

# Yonkers Rising

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Friday January 15, 2021

## Yonkers New Congressman, Jamaal Bowman Says--Impeach Trump!



Yonkers new Congressman, Rep. Jamaal Bowman, outside his DC office

By Dan Murphy

On Jan. 3, 2021, Congressman Jamaal Bowman was sworn into office, representing the 16th District of NY, replacing Eliot Engel. Rep. Bowman now represents Yonkers and most of lower-mid Westchester and parts of the Bronx. In one his first acts as a Congressman, Bowman joined 12 of his colleagues in introducing a resolution to impeach President Donald Trump, for high crimes and misdemeanors.

"I see Republicans saying the president isn't receiving "due process." Kalief Browder, Breonna Taylor, Ramarley Graham, and countless others didn't get their due process. Trump can get his due process in the Senate. We are moving forward with impeaching the president NOW.

"Today, I'm introducing the COUP Act, which will establish an investigation into any further ties between Capitol Police and white supremacy, insurrectionism or fascism. We have to keep going. Our government was outrageously unprepared to deal with an attack that we knew was coming. The American people deserve to know how this could happen.

"The Republican members of Congress who incited the attempted coup on our Capitol should be expelled from Congress. I'm joining my colleagues Cori Bush, Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez, Ilhan Omar, and more to call for their expulsion," said Rep. Bowman.

"Donald John Trump has acted in a manner contrary to his trust as President and subversive constitutional government, to the great prejudice of the cause of law and justice and to the manifest injury of the people of the United States," the resolution reads. "Wherefore, Donald John Trump, by such conduct, warrants impeachment and trial, removal from office, and disqualification to hold and enjoy any office of honor, trust, or profit under the United States."

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## NCC MLK Jr. Vitrual Breakfast to Honor Ray Wilcox, Joshua Heron



Yonkers Artist Ray Wilcox, who was the driving force behind the BLM Mural in Yonkers, will be honored by NCC on Jan 18.

Please join the Board of Directors and staff of the Nepperhan Community Center as we celebrate our 35th Annual Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Virtual Celebration on Monday January 18 at 6pm. Nepperhan Community Center Inc. is a 501 © 3 not-for-profit community based organization with headquarters in Yonkers, that serves the Hudson Valley of the State of New York, and 5 countries on the continent of Africa. We are proud to be celebrating 35 years of honoring America's greatest civil rights champion in Dr. King.

This year's virtual celebration will feature Grammy Award winning jazz and gospel recording artist Jonathan Butler. We will also be pausing to honor two young men who have distinguished themselves as outstanding community activists, Ray Wilcox the Executive Director of Yonkers Arts. Ray was also one of the creators of the PowerLab serving the residents of Yonkers, and was the driving force in getting the Black Lives Matter banner painted in downtown Yonkers.

Our other awardee is Joshua Heron a freshman at Howard University, and former graduate of the Yonkers Public Schools. Joshua has been an integral part of President Obama's My Brother's Keeper Movement. He has been very instrumental in using his voice as a powerful medium for change in our nation. He is undergirded by his love of God, and has used his faith in God to speak out against injustices that we have witnessed against African Americans.

The cost of tickets are \$35 dollars, and you can make payments at [www.nepperhan.org](http://www.nepperhan.org), or in person at the Nepperhan Center, 342 Warburton Avenue in Yonkers, and a link to the virtual celebration will be sent to you. The Honorable Evan Inlaw is the President of the Board of Directors, and Dr. Jim Bostic is the agency's Executive Director.

## High School Football, Basketball and St. Pats Parade Cancelled



By Phil Foley

It looks very doubtful that we will have a High School Basketball and Football season this Winter and Spring in Yonkers this year! This is a tragedy for all high school seniors who are trying to get scholarships to attend college! Yes folks the virus strikes again!

Last week I texted Yonkers Athletic Director Jim Rose and asked him what was going on with Yonkers HS sports in general. In a text back to me he said "There will be no high risk sports played at this time". Meaning basketball and football. Mr Rose did say "At this point we are running low moderate risk sports thus we have bowling, boys swim and track.". I asked him again in another text about the status of basketball and football and he replied "At this point neither sport will be played".

I also texted the Yonkers Force football coach Dan Dematteo. I asked Dan what he thought about the situation with football being played this year and he simply said "Starting to get very concerned!"

This year the high school sport seasons were going to be broken up as follows: Winter sports January-February, Fall sports March-April and Spring Sports May-June.

Maybe with the grace of God we will get the vaccine administered and things will be normal by next Fall. Unfortunately too late for some of our athletes this year!" writes Foley.

According to YPS spokesperson Jeri Feirstein, the guidelines for high school contact sports are set by the State and "if the Governor were to change policy, we are prepared to look into it."

*continued on pg 4-*

## Vaccine Update for Yonkers

*"The vaccine rollout, as we know it, has been extremely disappointing,"*

*New York Senate Majority Leader*

*Andrea Stewart-Cousins*

*Anyone 65 Years and Older Can Now Get the Vaccine, But Gov. Says it Could Take 14 Weeks*

By Dan Murphy

There is good news and bad news for Yonkers residents waiting for the COVID-19 to become available to receive. The good news is that the New York State Department of Health has revised its COVID-19 vaccine guidelines in accordance with the CDC and is now allowing New Yorkers over the age of 65 to begin registering to receive the COVID-19 vaccine.

Those interested in registering to make an appointment or check their availability can call 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829), or visit <https://am-i-eligible.covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/Public/prescreener>.

The bad news is that the number of eligible New Yorkers has exceeded the number of vaccines available in New York State. At present time, New York State is only receiving 300,000 doses of the COVID-19 vaccines weekly, whereas approximately 7 million New Yorkers are now eligible for the vaccine.

Those 65 and older now join New Yorkers 75 and older, first responders, public safety officers, teachers and other school staff; in-person college instructors, childcare workers, public-facing grocery store workers, transit workers and individuals living and working in homeless shelters who became eligible to register for the vaccine on January 11th.

Governor Andrew Cuomo toannounced five state-run vaccination sites have begun accepting appointments and are scheduled to open this week. The sites - the Jacob K. Javits Center, Westchester County Center and New York State Fair Expo Center - will all open on January 13 at 8 a.m. Sites at Jones Beach and SUNY Albany will also open on January 14 and 15, respectively, with more vaccination sites to be announced in the coming days.

Since federal supply severely limits the ability to distribute vaccine, New Yorkers are encouraged to remain patient and are advised not to show up at vaccination sites without an appointment. New York's vast distribution network and large population of eligible individuals far exceed the vaccine supply coming from the federal government, which is arriving at a rate of approximately 300,000 doses per week. As such, eligible New Yorkers should be prepared to receive an appointment date as far as 14 weeks or further in the future.

New York has established a network of distribution sites that will supplement the work being done in hospitals to prevent any one hospital from becoming overburdened. This network includes the five state-run sites opening this week, as well as 15 more which will be announced in the coming days. This new network will also utilize doctors' offices, Federally-Qualified Health Centers, county health departments, ambulatory centers and pharmacies to get doses in the arms of eligible New Yorkers.

More than 1,200 pharmacies have already committed to participating in this network, with nearly 400 scheduled to come on-line this week.

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## Assemblyman Sayegh: Proposed \$102 Million Con Ed Fine a Good Start, But More to Come



Assemblyman Nader Sayegh

Yonkers State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh supports the New York Public Service Commission staff recommendation that Con Ed be fined \$102.3 Million for its inadequate response to outages in the wake of Tropical Storm Isaias but says more needs to be done. Sayegh has introduced a package of bills designed to force improvements in Con Ed's storm outage response, as well as the storm outage responses of Verizon and Altice.

"With climate change, Tropical Storms like Isaias and nor'easters like the one that hit Westchester December 16 are becoming more frequent, so New York must make sure the utility companies and the New York State Public Service Commission (PSC), which regulates utilities, improve how they respond to storm related outages," said State Assemblyman Nader Sayegh (D-Yonkers). "Despite legislative hearings, State investigations and public outcry, the utilities have clearly not improved their storm response efforts. Therefore, I have introduced a package of bills to force change."

