised, the Pajama Program now has 63 chapters across the country, thanks in part to an appearance on Oprah back in 2007, which catapulted Pajama Program into everyone's living rooms and into American's hearts.

"It's getting cold and we would love you to make a donation to the pajama program," said Pitorro during our recent interview. "A lot of people may not realize that yes pajamas are great for younger children, but just as important to a teenager who needs them. They also need the routine and the peace that comes at night with a good book and PJ's."

While still a consultant for the organization she founded, Genevieve is now a professional speaker, author, personal strategy coach and consultant, sharing life and leadership lessons she learned through her Pajama Program journey. Her book *Purpose, Passion and Pajamas: How to Transform Your Life, Embrace the Human Connection and Lead with Meaning*, was released

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## Spano Convenes "Health Equity Task Force" to Protect Yonkers Most Vulnerable



Mayor Mike Spano, with community leaders and health care experts, at Health Care Equity Task Force announcement

On Dec 15, Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced the formation of the City of Yonkers' Healthy Equity Task Force, missioned to improve the health of Yonkers' most vulnerable citizens, including minority communities, immigrant populations, and those who have experienced health disparities by enhancing access to efficient health care services, with a focus on prevention.

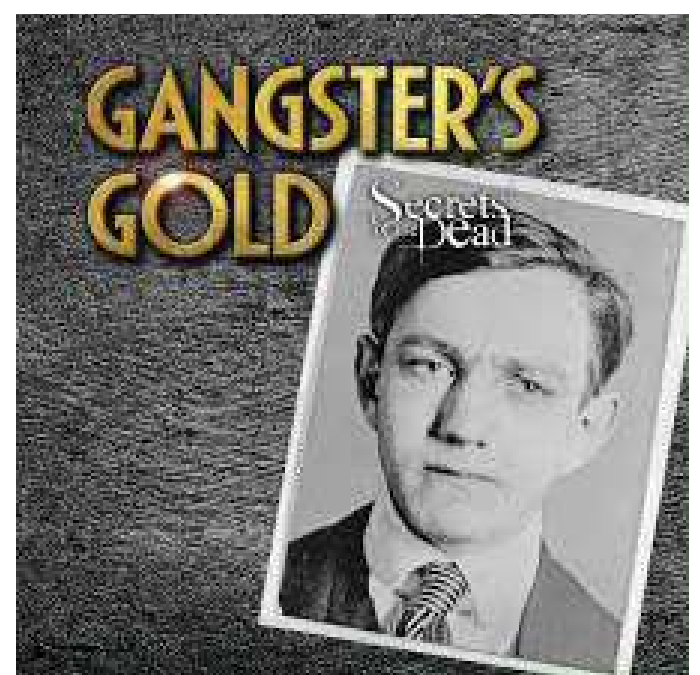
"The Health Equity Task Force will prove to address the needs of Yonkers' most vulnerable communities effectively," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano. "Across the country, the current health pandemic has highlighted the significant health disparities in minority, immigrant, and disabled residents. Working with the Westchester County Department of Health and other community stakeholders, this task force will support access to efficient health care services and address the health inequity."

Mayor Spano appointed a 12-member task force including two advisors ranging in backgrounds and experiences of those who can best address the issues concerning Yonkers' most vulnerable citizens. Consisting of local community stakeholders, health professionals, health activists, and local area not-for-profits, the Health Equity Task includes:

Members- Dr. Suzanne Greenridge Senior Attending, Obstetrics & Gynecology, Errol Pierre, Senior Vice President, State Programs, Healthfirst, Gladys Alvarez, Community Program Coordinator, Nepperhan Community Center, Carol Blakney, School Program Coordinator, Nepperhan Community Center, Linda Bohan, Nurse & Yonkers Community Health Activist, Kimberly Bryant, Program Specialist, Westchester County Department of

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## Did Dutch Schultz Bury His Millions in Yonkers? New Documentary Points the Way



By Dan Murphy

The story of gangster and bootlegger Dutch Schultz, and his connection to Yonkers, continues to grow, 80 years after "The Dutchman" was gunned down in New Jersey steakhouse.

A recent documentary "Secrets of the Dead-Gangster Gold" aired on PBS this month and is available on demand. "It is widely believed that notorious Bronx-based gangster and bootlegger Dutch Schultz buried a fortune estimated to be worth more than \$50 million somewhere in New York's Catskill Mountains prior to his death in 1935. Schultz was gunned down and died without revealing where the treasure was buried, spawning a mystery that has endured for nearly a century," writes PBS.

"Now, 85 years later, three groups of treasure hunters, armed with modern technology and decades worth of intensive research, race to uncover new leads in hopes of finding Schultz's missing treasure. On SECRETS OF THE DEAD "Gangster's Gold," join these three groups of treasure hunters as they follow the trail of this unsolved mystery toward the discovery of a lifetime."

It was widely believed that Dutch buried his treasure in the Catskills Town of Phoenicia, and that is where treasure hunters have spent their time looking through the forest for a 2-by-3-foot steel box filled with diamonds, gold coins and \$1,000 bills that Schultz was socking away for his getaway or retirement.

The film features a new interview with Stanley Grauso, the 104-year-old, last living member of Dutch Schultz's gang who worked as an enforcer in the 1930s.