Sponsored in the State Senate by Long Island Senator Anna M. Kaplan (D-7th Senate District), the legislation requires utilities to include communication planning in storm response plans, would allow residents to officially notify Con Ed about downed wires triggering a 36 hour response time, and requires customer discounts for extended cable, phone and internet outages. The package of bills follows:

A11015/S8929 Requires the emergency response plan of an electric corporation to include plans for how the communication and coordination of efforts shall occur

A11016/S8997 Relates to emergency response plans relating to downed wires

A11017/S8895 Requires electric companies to provide alternate measures to ensure customers with documented need for essential electricity of medical needs have access to electricity during power outages

A11018/S8892 Requires electric utilities to prioritize restoring service to police departments, fire departments and ambulance services when such services are interrupted

A11020/S8896 Provides a discount to consumers of certain utilities for failure to provide contracted services

A10988/S8893 Requires cell towers to be equipped with a back-up power source in case of a power outage

Assemblyman Sayegh is also submitting written testimony to the State Public Service Commission in support of the PSC staff recommendation that Con Edison be fined for its inadequate response to Tropical Storm Isaias last August. The PSC is accepting comments from Westchester residents on the proposed \$102.3 million dollar fine. The storm brought heavy rain and wind gusts up to 70 miles per hour. Electric, phone, cable and internet outages followed. In the wake of the storm, Con Ed reported 93,281 customers without power in Westchester.

## Column 500...and I'm Still Here!



By Eric Schoen

This marks my 500th column. With what's going on the world I wish I felt like celebrating. COVID-19 and with what happened last week at the Capitol Building in Washington, D.C. We will celebrate when things calm down and we can all gather together safely.

Just to make matters worse as I sit in my Yonkers apartment at press time writing this column the television and radio helicopters are hovering overhead. A fire has engulfed a row of stores at the intersection of Yonkers and Seminary Avenues. Flames shooting out of stores including Tibbetts Market and Miracle Cleaners. No electricity or phone service in the area.

The market is open probably a year after the bureaucracy that accompanies the attempted opening of anything in Yonkers delayed it several years. Good, hard working people operate the market. Deli counter filled with fresh foods always looking perfect.

The same can be said about Miracle Cleaners. The cleaners were bought from the long time owners several years ago by a nice young couple. Before Covid-19 if I passed late at night I would see the couple still at work. I'm sure their business has been affected by fewer people going into the office and working from home. Say a prayer for the young owners of Miracle Cleaners who have probably invested their life savings in the business now losing it all as parts of the building the store resides in have collapsed.

The good news. After a slow roll out people are starting to get the Covid-19 vaccine. Just this week more elderly and front line workers have been added to the list of those eligible to receive the vaccine at this time. New York City has set up locations where vaccines are distributed 24 hours a day by appointment. On the first day appointments from 12 midnight to 4 a.m. Tuesday morning were booked within hours.

Westchester will be giving vaccines out at the Westchester County Center. We have to make sure every dosage we have is distributed in a timely basis. There is no reason that is not the case. People want the vaccines. Use the internet and telephone to schedule your appointment. This way additional groups of people can schedule their vaccines.

I know the manufacturers are working hard to produce the vaccine. When I heard the Mayor of New York City say that the city would be running out of vaccines with 2 weeks, it certainly is not good but at least that means shots are going into peoples arms. That's good!

How do you even begin to discuss what occurred at the Capitol Building in Washington last week. It reminded me of Barbara Bush swimming in the White House pool when she saw rats, yes rats in the pool. Do we care so little about the safety of our public officials and their families that we wouldn't check to be sure there were no rats in the pool or last week that crazies would not be able to have free reign to scale the Capitol?

And the clown that egged them on and said he would be joining those protesting in their March to the Capitol? Where was he? Marching? Nope. He stayed in the White House and watched the situation unfold on television. What a coward!

The situation got so bad that a Democratic Congresswoman had to be

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# YONKERS TIMES

News in Yonkers and around Westchester

## Rose Pedals at the Feet of New Yonkers Judge Karen Best ?



Rose pedals are usually used for special occasions, like at a wedding ceremony, or for someone special on an anniversary or on Valentine's Day. But City Court Judge Karen Best, and her supporters, thought it appropriate to throw out Rose Pedals at her feet as she took the bench for the first time at the Cacace Justice Center on January 4.

Judge Best took a different path to the Yonkers City Court, and won reelection both in a democratic primary and in the general election. She earned her seat and is entitled to serve the people of Yonkers.

But for those who contacted us about the start to her tenure on the bench, they were either offended or dumbfounded. "Is this Julius Caesar returning from Rome, or a Judge with serious work to do taking the bench in Yonkers," said one Yonkers Democrat.

"I have never seen a coronation for a Yonkers City Court Judge and its inappropriate," said another Yonkers democrat with ties to the court system. "It's as if she is more important than those people who come before her. Should they bring a few rose pedals to her when their case is called?"

NYS Chief Court Judge Janet DiFiore is said to have been notified of this incident. Judge DiFiore has served on the bench in Westchester and in Albany, but without the Rose Pedals.

## National Day of Racial Healing in Westchester Set for January 19

The 5th Annual National Day of Racial Healing will be held in Westchester County. The National Day of Racial Healing (NDORH) is an opportunity for people, organizations and communities across the United States to call for racial healing, bring people together in their common humanity, and take collective action to create a more just and equitable world.

The event will begin on January 19, beginning at 8:00 AM and continuing at various times throughout the day. The day's events will include virtual meditation, healing circles, anti-racism training and community storytelling centered on the theme 'How We Heal'.

The event will be held Virtually via Zoom. Links to each event will be provided after registration. RSVP: [https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7885Ti1I\\_hG5ad2Mr3dVXQsnva98bMy\\_FsOfqeLhnZyqiQQ/viewform](https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSd7885Ti1I_hG5ad2Mr3dVXQsnva98bMy_FsOfqeLhnZyqiQQ/viewform)

Racial healing recognizes the need to acknowledge and tell the truth about past wrongs created by individual and systemic racism and address the present consequences. It can facilitate trust and build authentic relationships that bridge divides created by real and perceived differences. It is an ongoing process, supportive of wholeness in individuals, communities and societies.

It benefits all people because, regardless of background, we live in and are impacted by the narratives and conditions present throughout this increasingly interconnected world. We believe it is essential to pursue racial healing prior to making change in a community. Because, before you can transform systems and structures, you must start with people first. When grounded in respectful truth and empathy and oriented toward equity, it has restorative potential to affirm the inherent value of all people.

Launched on January 17, 2017, this annual observance is hosted by the W. K. Kellogg Foundation (WKKF), and was created with and builds on the work and learnings of the Truth, Racial Healing & Transformation (TRHT) community partners. Fundamental to this day is a clear understanding that racial healing is at the core of racial equity. This day is observed every year on the Tuesday following Martin Luther King, Jr. Day.

National Day of Racial Healing 2021 in Westchester County is being planned by longtime Westchester residents committed to racial healing, equity and justice. It is supported by Westchester Black Women's Political Caucus, Inc., Anti-Racist Alliance Westchester and the YWCA of White Plains & Central Westchester. Event planners are Maria Dautruche, Colleen Brathwaite, Gabrielle Hamilton, Maria Imperial, Ariana Quinones and Tasha Young.

## Why Was The Carnegie Library in Yonkers Torn Down?

### Yonkers Public Library presents **The Death of a Library: An American Tragedy**



Yonkers author **Patricia Vaccarino** will talk about her latest book *The Death of a Library: An American Tragedy*. She will then lead a discussion about it and answer questions.

Vaccarino's book is about the Yonkers Public Library's Carnegie Library, which was demolished in 1982, and remains a subject of controversy and conflicting reports. Vaccarino shares her research and analysis into how and why it took place.

This program is co-sponsored by the Yonkers Historical Society.

**Thursday, January 21**  
6 pm, via **zoom**



Join meeting via Zoom or call 1 929 205 6099 (Mtg ID: 934 0252 3318)  
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What really happened to the Yonkers Carnegie Library?

The Yonkers Carnegie Library was the most beautiful building in the city. The commonly held belief was that the library was destroyed to widen a road, but rumors suggest the library was killed due to political corruption, greed, and incompetence. Other rumors suggest that the library was destroyed as a result of racism—that the people of color in South Yonkers didn't deserve a library.

There is sufficient evidence to prove that systemic racism was one reason that led to the death of the library. There was also widespread political corruption.

There are heroes in this story. A handful of courageous people worked hard to save the library. Their efforts are similar to Americans who have been working hard to save our democracy—and they deserve to be recognized.

Patricia Vaccarino's book, *The Death of a Library: An American Tragedy*, has the following description on Amazon.

"The Yonkers Carnegie Library was commonly held to be the most beautiful building in the city. No one seemed to know for sure why it was destroyed. The circumstances that led to the death of the library are steeped in half-truths, incredible lies, and wild rumors that range from political corruption to bumbling incompetence.

One rumor focuses on the true intentions of the Mayor of the time, Angelo Martinelli, and his desire to undo the white flight to the east side of Yonkers. Rumors hinting of racism—the area surrounding the library had become increasingly populated with blacks and Puerto Ricans—is also explored as a reason why the library was destroyed.

Corruption in Yonkers city government has also been alleged, and while without having a smoking gun, it's hard to prove people took money under the table, the chronic pattern of cronyism is undeniable. Among the rumor mill, claims persist that Angelo Martinelli wanted to build a sleek high-rise tower to replace both the Yonkers City Hall and the library.

Other rumors suggest the library was razed to make room for a bridge to New Jersey. Another allegation accuses Yonkers City Council Member Harry Oxman of sacrificing the library to spare his small-time dry cleaning business. And finally, the library itself has been accused of being its own worst enemy. What really happened?" end of Amazon description.

We don't know what happened, but look forward to this discussion.

### *cancellations continued from pg 1-*

Another major cancellation came from the Yonkers Saint Patrick's Day Parade Committee in a letter dated January 11. "Dear Parade Committee Members and Friends of the Parade,

"As we indicated in our October 27th letter, the Board would meet in early January to finalize a decision on how to proceed in 2021 with our annual celebration of St Patrick's Day here in Yonkers.

"Obviously, we would love to hold our great annual Parade down McLean Avenue on March 20, 2021 as originally planned, but given the continuance of the pandemic at its current and projected levels, it would not be prudent to do so. Thus, sadly we must cancel the parade for yet another year.

"As we said in our last letter, the 2020 parade was so well laid out and ready to go at the point it was cancelled, it remains our intention to utilize those plans as the basis for our next parade, now scheduled for Saturday, March 19, 2022. We have spoken to Grand Marshal Pat McCrudden and each of her Aides and they remain enthusiastically ready to lead us next year. We all recognize how disappointing this is and we look forward to the day when we can all safely come together in celebration once again.

Please stay safe and be well, Ursula McIntyre & Deirdre O' Mara, Co-Chairs Yonkers St Patrick's Parade on McLean Avenue

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## Racing is Back at Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts

Empire City Casino by MGM Resorts announces its 2021 Racing Program for Yonkers Raceway with Opening Day scheduled for Monday, January 11, 2021, pending approval by the New York State Gaming Commission. The 234 race day calendar includes a stakes schedule featuring the return of the MGM Borgata Pacing Series, Blue Chip Matchmaker Series, and two Triple Crown events, the MGM Yonkers Trot and MGM Grand Messenger Stakes, all of which were canceled last year as a result of the pandemic.

The race calendar will shift to a five consecutive weekday schedule offering live harness racing Monday through Friday, as Yonkers moves the Saturday race card to Wednesday. Nightly post time is 7:15pm.

Racing fans will enjoy wagering changes as well. Yonkers Raceway will reduce the takeout rate on Pick 4 and Pick 5 races from twenty-five percent to twenty percent to the benefit of bettors. A one dollar Pick 6 wager is also being added.

"We are pleased to be able to lower the takeout rate on these popular multi-race wagers to the lowest levels allowed by the state," said Alex Dadoyan, director of racing at Yonkers Raceway.

State regulations continue to require races to be run without fans in attendance, with only essential personnel and owners permitted on the track and required to adhere to strict health and safety protocols.

Races are simulcast and available for viewing and wagering online at [www.EmpireCityBets.com](http://www.EmpireCityBets.com). Racing fans can create a free account and view live racing at Yonkers Raceway and tracks across the country.

For more information on the race schedule, please visit [www.EmpireCityCasino.com](http://www.EmpireCityCasino.com).

## Was Anyone from Yonkers Part of the Raid on the Capitol?



**SEEKING INFORMATION**

**VIOLENCE AT THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL**

WASHINGTON, D.C.  
JANUARY 6, 2021



The FBI is seeking information that will assist in identifying individuals who are actively instigating violence in Washington, D.C. The FBI is accepting tips and digital media depicting rioting and violence in the U.S. Capitol building and surrounding area in Washington, D.C., on January 6, 2021.

We have deployed our full investigative resources and are working closely with our federal, state, and local partners to aggressively pursue those involved in criminal activity during the events of January 6. If you have witnessed unlawful violent actions, or have any information about the cases below, we urge you to submit any information, photos, or videos that could be relevant at [fbi.gov/USCapitol](http://fbi.gov/USCapitol). You may also call 1-800-CALL-FBI (1-800-225-5324) to verbally report tips and/or information related to this investigation. If you do not have an attachment but have information to provide, please submit it at [tips.fbi.gov](http://tips.fbi.gov).

FBI Director Asher Wray said, "The violence and destruction of property at the U.S. Capitol building yesterday showed a blatant and appalling disregard for our institutions of government and the orderly administration of the democratic process. As we've said consistently, we do not tolerate violent agitators and extremists who use the guise of First Amendment-protected activity to incite violence and wreak havoc. Such behavior betrays the values of our democracy. Make no mistake: With our partners, we will hold accountable those who participated in yesterday's siege of the Capitol."

"Let me assure the American people the FBI has deployed our full investigative resources and is working closely with our federal, state, and local partners to aggressively pursue those involved in criminal activity during the events of January 6. Our agents and analysts have been hard at work through the night gathering evidence, sharing intelligence, and working with federal prosecutors to bring charges. Members of the public can help by providing tips, information, and videos of illegal activity at [fbi.gov/USCapitol](http://fbi.gov/USCapitol). We are determined to find those responsible and ensure justice is served."

## Yonkers Rising

Serving the City of Yonkers as the official weekly newspaper. Member New York Press Association. USPS Permit #7164. Published weekly by Rising Media Group, LLC. PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702. (914)-815-1388. Daniel J. Murphy, Publisher/Editor [dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com](mailto:dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com). Legal notices to [risinglegalnotice@gmail.com](mailto:risinglegalnotice@gmail.com)

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## On This Day in Yonkers History...



Yonkers native, General Thomas Trapnell

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

Monday, January 18th

January 18, 1934: Nathan Friedman, unsuccessful candidate for Justice of the Peace, got an order from Supreme Court Justice William Bleakley to reopen voting machines in 14 election districts. Friedman lost by only 57 votes, and his affidavits claimed errors in the reported count were made.

January 18, 1944: John Doherty, First Aid Director for Yonkers Red Cross, spoke proudly of all the teenaged girls who volunteered to donate blood. He had to refuse their generous contributions as they were too young to donate blood; the age limit was eighteen... and eighteen-year-olds had to have their parents' consent to donate.

Tuesday, January 19th

January 19, 1934: Alderman William Slater confronted Wayne Laidlaw, an anti-Administration leader, to give evidence of his charges of graft and "banditry" against the members of the Common Council. He stopped him at the door of the Common Council and demanded he "put it on a postcard and say he means me." Slater believed Laidlaw, more than anyone else or any group, was responsible for the lowering of Yonkers municipal credit rating.