Professional treasure hunters Ryan Fazekas and Steve Zazulyk, along with Concordia College archivist Travis Basso and geo-tech specialist Frank Lopergolo, uncover the remains of a rumored bootlegger tunnel built by Dutch Schultz and his gang in Bronxville and go hunting in an overgrown part of Yonkers.

If you watch the documentary, which we recommend, longtime Yonkers residents will recognize the neighborhood where the treasure hunters focused

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## St. John's Riverside Hospital Gets First Batch of COVID Vaccine



*About 40 health care workers at St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers received a COVID-19 vaccine, and a card proving that they have been vaccinated like the nurse photographed above.*

## Mayor Spano Gives Covid Update, Announces Arrival of Vaccines

By Camryn Sanchez

Mayor Spano hosted a Facebook live event on Dec. 15th with local government and health officials to discuss the future of COVID-19, and the two upcoming vaccines.

Currently, Yonkers is struggling to keep its COVID-19 infection rates down. "Our numbers are probably growing a little quicker than any of us had anticipated especially this past weekend," said Spano. He reminded viewers to continue to be vigilant about wearing masks, and social distancing.

Most of the discussion however centered on positive news: Yonkers is getting COVID-19 vaccines.

The Pfizer vaccine was authorized this past Thursday by the FDA, and the Moderna vaccine is expected to be authorized next Thursday according to Dr. Dial Hewlett, deputy commissioner at the Westchester County Department of Health. Hewlett stated that the first recipients of the vaccine will be the county's "front line health care professionals and other who are caring directly for patients," followed by the county's senior citizens, at-risk residents, and essential workers.

Each vaccine has a high rate of effectiveness between 94.5-95 percent which Hewlett compares to the influenza vaccine which at times is only about 60 percent effective, and sometimes lower. Hewlett notes that both vaccines must be administered twice, the Pfizer vaccine after 21 days and the Moderna vaccine after 28.

The Pfizer vaccine also requires added equipment as it must be stored in a cold environment. "Most of the clinics and small practices and even some of the smaller hospitals may not even have the capability to be able to store this vaccine and so we have to make sure that we have the infrastructure in place to do that," said Hewlett. The Moderna vaccine on the other hand can be stored at a normal temperature and does not require freezers.

In addition to these positive developments, Hewlett and infectious disease specialist Dr. Rajanish Bobde urged Yonkers residents to stay cautious. "It is going to take quite a while before we get to that 70 percent or higher that we would need for herd immunity, and moreover

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## Stock up on Books & DVDs for the Holidays! at Yonkers Libraries



Dear Yonkers Community:

We are pleased to announce that Yonkers Public Library's (YPL) Riverfront Library and Will Library will temporarily reopen to limited in-branch services through the Christmas Eve holiday!

This is a great opportunity to stock up on books and DVDs to hunker down during the cold weather! Please spend the holidays being safe and staying healthy – good books and movies will help make the time go by. We will get through this!

YPL Holiday Plan of Service

Monday, December 14, 2020-Thursday, December 24, 2020

On Monday, December 14, Yonkers Public Library's (YPL) Riverfront Library and Will Library will reopen to limited in-branch services through the Christmas Eve holiday.

To reduce crowding and improve safety, public computer use and table seating will be removed until further notice. Library visits should be short and limited to finding books and DVDs, picking up holds, or using self-service on our fax or photocopier machines.

Due to the social distancing challenges its small size presents, YPL's Crestwood Library will continue contact-free pickup service through the period of 12/24.

Monday, December 28, 2020-Friday, January 8, 2021

Following Christmas weekend, YPL will once again return to contact-free pickup service. During this time we will monitor any post-holiday spread of COVID-19. Based on these numbers – as well as guidance from the city, state and county – we will decide about whether to continue with contact-free pickup or restore in-branch service in January.

For more service updates, visit [www.ypl.org/ypl-service-changes/](http://www.ypl.org/ypl-service-changes/). A Renewed Emphasis on Virtual Programs and Services

When YPL staff is not working from our buildings, they will stay busy from home. Since March, YPL staff have led more than 1,000 virtual programs with a combined attendance of over 16,000. Browse all of YPL's Holiday Virtual Events by visiting <https://ypl.evanced.info/signup>. Staff is also able to answer patron emails and phone calls, provide account support, and other items. Call the Riverfront Library: 914-375-7940, or the Grinton I. Will Library: 914-771-9616, or the Crestwood Library: 914-779-3777.

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**Skin Cancer Alert:****Winter is Dangerous for Skin Cancer Too**

Chilly temperatures may have you pulling on cozy sweaters and coats, but don't be fooled: You can't stop protecting yourself from skin cancer just because winter is coming, says Angie Seelal, RPA-C, of Advanced Dermatology P.C.

When the sun is shining bright, it's easy to remember that ultraviolet (UV) rays that can cause skin cancer – the most common cancer across the globe – are reaching your skin. “But overcast skies and winter weather don't necessarily block out the rays that can damage your skin cells and lead to skin cancer,” says Seelal, a Physician Assistant with years of experience treating chronic skin conditions.

The statistics are jolting: 1 in 5 Americans will develop skin cancer by age 70, and more than 2 people die of skin cancer in the United States every hour, according to the Skin Cancer Foundation. Additionally, more than 9,500 people are diagnosed with skin cancer every day nationwide.