January 19, 1944: De. Joseph Novotny, Pastor of the First Czecho-Slovak Baptist Church, proved the swastika was not a modern symbol of evil, but an age-old symbol. He produced a hymnbook printed in 1576 in Ivanice in Czechoslovakia. At the end of the volume, an illustration showed the devil sitting on a throne with widespread arms, with a swastika on his chest! Novotny stated this proved centuries ago, we were given a warning; he believed it was "a prophecy for our times."

Wednesday, January 20th

January 20, 1931: City Librarian Helen Blodgett requested a new library building be erected on the Waring property on South Broadway; Mayor Fogarty turned her down because "the property was a valuable source of tax revenue."

January 20, 1945: Twenty-four year old Captain Bernard Diekman, husband of Yonkers resident Leilah Diekman and pilot of a B-25 Mitchell bomber operating out of Corsica, was awarded the first Bronze cluster to his Distinguished Flying Cross. He received it for "extraordinary achievement in an attack upon enemy supply and troop concentration near Santa Lucia, Italy." Captain Diekman had led a formation of twelve bombers over the target, "inflicting severe damage" to their target. Mrs. Diekman was the daughter of Rev. Dr. James Wilson, pastor of Central Methodist Church in Yonkers.

Thursday, January 21st

January 21, 1942: Yonkers native Major Thomas J. H. Trapnell, star halfback of the 1926 West Point football team, was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for singlehandedly fending off a Japanese advance in Luzon on December 22, 1941. Remaining between the enemy troops and his men, he set fire to a truck on a bridge, waiting until the bridge was fully engulfed in flames before leaving in a scout car to rejoin his troops. Trapnell survived the Bataan Death March following the Battle of the Philippines in 1942, remaining a prisoner of war until he was rescued in 1944 by the Russian forces in Manchuria. Other awards he earned during WWII were two Silver Stars, a Bronze Star, Legion of Merit, and the Combat Infantryman's Badge, to name just a few. He retired as commander of the Third US Army and a three-star general in 1962.

January 21, 1947: Three well known Yonkers residents appeared as character witnesses for Patrolman William Daly, on trial for bribery; interestingly enough, all three, Judge Charles Boote, Judge Martin Fay and State Senator William Condon, fudged on the subject of their age!

Friday, January 22nd

January 22, 1933: Harry Garing of New York City, Grand Dragon of the New York Klu Klux Klan, asked Mayor Joseph Loehr for permission to use Larkin Plaza and Lincoln Park for public meetings to discuss "Americanism and Its defense." The Mayor had no immediate comment.

January 22, 1947: State Senator William Condon. Assemblyman Malcolm Wilson and Mayor Frank announced Yonkers would receive \$900,000 from the State for veterans' housing. Yonkers created two and three room apartments, with sixty-four units in the old Yonkers High School building on South Broadway and sixteen units in the Labor Temple. Barracks for 120 veterans' families also were built on part of the Grassy Sprain Golf Course.

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Notice of formation of Poy Energy Solutions, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/30/2020. 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, 15 Roanoke St. 1st Floor, Yonkers, NY 10710. 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.

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 Panza NY LLC filed with the SSNY on 10/13/2020. 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, 640 Van Cortlandt Pk Ave Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.



UPCOMING WESTCHESTER COUNTY MOBILE FOOD PANTRIES



### YONKERS LOCAL FOOD PANTRIES:

Tuesday, January 12  
3:30pm - 5:30pm  
@StJosephsMedical  
Vark Street, Yonkers

Thursday, January 14  
12:30pm - 2:30pm  
St. Peter's Church  
91 Ludlow Street, Yonkers

Friday, January 15  
12:30pm - 2:30pm  
San Andres Church  
22 Post Road, Yonkers  
3:30pm - 5:30pm  
Shepherd's Flock Fresh Market  
193 Ashburton Avenue (Rear), Yonkers (Produce Only)

Saturday, January 16  
9:30am - 11:30am  
Cottage Place  
33 Ashburton Avenue, Yonkers  
12:30pm - 2:30pm  
Metro AME Zion Church  
15 Dunbar Street, Yonkers

The Mobile Food Pantry and Fresh Market distributions bring good nutritious food to areas in Westchester County where it's needed. For the schedule, click here: <https://feedingwestchester.org/.../mobile-food-pantry.../>  
YWCA of Yonkers Food Pantry  
Every MONDAY & WEDNESDAY from 1 – 3PM  
67 South Broadway, Yonkers  
Call to confirm: 914-963-0640

## DeRosa Named Building & Realty Institute's First Female President



**Lisa DeRosa**

The Building & Realty Institute (BRI) announced its new President at its recent Annual Holiday Networking Reception. Lisa DeRosa, also the President of DeRosa Builders, Inc. of White Plains, will be the first female President in BRI's 75-year history.

DeRosa has served as a Vice Chair of the BRI's Apartment Owners Advisory Council (AOAC) from 2016 to 2020 and as a member of that association's Board of Directors from 2006 to 2020. She has also been a member of the BRI's Negotiating Committee during its Labor Contract Negotiations with Local 32-BJ Service Employees International Union (SEIU).

"I want to help put the BRI on the map. My goal is to bring more transparency and give the organization a greater voice," DeRosa said. "Whenever an issue occurs in the building and realty industries, I want the BRI to be the ultimate source in the Hudson Valley. We have so many useful resources and an abundance of knowledge. Many of our members have issues that need and deserve to be highlighted and addressed by the media and legislators. I want to amplify our members' voices and give the BRI a larger spotlight."

"Lisa's story is the story of the BRI. She knows firsthand what it really looks like for a small business and family-run businesses to build and operate multifamily apartment buildings in Westchester. She knows exactly what it means to keep them afloat in good times and bad, and how to maintain safe, secure, and affordable homes that working families in White Plains depend on," said Tim Foley, Executive Director and Executive Vice President of the BRI.

DeRosa's journey in the building and realty industry actually began when she was 13 years old. "I was in the 8th grade, and we were learning about addressing an envelope. I noticed the return address was one of the buildings my father had built and went up to my teacher after class and informed her. She said she 'would only live in a DeRosa building,' so I mentioned that he was building townhouses in the next town over."

"Sometime later, my father came home and handed me \$250, which was a substantial amount of money in the early 80's. When I asked him why he gave it to me, he said that my teacher went into contract on a unit and that when she closed, I would receive the other \$250. My real estate career was born right there, and my teacher bought a house on a street that was named after me, 'Lisa Court.'"

Her late father, John DeRosa, served as President of the BRI in the 1960's and was a longtime member of the organization's Board of Trustees. Her late mother, Margit DeRosa, was a President and longtime member of the BRI's Women's Council. "My father always told me, 'A busy man is never too busy,'" DeRosa said. "To me, that means that there's always time to listen. Listen to everybody, and then make your own decision. But listen first."

DeRosa knows that as the first female President in the BRI's history, she'll bring to the table what no one else has done before. "We always hear the term 'glass ceiling' when it comes to women. That we shouldn't aim too high because we're living in a male-dominated industry. But women bring a lot of different perspectives that are completely different from men's. And I think it's extremely important to have equal representation on all fronts to truly represent the society that we live in."

Visit <https://www.buildersinstitute.org> for more information.

### SUPPORT CONNECTION EVENT TO KICK OFF CELEBRATION OF 25 YEARS OF SERVICE

On Sunday, January 24, from 2 – 3 pm (NY time) Support Connection will hold "Beat the Winter Blues," a virtual event via ZOOM. There will be live music by the Barr Band, with Lori and Mike Barr playing favorites from the 60's, 70's and 80's. The highlight of the event will be a special unveiling of Support Connection's 25th Anniversary logo.

In 2021, Support Connection marks 25 years of providing help and hope to people dealing with breast and ovarian cancer. This fun event is being held to kick off a year-long celebration. Registration is free, with a suggested donation of \$15. Space is limited so register early at this link: <https://2021beatthewinterblues.bpt.me>. Or contact Melissa: [coordinator@supportconnection.org](mailto:coordinator@supportconnection.org), 914-962-6402.

Support Connection opened their doors on September 10, 1996. In the years since then, thousands of people coping with breast and ovarian cancer have been helped by Support Connection's free support services and programs.