“Almost all of us dismiss the risk of skin cancer or how severe it can be,” Seelal explains, “but the reality is that skin cancer poses a threat to nearly everyone, even in winter. Fortunately, there are common-sense steps we can take that lower those risks.”

**Winter's dangers**

It's important to know that harmful UV rays don't take a break just because the calendar flips to the colder months. While UVB rays, the main cause of sunburn, are stronger in summer, they're also out in force at high altitudes and on reflective surfaces such as ice or snow. Plus, the thinner atmosphere at higher altitudes doesn't block as many rays.

“If you enjoy skiing, skating, snowboarding, or hiking in the snow, cancer-causing UVB rays are out there with you too,” Seelal says. “Snow reflects about 80% of the sun's UV rays, so they essentially hit your skin twice. A day on the ski slopes is just as dangerous to your skin as a day on the beach.”

Especially on cloudy days, winter sports enthusiasts are at greater risk of skin. It is also important to understand that both snow and strong winds can wear away any sunscreen protection used and thereby reduce its effectiveness, so it is particularly important to actively reapply at least every 2 hours, Seelal notes. And UVA rays, which stay constant throughout the year, can penetrate glass. “Sitting inside next to the window, in your house or car, is still potentially skin-damaging on a bright winter day,” she adds.

Also, for those who happily benefit from warmer winter temperatures from living in the southern part of the United States, keep in mind you're exposed to a similar amount of UV radiation from the sun year-round.

“When the sun remains strong no matter the season, your skin stands at higher risk,” Seelal says.

**Tips for prevention**

Staying sun-safe in winter is easier from the standpoint that you're usually wearing more clothing just to stay warm. Coats, hats, scarves, gloves – they all contribute to sun protection merely by preventing the sun from reaching the skin they're covering. But your face, head and neck are typically exposed all year long.

Seelal advises paying close attention to preventing skin cancer on these vulnerable areas, and recommends wearing UV-blocking sunglasses to protect your eyes, broad-brimmed hats, moisturizing, broad-spectrum sunscreen that's SPF 30 or higher on all exposed skin and avoiding sun exposure during peak hours of 10 am to 4 pm during the winter months. “Skin cancer is largely preventable, and it just takes a little extra thought to protect ourselves in the winter months. Don't let your guard down just because it's cold outside.” Angie Seelal, RPA-C is a Certified Physician Assistant through the National Commission of Certification of Physician Assistants.

Advanced Dermatology P.C. and the Center for Laser and Cosmetic Surgery is one of the leading dermatology centers in the nation, offering highly experienced physicians in the fields of cosmetic and laser dermatology as well as plastic surgery and state-of-the-art medical technologies. [www.advanceddermatologypc.com](http://www.advanceddermatologypc.com). Call us in Rye Brook at 914-937-7593.

**No More “Schoen for Schoen” Anymore****Herbert J. Schoen, MD****By Eric W. Schoen**

Have the members of your family ever used the same doctor for over 46 years? With the same last name as yours?

As of December 31, There will be no more “Schoen for Schoen” at the check in at Westmed Medical Group at Ridge Hill anymore. No more annual pineapple cheesecake for the winter holidays prepared by my sister for the doctor.

Dr. Herbert Schoen, a Yonkers institution, is retiring after almost 46 years in practice. My family, especially my sister, has been his patient for that entire time. As her memory is better than mine, I have asked her to contribute and she has added much to this article.

It was around 1973-1974 that Dr. Bertram Oppenheimer, himself a renowned doctor and Hospital Administrator in Yonkers who enjoyed a good tobacco pipe, decided to leave private practice and go into hospital administration and a young whippersnapper Dr. Herbert Schoen was brought in to replace him.

Born and raised in Manhattan, he has practiced at St. John's Riverside Hospital in Yonkers for many years. Board certified in internal medicine and gastroenterology by the American Board of Internal Medicine, and he is a Fellow, American College of Gastroenterology. He has a special interest in nutrition and intestinal disorders.

He received his medical degree from SUNY Downstate Medical. Dr. Schoen completed a clinical gastroenterology residency at Maimonides Hospital, followed by a gastroenterology research fellowship at the Hospital of the University of Pennsylvania. In addition, he received a master's degree in clinical nutrition from Columbia University.

Dr. Schoen has treated all of us in the Sidney Schoen family as well as the other Schoens in Yonkers. No one is related, but they often showed up at the office at the same time.

As my sister says, “no one was Schoen when they got off the boat.” She also says when asked if she is related to him (quite often!) “No, but I am his longest and his favorite patient.” The good doctor will confirm this.

He will also confirm that this is the first year in ages he did not get his annual homemade pineapple cheesecake (thank you, Covid). A Junior's strawberry swirl cheesecake had to do. Still delicious but not the same.

Dr. Schoen is a tough taskmaster and a dedicated physician. When our dad (a true workaholic) had his first massive heart attack, he persuaded my

*continued on pg 6-***TAKE YOURSELF FURTHER**

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**NEGATIVE VS. POSITIVE**

There are thoughts we should abandon  
And some words that they embrace  
For it is that combination  
That in life should have no place

Yes, it's negativity  
In thought and word or deed  
That is a part of human nature  
Though a part we do not need

It is that weakened spirit  
Caused by memories of the past  
But through positivity  
That weakness will not last

So now live in the present  
As you welcome each new day  
Believing positivity  
Will cast weakness away

Ann Muro, (c) 2020

**Dutch's Treasure continued on pg 1-**

their time. Another former Dutch house in Bronxville, now owned by Concordia College, is also a part of the documentary and search.

Yonkers Rising and YonkersTimes.com have written extensively about Dutch Schultz and his connection to Yonkers. Schultz lived in Yonkers and Bronxville with his wife, Frances Flegenheimer in the years before his death.

During prohibition, Schultz 'purchased' the Yonkers Brewery, under the threat of death to the owner if he didn't sign away the deed, according to published reports. While the brewery continued to produce 'near beer' which had little or no alcohol, Dutch was able to concoct a scheme to run alcoholic beer through sewer lines under the streets of Yonkers to other locations out of the sight of law enforcement.

When the pipes were uncovered, an investigation into what happened and who was responsible never resulted in any arrests or resolution. Many believe that the political powers of the day were able to keep the matter a mystery.

Elizabeth Trojian, Chief Creative Officer for Yap Films and the Executive Producer for Gangster's Gold explained that the film and subject matter have a personal connection. "My grandfather was muscle for Dutch Schultz," she told The NY Post. "He kept a journal, and there were references to gold coins."

After he was shot, Schultz spent the final painful day of his life in a hospital bed, uttering rambling thoughts that included, "Lulu, drive me back to Phoenicia," and "Don't be a dope, Lulu, we better get those Liberty Bonds out of the box and cash 'em."

Even though Yonkers, and Bronxville, were eliminated as a possible location for the treasure, nobody knows its actual whereabouts Perhaps someone in Yonkers, or Westchester, knows more...

Dutch's lawyer, Dixie Davis, wrote extensively about his former client under a pseudonym, including the story about how he saw the box of valuables in Dutch's office one day. The response to our stories about Dutch and Yonkers have resulted in great interest from our readers, and emails from relatives of those involved. One recent email has led us to more information about The Dutchman, from the family of a noted author from Yonkers, who wrote about this same story for a detective magazine in the early 1960's.

His name is Avram Davidson. More on his interesting life story, and his story about Beer running under the streets of Yonkers during prohibition, coming soon. And send us your thoughts on Dutch Schultz, his time in Westchester, and his treasure to [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com).

**On this day in Yonkers History...**

By Mary Hoar, President Emerita, Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History, Member, Yonkers Landmarks Preservation Board



**Saint Andrew's Golf Club, arguably the oldest in America**

Monday, December 21st

December 21, 1917: US Revenue Agents Romolo D'Aloia and Alfred Fox ascertained the legal status of 30 barrels of liquor impounded at Warburton and Wells Avenues by Yonkers Police.

December 21, 1930: Mayor John Fogarty, stating it was in keeping with modern business trends, announced Yonkers would conduct an annual audit of its accounts. Previously, books only were audited at the beginning of each new administration.

December 21, 1946: A woman wishing to remain anonymous shyly approached the Salvation Army Kettle near Woolworth's on South Broadway. She spoke to Captain Norman Sampson and Band Master Budd and told them she was a soloist at a local church. A friend had just challenged her to sing with the band; they agreed to help and began playing "Silent Night." Her clear, beautiful voice gathered a crowd. After finishing, she returned with a \$5 bill, saying it was the money she had won, and tucked it into the kettle. Several people who had been touched by her singing added their contributions to hers.

Tuesday, December 22nd

December 22, 1894: The St. Andrew's Golf Club of Yonkers-on-the-Hudson joined with four other golf clubs to form the Amateur Golf Association of the United States. This group soon changed its name to the US Golf Association.

December 22, 1922: Although several Yonkers Republicans objected strenuously to the appointment and traveled to Washington to lobby the president, President Warren Harding nominated former District Attorney and Yonkers Corporation Counsel Francis Winslow of Yonkers to be US District Judge for the Southern District of New York.

December 22, 1964: Mayor John Flynn asked the Yonkers Council to pass a resolution requesting the State legislature to "include us out" of any reapportionment plan to include the Bronx in any our assembly and senatorial districts.

Wednesday, December 23rd

December 23, 1946: Captain Stanley Butt, Legal Officer at Fort Slocum, sent the Family Service Society of Yonkers a very special Christmas greeting, expressing the gratitude of the men stationed at the Fort. The Family Service Legal Committee, headed by Heber Smith, had more than gone out of its way to assist their servicemen with all their legal needs, both during the war and afterwards.

December 23, 1946: The Daniel and Florence Guggenheim Foundation announced G. Edward Pendray of Westchester Avenue was retained as Counsel on rockets and jet propulsion. Pendray, an industrial public relations counselor, was one of the founders of the American Rocket Society. He began experimenting with rockets and jet propulsion and moved to Crestwood in 1932 so he could "carry out experimental work in the swamps in Crestwood," much to the annoyance of his neighbors.

Thursday, December 24th:

December 24, 1913: Because of the dangerous ice floes in the Hudson River, Yonkers people heading to Albany were forced to take the train instead of the night boats.

December 16, 1916: Yonkers African American residents met in Turn Hall to create a campaign to urge the US War Department not only to recognize Black officers, but also to give them opportunities to serve in the Army and National Guard.