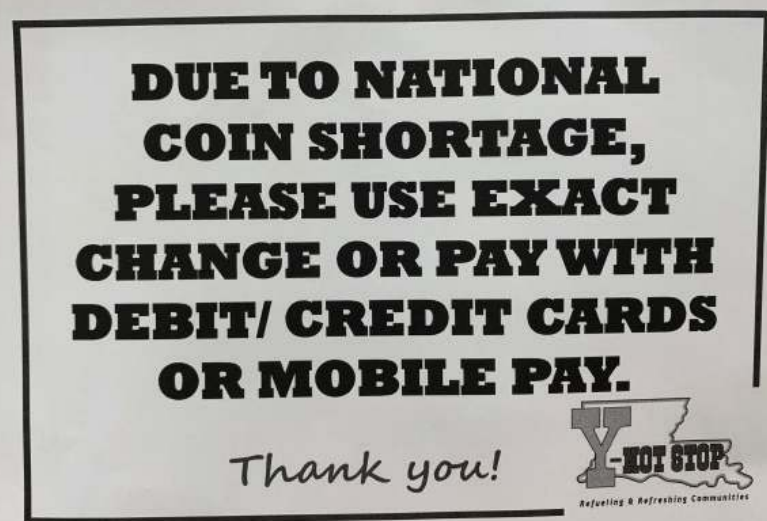
Support Connection's founding Executive Director Katherine Quinn says "We are excited and proud to be able to celebrate this important milestone. We have been able to fulfill our vital mission for the past 25 years because of the community-wide support we have been fortunate to receive. We are so grateful, and we are happy to invite community members to join us for the first of many events we are planning for this momentous year."

Information and referral services; A toll-free cancer information and support hotline (800-532-4290.) To learn more, visit [www.supportconnection.org](http://www.supportconnection.org) or call 914- 962-6402.

Notice of formation of Byrd Enterprises, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/21/20. 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, 249 Hoover Road, Yonkers NY. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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.

## Coin Shortage Across Westchester &amp; USA



By Dan Murphy

The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in many shortages, and changes in Americans behavior in 2020, and 2021. During your shopping at your local supermarket or small business, you may have noticed a sign that reads, "Due to a National Shortage, Please Use Exact Change, or Pay With a Debit/Credit Card."

I have recently told cashiers to keep the change if the amount of change due back to me is a dime or less. When the Federal Reserve Chair Jerome Powell says, "the flow of coins through the economy has kinda stopped," you know there is a legitimate concern.

The Federal Reserve estimates that there should be about \$48 billion in coinage alone in circulation. But many of us have those coins in a jar in our homes, and are both reluctant to hand them in, and to spend them.

Part of the reason for the shortage is that some fear catching the virus from touching coins or bills. But most scientists believe that the only way to acquire COVID-19 from a contaminated surface, which could be a bill or coin although highly unlikely, is by touching it with your hands and then touching your mouth, nose or eyes.

That's not to say that US Dollars aren't 'filthy.' Most dollar bills in circulation have many microorganisms and other bacteria, and many also have traces of cocaine on them.

The problem is that the lack of currency and coins in our economy is making it more difficult for small business to operate. Most consumers are using debit-credit cards for their spending.

The lack of coins in circulation will certainly revisit the conversation about eliminating the penny from circulation. The US Mint reported in 2018 that it costs them \$1.78 to make every penny. In 2019, the U.S. Mint made 7.04 billion pennies, costing taxpayers \$145 million.

The American consumer is very picky when it comes to their currency. An effort to introduce the \$1 Coin in 2013 failed, when Americans didn't want to use them. The like their 'dirty' dollar bills instead. There is a stockpile of those \$1 coins in the Federal Reserve, \$1.4 Billion dollars of them.

#### Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

Saturday, January 23rd

January 23, 1910: Yonkers Health Officer Dr. W. S. Coons notified officials our water supply, particularly the portion obtained from the Nepperhan River, was found to be "far below sanitary standards and was endangering the health of the city;" water samples were infested with typhoid.

January 23, 1916: The will of Montgomery Cowperthwaite of 309 North Broadway was filed; his estate was valued at \$1,445,366. President of the family furniture company that sported his name, Cowperthwaite was widowed and lived in his home with five servants at the time of his death. Ancestor John Cowperthwaite founded Cowperthwaite's in 1807, with a store at Chatham Square. Now the oldest furniture business in America, Cowperthwaite and Sons has two large establishments, one in Chatham Square close to where the original store was located, and the second in Harlem at Third Avenue and 121st Street.

Sunday, January 24th

January 24, 1935: Elsworth Bunker of Yonkers was reelected Vice President of the National Sugar Refining company, a company Bunker's father had co-founded. After his retirement from the sugar company, Bunker went on to become an ambassador to the O. A. S., Argentina, Italy, India, Nepal and South Vietnam, serving Presidents Truman, Eisenhower and Lyndon Johnson.

January 24, 1950: Yonkers boxer Roger Donoghue made his County Center debut and took the bout when he TKO'd Jimmy Demetrios in the sixth round. It was his 14th straight win since becoming a professional boxer in 1948 at the age of 18.

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

#### Fourth Precinct Community Council

Because of COVID, the Fourth Precinct Community Council will hold its monthly meeting by a ZOOM telephone meeting at 7:00 PM on Thursday January 21. You can attend the meeting from home on your telephone. Please be aware this is an open meeting, and there is no agenda. If you want to say something, just find an opening, and say it.

To participate in the ZOOM meeting, Call (646) 876-9923 and Enter Meeting ID 445-678-6822, and identify yourself. If the line drops, and you get disconnected during the meeting, just hang up and call again. Please don't use the "speaker phone" option as it causes "feedback." Thank you.

## Fuller Center for Housing Holds Build a Thon For MLK Day



Jim Killoran, Exec. Dir., The Fuller Center for Housing of Greater NYC, center, with two volunteers building affordable homes in Westchester

By Dan Murphy

The Fuller Center for Housing of Greater NYC, and its leader in Westchester, Jim Killoran, has survived the Pandemic and continues in its mission to build affordable home ownership for Veterans, Seniors and the lower middle class in the county. And over the next week, Killoran and the Fuller Center will hold its annual MLK Build a Thon from Saturday, January 16 to Sunday, Jan. 24.

This will be an opportunity for Westchester residents to step up and vounteer, (no building experience necessary). This was also an opportunity to catch up with Killoran, who has spent the last three decades helping Westchester residents stay in their homes, and giving home ownership to young families who never could afford a Westchester house without him.

Like every non profit and business in Westchester, the Coronavirus has affected Killoran and The Fuller Center for Housing. "We have had 700 volunteers since COVID. We usually have 3500. Most of our work is outside, where you can social distance from each other. It's a safe way to get out and help us help others. Everyone deserves a simple home to live in," said Killoran.

Young volunteers continue to come forward and help Killoran. They come from Iona College and Manhattanville College. And from many Westchester High Schools, including Byram Hills High School, Mamaroneck High School, and Fox Lane High School.

IBM has sent a crew of volunteers for many years and continues to do so. Local churches and synagogues of all denominations have come to help Killoran build a house. "If you asked me last March, I wasn't sure that we could survive, but we made it and we continue to do some good, with the help of the people of Westchester, local corporations and generous donors.

We think the pandemic has given us a chance to think about what the important things in life are. We are still doing gods greater blessings by building houses.

Killoran also steps forward to help homeowners, usually seniors who have lived in Westchester for generations, to help repair their homes so that they don't have to move out. A recent letter from the Town of Lewisboror, thanking The Fuller Center for their work rehabbing a seniors house.

"This pandemic has upended all of our lives. Most of us are stuck at home. We give you a chance to get out, volunteer, and get away from home for a while and do some good. COVID is here with us but the need for affordable homes in Westchester continues to grow. We want our young people also to be able to stay here and not have to move to Texas."

"We have been holding our MLK Build a Thon for 20 years, to honor his life and his dream. Our dream comes when we can build a home for someone and watch them sign that mortgage. We have a dream that everyone can have a decent home. We will be doing it all week and come one and all. The more the merrier," said Killoran.