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Daniel J. Murphy, Publisher/Editor [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com). Legal notices to [risinglegalnotice@gmail.com](mailto:risinglegalnotice@gmail.com)

Notice of Formation of Rella Electric, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 12/1/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Christian Farella at 186 Stone Ave., Yonkers, NY, 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Art. Of Org. for HEAL HERRR LLC Filed with SSNY on 9/8/2020. Office location: 600 Broadway STE 200 #2144 Albany, NY 12207 SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail the process to 77 locust hill avenue Yonkers ny apt 603 10701. Purpose: any lawful purpose

Notice of formation of Excelsior LTL, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 08/05/2020. 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, 1 Sadore Ln 4K, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of AJK Productions, LLC. filed with SSNY on 10/23/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to AJ K. 337 Upland Ave. Yonkers, NY 10703 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of Livest Media, LLC filed with SSNY on 10/28/2020. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to AJ K. 337 Upland Ave. Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of One Step At A Time Organizing, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/19/2020. 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, 1116 Warburton Ave., Apt. 2Q, Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

NOTICE OF FORMATION of LE TRIBOULET, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 08/24/2020. Location: Westchester. SSNY designated as agent for service of process on LLC. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 76 Morningside, Apt 2S, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

## Dr. Rosemary Uzzo Inducted Into Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame



**Dr. Rosmary Uzzo**

On Dec. 14, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins announced her nominee, Yonkers resident Dr. Rosemary Uzzo, was inducted into the Westchester County Senior Hall of Fame. The prestigious honor recognizes seniors who have gone above and beyond to improve the quality of life in our communities.

"Rosemary secured and distributed thousands of masks to health care workers at the height of the COVID-19 pandemic in Yonkers," said Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. "Her selfless efforts helped save lives and are commendable. I am pleased Westchester County continues to highlight seniors who are making a difference."

Dr. Uzzo spent hours reaching out to contacts in China to obtain 16,000 masks for New York. She donated some to Saint Joseph's Medical Center in Yonkers, the Yonkers Police Department, and to residents in need throughout Westchester County.

"My nomination to the Senior Hall of Fame was a huge surprise to me," said Dr. Rosemary Uzzo. "I have always considered myself a woman of service in the community through my volunteerism both locally and abroad. I am humbled and proud to be recognized for this award, and thank the numerous people who have made this recognition possible. I would like to extend my thanks to Senate Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins. This award means a great deal to me because it demonstrates why seniors matter, and how we contribute to everyday lives and society at large."

Before retiring, Dr. Uzzo worked for the Yonkers Board of Education for thirty-six years, supporting children and educators. She currently serves as Mayor Spano's Liaison to the South Broadway Business Improvement District (SBBID).

### Yonkers History, continued from pg 4-

December 24, 1943: A photo of Memphis Belle tail runner and Truman Avenue resident John Quinlan appeared on the back cover of Major Ledding's book, "Skyways to Berlin;" the accomplishments of the Memphis Belle were mentioned prominently in the book. The picture was taken as Sergeant Quinlan and the crew reported to Major Ledding before takeoff. Quinlan often was acclaimed as "Yonkers hero of World War II." Friday, December 25th:

December 25, 1887: The St. Aloysius Boarding Academy for Boys was destroyed by fire. Opened in 1868 by the Sisters of Charity on the former South Broadway property of the late Judge Aaron Vark, St. Aloysius prospered right from the start, as there was a need for a good school for pre-college boys. Future celebrities John and Lionel Barrymore were among its students. A notice appeared in the Yonkers Statesman ten days later informing the public "...loss by the burning of St. Aloysius Academy will be considerable, ... it is only partially covered by insurance." The school was to be no more. The property later was used to build St. Joseph's Hospital.

December 25, 1919: Martin Foley, motorman for the Yonkers Railroad Company, saved a child's life! He snatched the boy from the driver's seat of a runaway car just a few seconds before it smashed into a telegraph pole on McLean Avenue near Intervale Place; the car was totaled.

Saturday, December 26th:

December 26, 1926: Three overhead "stop and go" traffic lights were installed on Warburton Avenue near Main Street. All three lights were operated by one police officer.

December 26, 1931: Common Council President John S. Davis broke the six-six tie on the long discussed and much-criticized ordinance authorizing Yonkers to operate the Park Hill elevator. Davis voted yes, and it became a city obligation.

December 26, 1941: After a Christmas Day test of emergency mobilization of the 125 Yonkers Auxiliary Police, the Common Council approved the purchase of flashlights, badges and nightsticks for the men, and the men were not properly equipped.

Sunday, December 27th

December 27, 1921: Retired Rear Admiral Purnell Harrington, Chairman of the Mayor's Honor Roll Committee, announced the committee had finished its assignment. They identified 6,909 Yonkers people who served in the military during the World War; of these people, one hundred seventy-two men and one woman had made the supreme sacrifice.

December 27, 1927: Show Boat, with music composed by Yonkers' Jerome Kern at his home on Dellwood Road in Cedar Knolls, opened at the Ziegfeld Theater.

December 27, 1927: Because of the heavy ice in the Hudson, Leo Schwartzstein, President of the Yonkers Ferry Company, suspended Yonkers ferry service until spring. Heavy ice floes had damaged the hull of the tugboat F. J. Purdy so badly, it sank into the river just off our city pier. Fortunately, the crew escaped safely.

For more information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website [www.yonkershistorical-society.org](http://www.yonkershistorical-society.org), call 914-961-8940 or email [yhsociety@aol.com](mailto:yhsociety@aol.com).

## Three Yonkers Bars Lose Liquor Licenses for COVID Safety Violations

On Dec 6., Governor Andrew Cuomo announced the state has suspended liquor licenses for 3 Yonkers bars after finding egregious violations of pandemic-related Executive Orders. Businesses found in violation of COVID-19 regulations face fines up to \$10,000 per violation, while egregious violations can result in the immediate suspension of a bar or restaurant's liquor license.

"New York still has one of the country's lowest infection rates and that is a testament to the toughness and unity of New Yorkers all doing what they can to limit spread. Unfortunately, however, some establishments have continued to ignore the rules, putting their customers, as well as their community as a whole, at risk," Governor Cuomo said.

"If we let our guard down and ignore basic public health rules, this winter could be one of the darkest periods of this pandemic and we simply cannot let that happen. We know the vaccine is on the way, we know there is a light at the end of the tunnel, but if we let up now and become undisciplined, it's going to take us even longer to get there."

The three Yonkers Bars are: "Margarita's Restaurant & Lounge" at 332-334 South Broadway, had their license suspended on October 30. On October 25th, officers with the Yonkers Police Department inspected the premises shortly after midnight and found over 100 patrons crowded inside -- nearly double the maximum occupancy allowed under COVID-related regulations -- not wearing facial coverings, dancing, and smoking hookah. Officers also found a DJ performing, with music audible a block away. The following evening, SLA investigators conducted a follow-up inspection, once again finding a DJ, two employees not wearing facial coverings, and ten patrons not wearing facial coverings while standing and mingling.

"Sahara Café" at 473 South Broadway, had their license suspended on October 28. On October 25th, SLA investigators and officials with the Yonkers Fire Department conducted a compliance check on the premises, discovering 124 patrons packed shoulder-to-shoulder inside the establishment -- which had a pre-pandemic maximum occupancy of 48 and could legally hold just 24 patrons under COVID-related regulations. The crowded conditions made social distancing impossible and investigators documented no food being served and numerous patrons smoking hookah in apparent violation of the NYS Indoor Smoking Act. The premises was also cited for illegally expanding into their backyard and the Yonkers Fire Department issued a stop work order. Sahara Café was originally licensed just two months earlier on August 24, 2020.

"Uptown Bar & Grill" at 623 South Broadway, had their license suspended on October 25. On October 17th, officers with the Yonkers Police Department conducted a compliance check of the premises, finding 168 patrons crowded inside the establishment, which had a maximum capacity of 88 before the pandemic and could legally hold 44 patrons under COVID-related regulations. Police report that the number of patrons inside made social distancing impossible and numerous patrons without facial coverings were mingling, dancing and drinking. Officers noted no food was being served, documented several employees without facial coverings, and observed several individuals smoking hookah throughout the premises. The location is a repeat offender, with pending charges for multiple violations issued by the SLA a month earlier.

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### Dr. Schoen, continued from pg 3-

mom to bring his work to the hospital. My sister called the doctor frantically. The doctor was there shortly after not so gently pulling his papers away and lecturing him on how this was not going to happen.

I was in business dress and had a busy day starting with taking my mom to the doctor. It ended with a fundraiser for my friend, former Yonkers Mayor Nick Wasicsko. I came home from the fundraiser, took my shoes off and my right foot up to about mid calf was completely swollen. I could not walk.

I rushed to St. John's Hospital in a cab. This was the first year of Lyme disease. The hospital had been in touch at 11 p.m or 12 p.m. at night with Dr. Schoen who ordered tests to see what was going on. Dr. Schoen was on the phone with me at 1:30 a.m. telling me I was being admitted. I was immediately put on a strong regimen of intravenous antibiotics.

At the time it took 10 days for Lyme tests to come back. My tests came back in 7 days. Positive! Hard to believe because I was not the kind of person who was in the woods or in areas where I could have picked up a tick.

When my mom was transferred to a nursing home and no longer under Dr. Schoen's care, my sister called him with a list of questions to check about the decisions the assigned doctor at the home was making. Schoen women love their lists! He took the time to answer them all and reassure her that if he was treating her, he would be doing the same thing.

She also prepared a list of questions for him when he joined Westmed. Don't worry. He answered all of them too.

When my sister got unexpectedly and surprisingly seriously ill in December 2014 (approximately 6 years to this date), she called the doctor. He returned the call within 5 minutes - from the slopes in Vermont and monitored her progress from there to Urgent Care to the Emergency Room to admission into the hospital.

Then there are other sides of Dr. Schoen. He always looks to make a match (a "shiddach" in Yiddish) when he refers you to a specialist/another doctor) Not only does he make the appropriate matches, he is excellent at "coordinating" the medical team. He is a "take charge" kind of guy.

When one of my sisters new specialists asked the question on her first visit to him, "who runs your show?" my sister promptly and confidently answered, "Dr. Schoen". He never disappoints. He also prepared a list for my sister of the possible candidates to "succeed" him. As far as she is concerned no one can replace him!

He is an excellent diagnostician. My mom overheard him diagnosing one of her hospital roommates. She then called us to say "you know he's really good." He also figured out what my sister's issues were right away. He loves to learn. He went on to receive a Master's in Nutrition to further help his patients.