This year's Build a Thon will honor Keith Yizar, a longtime Mamaroneck resident who was a fixture in the community and a model citizen for decades. Every month, The Fuller Center will honor a volunteer who helped bring home ownership to others. John Gallagher helped build 8 homes in Ossining and was the first monthly honoree.

The beauty of Jim Killoran and The Fuller Center for Housing, named after Millard and Linda Fuller who used their wealth to start building housing for others in 50 years ago, and were friends with former President Jimmy Carter, is that he is always building, or looking for a place to build his next affordable home, or asking for your help.

"Our motto this year is Blessed and Fun in 2021! Come out and socially distance build. We already have the Inter Relig Council, Iona College, Monroe College, the Church of Latter-day Saints, Mamaroneck high school, and Temple Israel have signed up to help us in what kicks off our year to celebrate all faiths, colors, and ethnicities in the "Theology of the Hammer." For more information visit <https://www.fullercenterny.org/> or call 914-636-8335.

#### Vaccine update, continued from pg 1-

Beginning at 4 p.m. on Monday, January 11, the State COVID-19 Vaccination Hotline will open for scheduling vaccination appointments for eligible New Yorkers: 1-833-NYS-4-VAX (1-833-697-4829).

Prior to receiving the vaccination, you must complete the New York State COVID-19 Vaccine Form. This form can be completed online at <https://forms.ny.gov/s3/vaccine> you will receive a submission ID.

For more information about eligibility, phased distribution and more, visit <https://covid19vaccine.health.ny.gov/what-you-need-know>.

Democratic State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, from Westchester, told reporters in Albany on Monday, Jan. 11, "The vaccine rollout, as we know it, has been extremely disappointing."

## Mass for Life

Please join us at Mass for the cause of the unborn  
Friday, January 22, 2021  
4:00 pm

Immaculate Conception Church  
53 Winterhill Rd., Tuckahoe, NY

The Mass will also be livestreamed on the parish website:  
<https://icaparish.org/>



Sponsored by the Rev. John A. Keogh Council, #2108  
KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



## Westchester Real Estate Sales Surge in 2020



30 Cohawney Road, Scarsdale home listed at \$2,495,000.

In 2020, the real estate market in Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess Counties experienced a surge in sales directly related to the COVID-19 epidemic. Almost unilaterally, the volume of overall unit sales, as well as median sale prices rose, according to the Houlihan Lawrence Westchester Putnam & Dutchess Market Report released today.

The counties all offer plentiful open spaces and opportunities for outdoor activities, a key draw during these restricted times. Their bucolic beauty is appealing to city dwellers, both young and old. It is not surprising that the locations that offered the most solace and the properties that suited entire family needs, including recreational amenities, showed the most significant increases.

“The 4th Quarter numbers reflect an unprecedented level of activity in the Fall 2020 Market. Every price point was active, including the luxury market that lagged in some locations during previous years. Year over Year, Westchester County inventory is down 27% while pending sales are up 46%. In Lower Westchester, sales remain strong as buyers anticipate returning to commuting to New York City and the ease offered by these communities,” said Elizabeth Nunan, President and CEO, Houlihan Lawrence.

“However, it is noted that many buyers anticipate continuing the ‘work from home’ model and have ventured further North. Northern Westchester stands out as home sales soared 40% and inventory declined 40%, she added.

Further North in Putnam and Dutchess Counties, the number of pending sales has increased triple digits over last year as many sought more open space and value. Many properties were purchased as second homes to be used as a refuge, while the number of primary home purchases rose substantially. The past nine months have demonstrated that many businesses can continue to operate “business as usual” with remote employees; thus, the commute is less vital.

Low inventory numbers in Westchester, Putnam, and Dutchess Counties indicate that demand remains strong. It is anticipated that the real estate market during the first half of 2021 will continue to be robust.

### MARKETS AT A GLANCE :

#### WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Homes Sold: Up 13.6%--Median Sale Price: Up 12.4%

NYC Gateway (Mount Vernon, New Rochelle, Pelham and Yonkers)  
Homes Sold: Up 10%-Median Sale Price: Up 16%

Lower Westchester (Bronxville, Eastchester, Edgemont, Scarsdale)  
Homes Sold: Up 16%-Median Sale Price: Up 8%

#### Rivertowns

(Ardley, Dobbs Ferry, Hastings, Mount Pleasant, Pleasantville, Tarrytown, Briarcliff Manor, Elmsford, Irvington Ossining and Pocantico Hills)  
Homes Sold: Up 13%-Median Sale Price: Up 7%

#### Letter to the Editor: From Sydney Rusalinski, Yonkers

Last month, Yonkers Rising ran a story about how members of the Yonkers Police Department were protesting a recent decision by Mayor Mike Spano’s administration concerning six Police officers who were disabled for a long period of time.

I read this story several times to make sure that I had the facts straight. The story reads that Mayor Spano fired four, veteran, decorated Yonkers police officers who were all seriously injured in the line of duty. “The Mayor has decided to abandon his most vulnerable police officers, those seriously injured in the performance of their duties, taking away their health care in the midst of a pandemic,” said Yonkers PBA President Keith Olson.

The story goes on to state, Mayor Mike Spano, through spokeswoman Christina Gilmartin, explains that the City is using Article 71 of the NYS Civil Service law to move the officers off the City payroll and onto permanent disability. Gilmartin said that the officers have been on injury leave for, on average, four years each, and that the City, and its taxpayers have paid more than \$6 Million for 10 offices on injury leave.

As a homeowner and 40 year taxpayer in Yonkers, I don’t want to have to pay \$6 Million for 10 officers on injury leave. I don’t think our City can afford it and thanks to Mayor Spano for standing up for the taxpayers.

## ArtsWestchester Seeks Art Made During Pandemic for Exhibition

ArtsWestchester has issued a call for submissions of artistic and creative projects made during the COVID-19 pandemic for a new curated exhibition that will open in the spring.

“At this time of great loss and physical distancing, many of us have turned to creative outlets to help us cope, to express our anguish, and to gain agency when we feel helpless. Painting, photography, sewing, crafting, singing, writing, and other everyday creative activities are helping us to reclaim a connection to our friends, families, and self,” said Janet Langsam, ArtsWestchester’s CEO. “We invite you to share your creativity with us—your homemade puppet theater, your ‘Covid cookbook,’ your family zoom concert—and tell your pandemic story. We are open to ALL of your creative ideas.”

The exhibition is expected to open in late April, with a parallel virtual presentation. However, depending on health guidelines and policies in place at the time, the exhibition may be solely virtual. The final exhibition title and opening date will be announced in February.

ArtsWestchester will consider submissions in the following categories: crafts, visual arts, performing arts, cultural/traditional practices, writing, fashion and other.

Artists must be residents of Westchester County or the Hudson Valley. Adults may submit up to three works in any category and minors are limited to one submission. The submission deadline is March 3, 11:59 p.m. Selected artists will be notified of submission status no later than March 15.

ArtsWestchester will offer two 7 p.m. workshops on January 19 and 26 to help artists and members of the public prepare submissions. Those who would like to view a recording of the sessions should email Logan Hanley, Gallery Manager lhanley@artswestchester.org

All submissions must be digital through <https://artswestchester.submit-table.com/submit/181676/pandemic-creates-call-for-submissions>

## District Attorney Rocah Names Executive Team, Calls for Investigation into Attack on Capitol



Westchester District Attorney Mimi Rocah, took the oath from former US Attorney Preet Bharara, left.

Westchester County District Attorney Mimi Rocah recently announced appointments to her senior executive team that will bring to the DA’s office talented leaders with years of prosecutorial and other relevant experience. “We are committed to having a seasoned leadership team that reflects the diversity of our county and is dedicated to keeping our communities safe and making our justice system more fair for all,” said Rocah. “With these appointments and more to come in the coming days and weeks, we will significantly increase diversity in race, gender and sexual orientation at the highest levels of the District Attorney’s office.”