My sister, an early childhood educator had to learn about childhood diseases as she was so often exposed (this was before the good Doctor had kids of his own and had that pleasure). She once had a terrible case of impetigo. Having never had chickenpox and no immunity, she became subject A 28 in the development of the chicken pox vaccine.

She clearly remembers Dr. Schoen sitting down with her under the desk table lamp with the gigantic old medical books and looking up those 2 diseases.

He's a nice thoughtful guy. When my sister's beloved 19 1/2 year old cat crossed over the rainbow bridge (where all beloved pets go when it is their time), Dr.Schoen called her to say how sorry he was and if he could do anything to help her get through this difficult time, please feel free to ask.

Thank you, Dr. Herbert Schoen for 46 years of caring, dedication, treatment, expertise, patience, and wonderful care for the Sidney Schoen family and many families in Yonkers and beyond. They just don't make 'em like that anymore! Yes friends, He, Too is Yonkers!

Reach Eric Schoen at [thistoosyonkers@aol.com](mailto:thistoosyonkers@aol.com). Follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Listen to Eric Schoen and Dan Murphy on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to [WVOX.com](http://WVOX.com) and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

### MWBE and SDVOB SOLICITATION AD

MDG Design + Construction LLC is currently seeking contractors for moderate rehabilitation project, Kingsley House located in White Plains, NY. New York State certified MBE, WBE and SDVOB contractors and suppliers are invited to participate in bidding the work in the following trades:  
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Work is to be performed in Westchester County under Davis Bacon Act (prevailing wage) requirements. These obligations are described at the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division webpage - <http://www.dol.gov/whd/>.

Eligible businesses may need to demonstrate that they are responsible and have the ability to perform successfully under the terms and conditions of proposed contracts.

If you would like to receive the Bid Package, please identify trade you would like to bid for and email to Jennifer Monaghan at [jmonaghan@mdgny.com](mailto:jmonaghan@mdgny.com). Requests for bid package shall be submitted no later than on Monday December 28, 2020. Bids are due noon on January 20, 2021. Please see the Bid Package Documents for more information.

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) #2020-20 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT FOR THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers ("MHACY") hereby solicits proposals from qualified firms to provide Owner Representation Construction Management Services for the construction period (not pre-construction) to address control of construction time, cost, work scope and quality, and coordination of MHACY responsibilities for the construction of the new Section 8 Office as well as the Administrative Building, all as specified in this Request for Proposals ("RFP").

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter "Responders") and is available online starting Friday, December 18, 2020 at [www.mhacy.org](http://www.mhacy.org).

The RFP questions deadline is December 29, 2020 at 4:00PM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to Lakisha Collins-Bellamy, Esq. at [procurement@mhacy.org](mailto:procurement@mhacy.org) by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 4:00 PM (EST) on January 8, 2021. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B. Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with parties who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY.

MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in MHACY's best interest to do so.

MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY.

MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement.

Contact, related to this procurement, with members of the MHACY's Board of Commissioners, or MHACY's officers and/or employees other than the contact person show above, during the procurement process could result in disqualification of a proposal.

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**Pajama Program, continued from pg 1-**

**Tree Gets a Second Life, continued from pg 1-**



*Genevieve Pitturo, with a copy of her book, Purpose, Passion and Pajamas*

*Above, the overgrown evergreen had to come down. Below the tree at its new home at Untermyer Gardens, photo below by Robert Kalfus*

in August 2020.

“Right now is the time to invest in yourself and that dream you’ve had on the backburner. If you can’t make a dramatic change in the New Year, use the slide method. Sliding your passion project into your life for even one hour a week will bring you hope and remind you that your dream can be a possibility sooner than you think,” said Pitturo.

During these turbulent times, Pitturo’s book and mission inspires people to listen to their hearts. She strategizes with leaders, businesses, entrepreneurs and those searching for their true purpose on how to bring meaning not only into their own lives and careers, but to those around them. “Its about having the courage to rely on the human connection to be successful in our lives.

“I’m sharing what I learned in my 20 years at the Pajama Program in this book, and the life lessons that can apply to any business or any goal you have in life. You have to make that personal connection to people –and never give up

In the book, Pitturo explains how she went into debt in the early years of the Pajama Program, and after the stock market crash of 2008, wondered if she could raise the funds to make it a success. A turning point came when her van broke down filled with Pajama’s for victims of Hurricane Katrina, and how she relied on the kindness of strangers to carry on.

“Don’t give up on your purpose, and keep looking for your own ‘Pajama Program’. I share in my book how we can all connect with each other and form those teams to reach our goals. That’s how success grows in any business, and how I was able, through the many volunteers that I had in Yonkers and Westchester in the beginning, to grow into New York City and across the country. But you have to form those personal connections to reach your goals,” said Pitturo, who lives in Irvington with her husband, Demo DiMartile. “Its about giving back and connecting with each other, and helping people find their personal purpose.”

The book, now available on Amazon in print or Kindle, is a great read for the holidays. Now is also the best time to make a donation to PajamaProgram.org, and provide children, and teen agers, a book and some pajamas for the holidays.

Please visit [www.GenevievePituro.com](http://www.GenevievePituro.com) for additional information.



time of the year. This year, Untemyer has holiday music for Christians, Jews, and Muslims, because as Byrns puts it “this is for everyone.”

While we were enjoying the lights, we noticed two ladies near the tree in the middle of the walled garden. One of them was Ruth Dituri. I was glad to meet her, and she reminded me that this was her tree, and how proud she was that it was being put to good use, and the enjoyment of everyone visiting Untermyer Gardens.

“This tree has been part of my life for 32 years. To see it here fills my heart with joy, and the fact that it will be shared with others is a wonderful way for it to go. It was such a beautiful evergreen, it was hard to have it taken down,” said Dituri. “With all of the storms we have here in Westchester, people should remember to try and replant for the trees that they lose.”

She thanked Councilman Mike Breen and Stephen Byrns for accepting her tree as a gift. “Councilman Breen was wonderful and very responsive. He knew how important this was to me, and he shared my passion to find a home for it. He made it happen.”

Councilman Breen said, “I was happy to help Joan out and find a home for her tree for the Holidays. She contacted me and I contacted the Yonkers Parks Department, and the tree crew came for Untermyer.

“I think the tree is better than the ones we see at Rockefeller Center. It’s a beautiful thing with a great story. It deserved to have a second life Its going out in style. I try to put people together and help them make a connection. I was happy to help,” said Breen.

If you miss traveling down to Manhattan this Christmas, and walking through Central Park. Untermyer Gardens is the next best thing to do. I would recommend it, along with dinner at Harvest on the Hudson in Hastings, just up the road. Reservations are required by visting UntermyerGardens.org.

Thanks to Joan Dituri, Councilman Mike Breen and Stephen Byrns for giving us some Holiday Happiness!.

**Spano, Health Care Equity, continued from pg 1-**

Health, Kelly Chiarella, Director Office for the Aging, City of Yonkers, Esmeralda Hoscoy, Regional Director, Catholic Charities, Westchester County, Maria Lugo, Senior Program Coordinator, Mount Sinai Hospita, Dr. Bob Morrow, Independent Medical Practice, Faculty, Albert Einstein College of Medicine, Michael Sabatino, Director of Community and Government Affairs, City of Yonkers, Beryl Weaver, School Program Coordinator, Nepperhan Community Center.

Advisors: Lucria Ortiz, President & CEO, Yonkers Family YMCA, Cheryl Brannan, President, Brannan Solutions Group. “I commend Mayor Spano,” noted Cheryl Brannan, President of Brannan Solutions Group. “This Health Task Force is cutting edge for the City of Yonkers and will assist us in recommending innovative ways to expand access to health care for the most vulnerable residents of our city, many of whom have already been stricken by COVID.”

“The YMCA has been a champion of health equity for over a decade. We are thrilled to help elevate the conversation during a time when disparities in health outcomes are so glaring. In order to truly tackle systemic issues, a cross section of health care professionals, community leaders and the medical field should continuously come together to have intentional conversation that leads to action. I am thrilled to work with the Task Force and guide the work here in Yonkers,” stated Lucria Ortiz, President & CEO of the Yonkers Family YMCA.

The Health Equity Task Force will focus on the goals and priorities of:  
I Educating stakeholders on the need for health equity data and how it can be used as a management tool to decrease health disparities in the City of Yonkers among its increasing, most vulnerable population.

II To acknowledge and more effectively manage racial and ethnic disparities in health care by understanding who the providers are, offerings, quality, and accessibility to the most vulnerable populations in the City of Yonkers.

III To analyze the health equity data related to the incidence of COVID-19 in zip codes 10701 & 10705 and its disproportionate impact on Black, Hispanic/Latinx, and immigrant populations. Also, to make recommendations on health care providers, access and levels of care that will assist in preventing future disease outbreaks.

IV To make short term recommendations to the City of Yonkers to improve outcomes related to the elimination of health disparities and adverse impacts on Black, Hispanic/Latinx and immigrant residents

V To create a list of health care providers in the City of Yonkers, services provided, population seen (gender, race, ethnicity, age) and how they determine success related to patient care.

VI Working with the Westchester County Department of Health, assess and review the data on COVID-19 cases in the City of Yonkers and their impact on Black, Hispanic/Latinx and immigrant populations; also, how did affected residents access care and how are they being managed.

VII To create a Health Equity Score Card that will highlight key indicators related to the health of all citizens in Yonkers, highlighting gaps and opportunities to close health disparities, adversely affecting Black, Latinx, and immigrant populations.

Health Equity Task Force members will serve two-year terms. The Task Force is scheduled to host its first meeting in January 2021.

**COVID Update Yonkers, continued from pg 2-**

... we don’t know if the vaccine will actually prevent people from getting the infection and that they may be able to still pass on infection to others. So we have to urge everyone to continue to wear the face coverings,” said Hewlett.

The doctors also went on to list some of the vaccines potential side effects. Fatigue, muscle aches, and slight headache are common symptoms which trend to last for one day. Muscle tightening is another symptom that may be linked to the vaccines.

The city is excited about the arrival of these vaccines, which the community have been waiting for through these long months, however Spano urges us to keep in mind that COVID-19 cases are still rising. At the time of the meeting on December 15th, Yonkers had 12,429 cases which Spano stated was an increase of 1,500 since only last Friday. Yonkers City Council President Mike Khader said: “For the county to recover from this pandemic, Yonkers needs to recover from this pandemic. And

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