In her remarks at a swearing-in and inauguration ceremony on Monday, Rocah said that the DA’s office would “foster new ideas and rethink systems that no longer work. And, most of all, help restore the public’s trust and confidence in our justice system.” She noted that “We are making overdue changes to address underrepresentation of people of color and women at the highest levels of the office through well-deserved promotions and hirings.”

Amy Finzi will serve as Rocah’s Chief Assistant District Attorney. Ms. Finzi was an award-winning federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Southern District of New York, where she tried numerous jury trials to verdict and argued many appeals before the Second Circuit. She specialized in multinational investigations of foreign drug organizations in Latin America and the Middle East, oversaw dozens of wiretap investigations and conducted Title III surveillance training for AUSAs across the country.

**Focus on Ethics**-DA Rocah said that she “will demand the highest standards of integrity from the DA’s Office and the many police forces that serve Westchester County.” She noted that “The DA’s Office will now have more stringent ethical guidelines and a dedicated ethics officer to ensure that every prosecutor knows the immense responsibility of their position and has a place to turn for ethical guidance. We will have a zero-tolerance policy for intentional prosecutorial misconduct, and we will increase training and enforcement on disclosure and integrity rules. We will review, as warranted, past police involved-killings, and establish protocols for working or declining to work with officers whose conduct is under investigation.”

Berit Berger will serve as Executive Assistant District Attorney for Policy and Strategic Initiatives and Chief Ethics Officer. From 2007 to 2018, Ms. Berger was a federal prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney’s Offices for both the Eastern and Southern Districts of New York. She worked on a wide variety of federal criminal matters including cases involving international terrorism, violent crime, trafficking and racketeering, and was awarded the Attorney General’s Award for Exceptional Service for Operation High Rise, an investigation and prosecution of an al-Qaeda terrorist cell that plotted to conduct suicide bombings on New York subway trains. She most recently served as the Executive Director of the Center for the Advancement of Public Integrity at Columbia Law School.

#### Increasing Diversity and Inclusion

“We now have an Executive-level Officer of Diversity and Inclusion who will work with a committee to coordinate internal office training, ensure diverse hiring and maintain an inclusive environment,” Rocah noted in her remarks.

Lila E. Kirton was promoted to the new role of Executive Assistant District Attorney for Intergovernmental Affairs and Criminal Justice Initiatives and Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer and will continue to direct the Office of Immigrant Affairs. Ms. Kirton joined the Westchester District Attorney’s Office in 2017 after serving as Chief of Staff for the Westchester County Board of Legislators. Prior to that, she spent 16 years in the Office of the New York State Attorney General in several positions. She began her legal career as an Assistant District Attorney in Queens County.

**More Support for Cold Cases**-DA Rocah also outlined a renewed focus on and investigation of cold cases: “Our duty as prosecutors is particularly significant with cases that have been stalled or ignored. Victims and their families never stop hoping for justice and neither should we. We will create a new cold case unit to look at these cases with fresh eyes and reinvestigate as necessary. We will make it a priority to examine untested forensic evidence, including rape kits, that could help bring answers and justice to victims and their families.”

Daniel P. McKenna will serve as Chief Investigator. Chief McKenna entered federal government service in 1991 after being commissioned a second lieutenant in the United States Marine Corps. Following his military service, he joined the FBI and was assigned to the New York City Field Division as a Special Agent. He was promoted to FBI headquarters in 2010 as a program manager overseeing international organized crime investigations. In 2012, he returned to New York and was appointed Senior Supervisory Resident Agent, FBI Westchester Resident Agency.

#### Partnering with Law Enforcement for Greater Accountability

“To our partners in law enforcement I say: We want the same thing. We want our communities to trust us. We want our badges to have respect. We want to be proud of our job and our colleagues,” Rocah stated at the inauguration event. “None of us can do our job effectively when people question our integrity. We will work with you to reduce crime and keep our communities safe in a way that will earn and keep the public’s trust.”

Wade Hardy will serve as Deputy Chief Criminal Investigator for Law Enforcement Accountability, Fairness and Transparency. Mr. Hardy is a former Lieutenant and Detective with the White Plains Police Department, where he worked passionately to build bridges between the department and the communities it served, and advanced initiatives to improve conditions in public housing, neighborhood associations and the central business district.

#### Improved Communications, More Transparency

DA Rocah also noted that the office will “hold ourselves accountable by making public data on racial disparities in arrests and case dispositions, as well as internal data on diversity within the office.” Dan Weiller will serve as Director of Communications. Mr. Weiller is a former press secretary to the Speaker of the State Assembly and deputy press secretary to the State Comptroller.

DA Rocah also commented on the recent attack by supporters of President Trump on the Capitol in Washington. “We all witnessed an attack on our democracy and our nation’s Capital. While many in law enforcement did their jobs with bravery and skill, there was an overall systemic failure that allowed a violent mob to breach into secured areas, destroy property and threaten the safety of elected officials,” Rocah said. “Any observer of yesterday’s events cannot help but wonder if the law enforcement response would have been the same had the perpetrators been people of color. It is an abuse of power if there are no consequences for those who clearly and repeatedly broke federal and state laws as they engaged in unlawful, destructive and violent acts. When we see what looks like unequal enforcement of the law, it destroys people’s faith in our criminal justice system and undermines the rule of law across the country. This violent attack against our nation cannot be allowed to happen again. We must take the lead on true accountability and demand consequences for all those who engaged in domestic terrorism, including those who aided and abetted them in the commission of their crimes.”



**Bowman, Impeach Trump,**  
*continued from pg 1-*



**Concerned Families of Westchester protest in Hastings**

Support for Trump’s removal was evident in Hastings, as members of Concerned Families of Westchester held a “Trump Must Go Now! Impeach! 25th Amendment! Resign!” rally on January 9.

“We join millions of Americans in demanding that President Trump be removed from office immediately. We cannot wait until January 20th to be rid of him.

- In instigating Wednesday’s riots, he committed serious crimes, leading to the deaths of five people
- The events of Wednesday were the climax of his months-long efforts to subvert the results of the November election, a fundamental attack on the foundations of Constitutional government
- In the chain of events leading up to and including the mob attack on the Capitol, Trump demonstrated extreme personal instability and an inability to distinguish facts from lies
- Even though he has less than two weeks left in office, there are credible fears that he is potentially irrational enough to start a war or do irreparable damage to our nation’s well being.

The prosecution of those responsible for Wednesday’s crimes are important for other reasons as well:

- The storming of the Capitol was the culmination of four years of hateful actions by our country’s rightwing white supremacist movement. President Trump has assumed the leadership of this movement. In ending his power and rebuking his actions, we will show that the green light given to the white supremacist movement has now turned red
- The behavior of the Capital area’s security people on Wednesday – from Capitol police to Metro police to the Pentagon and the National Guard – dramatically demonstrated the unacceptable difference between the treatment of white rioters and peaceful protesters in the Black Lives Matter and climate movements. We need accountability
- The Republican legislators who supported the mob on Wednesday and who collaborated with President Trump in attempting to subvert the results of the presidential election must also be punished. There was nothing “in good faith” about what they did; they knowingly entered into a conspiracy to subvert the Constitutional process for the transfer of power. They have shown they are unfit to serve in government.

Establishing justice in this case – against President Trump, the rioting actors, and those who supported and enabled this assault on our Constitution – will not be easy, but it must be done. We can’t wait,” wrote Concerned Families of Westchester.

**Westchester 2020 Election Results Show Yonkers Ward 12**

**ED 10: 49 “Blank-Void” of 285 Cast (17.19%)**

*By Dan Murphy*

The 2020 Presidential election resulted in an unusually high number of absentee ballots, primarily due to the easing of restrictions by New York State, due to COVID. This new way of voting for many of us resulted in thousands of more absentee ballots to be entered, counted and tabulated by the Westchester County Board of elections.

Some voters in Westchester have asked “was my vote counted?,” and “did the Board of Elections get my vote?” For more than 800 voters in five Election Districts in the City of New Rochelle, the answer to that question may be no.

County Legislator Damon Maher, in reviewing the election data from Nov. 3, 2020, noticed that in his home city of New Rochelle, an unusually high number of ballots were registered ‘blank’ or ‘void’ in their vote for President. In fact 30% of the absentee ballots collected in those five ED’s in New Rochelle, more than 800 votes, were voided for one reason or another, and as a result, their votes for President did not count.

Legislator Maher explained that out of 941 Election Districts in Westchester County, less than 1% of the ballots came back as void or blank for President. “That could be for many reasons, such as error by the voter in filling out their ballot, like voting for Biden for President on both the democratic and working families party line. Other reasons could be that the signature did not match or the voter made another error on their ballot that made it void. Or in the rare case, a voter cast their ballot without voting for President,” said Maher

“A 1% rate is understandable, but in five New Rochelle election districts the number of void ballots was 30%, which is a puzzling phenomenon,” said Maher, who has written three letters-emails to the Westchester County Board of Elections asking for an explanation.

“In looking through the canvass for the recent general election five (5) New Rochelle Election Districts in sequential order (ED 36 through ED 40) all have huge numbers of “Blank-Void” ballots (respectively: 122; 158; 244; 130; 141) in the Presidential vote, cumulatively equal to 30% of the ballots cast in those 5 EDs, as contrasted with a rate a small fraction above 1% in all the other NR EDs.

“Scrolling quickly through the total for all the municipalities, I don’t see any EDs with “Blank-void” ballots anywhere approaching three figured; there appear to be a handful in the 20 to 25 range. The chance that any one ED would be off by so much would be odd, but the chance that there would be five consecutively numbered districts as outliers by so much would seem infinitesimal.

“What is the explanation here? Will the scanners for those districts, including the software and programming for same, and be examined? Will the paper ballots therein be audited?” writes Legislator Maher.

In his second email, Maher writes, “Commissioners: To amplify and supplement the email that I sent you early last week, here is a more complete analysis. Of the 941 Election Districts in the County with recorded votes in the Canvass book, these 11 stood out since they have either more than 50 “Blank-Void” ballots or have “Blank-Void” ballots that constitute more than 15% all ballots cast:

- New Rochelle ED 36: 122 “Blank-Void” of 411 Cast (29.68%)
- New Rochelle ED 37: 158 “Blank-Void” of 607 Cast (26.03%)
- New Rochelle ED 38: 244 “Blank-Void” of 729 Cast (33.47%)
- New Rochelle ED 39: 130 “Blank-Void” of 439 Cast (29.61%)
- New Rochelle ED 40: 141 “Blank-Void” of 473 Cast (29.81%)

Maher also notes that in five other Westchester election districts, the number of void ballots were abnormally high. They are:

- Yonkers Ward 12 ED 10: 49 “Blank-Void” of 285 Cast (17.19%)
- Greenburgh ED 28: 59 “Blank-Void” of 398 Cast (14.82%)
- Harrison ED 5: 98 “Blank-Void” of 352 (27.84%)
- Harrison ED 9: 111 “Blank-Void” of 714 (15.55%)
- Mount Pleasant ED 43: 58 “Blank-Void” of 478 (12.13%)
- Yorktown ED 26: 57 “Blank-Void” of 380 (15.00%)

“I still do not have any response to by two prior emails below, not even an acknowledgement of receipt or timeline for your responses to my questions regarding this very serious matter of your apparent under-counting and over-spending in the recent elections. I am now calling on you to produce the uncounted ballots for inspection. If they are mail-in ballots, I would also need to know whether the voters were contacted to be given the opportunity to cure any defect on their mail-in envelopes. In any event, please also provide me with the name and title of each BOE employee or contractor that handled the ballots for New Rochelle EDs 36 through 40, as well as the name and title of each of their supervisors,” writes Maher.

Nobody, including Legislator Maher, is alleging any type of conspriacy to deny certain voters their Presidential ballots. “My theory was it had something to do with mail in ballots. And just by looking at the democratic vote in previous Presidential elections, the democrats did better this year with Biden in Westchester than with Hillary in 2016, but the vote totals were not as good in these districts. There is no fraud here and these votes are not going to overturn any election, but every voter wants their vote to count. We may treat this as the least important thing but actually its the most important thing, that every vote is counted. We deserve an answer, was it unexplained incompetence or did somebody screw this upx...??

Right now, any Westschester voter can go to the Board of Elections website and take a look at their election district to see how many votes were Blank-Void. But you cannot determine if your vote was a blank-void vote or if your vote was counted.

“Perhaps whoever was feeding the ballots into the counting machine in the 5 districts in New Rochelle was doing something wrong,(human error) or there was a problem with the machine. It’s not about these ballots, its about the bigger picture and the election in the future where a few votes determine the outcome. I think people want their votes counted,” said Maher.

The other reason of concern for us and for Legislator Maher is that absentee ballots may become the normal way of holding elections. This reporter and his family voted absentee, and we each had to request a ballot and then mail in our completed ballot. In New York State, this process makes it difficult to impossible for election fraud to occur. But if we are going to vote by absentee then what happened with these Blank-Void votes must be explained and rectified.

**County Legislators Urge State to Postpone Certification of New Voting Machines**

**“Extensive research and proper vetting is necessary to retain the public trust and to ensure that our elections continue to be free, fair and secure”**

Yonkers’ four county legislators – Majority Whip Christopher Johnson, and Legs. David Tubiolo, Jose Alvarado and Ruth Walter – joined all their colleges on the Board of Legislators, in urging the State Board of Elections not to rush to certify new voting machines for New York State at the State BOE’s next meeting this Thursday, January 14.

“We, and the voting public, expect rigorous security testing internally and by outside contractors. It is essential that there be a full and thorough investigation of all of the available options before any particular voting machine is certified. There should also be an opportunity for voters to interact with the machines. For this reason, we believe that it would be premature to certify any voting machine or voting system at your upcoming January 14 meeting,” the legislators wrote in a letter to the BOE on Tuesday.

The letter, signed by all 17 legislators, concluded, “Given the highly charged political atmosphere, there is enormous scrutiny on how we conduct our elections. Extensive research and proper vetting is necessary to retain the public trust and to ensure that our elections continue to be free, fair and secure.”

Send us your letters, stories ideas and photos to  
dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com

**Schoen continued from pg 3-**

locked in a room with Republican colleagues for their safety. She asked the Republicans to put on masks. They refused to do so. And several days later she came down with the coronavirus. The Republican Congressmen who wouldn’t put on masks should resign.

The head of the Capitol Police and the Sergeant at Arms of the House of Representatives and Senate have resigned. I’m glad. It was their responsibility to be sure the members of Congress and the Senate were secure. They had resources available to them that they didn’t call upon until it was too late. Asleep at the switch. That’s that’s what they were.

When I saw people scaling the Capitol Building and breaking windows and doors to obtain access to offices I knew our nation was in trouble. These are the kinds of things we see in other countries around the world, never before seen on these shores.

What has me worried now is the Nuclear codes that the Clown in Charge at the White House has power to use until 12 Noon the day when President Biden is sworn in to office. It’s dangerous to think of what he can do in this short period of time.

Donald J. Trump is not only a danger to our country but he is a danger to the world. Impeachment? Why give the guy more press. Those that could invoke the 25th Amendment will not do it. My suggestion. Just let the guy’s term expire and we get rid of him. Then with a new President and a new Congress we can go on with the people’s business.

Inauguration Day is Wednesday, January 20. 12 Noon that day we will have a new President. Say a prayer for him. After the events of last week and actually the last 4 years let’s hope that Joe Biden will Make America Great Again!

Pray for our Country. Pray for Good Health and that the vaccine can be distributed quickly to say more lives. Pray that we can gather together some day in the not too distant future to celebrate my 500th Column.

Thank you for inviting me into your homes each week. I get great joy sharing my thoughts with you. If you like what I have to say tell a friend. If you don’t you know how to reach me!

A Final Thought: As we get ready to Celebrate Martin Luther King Day on Monday, remember that King visited Temple Emanu-El in Yonkers. My parents went. They thought I was too young to go. They didn’t bring my sister with them as they felt it was not safe for her to go.

Reverend King was escorted into and out of Yonkers by a Yonkers Police escort. He had to be taken in the side door of the Temple.

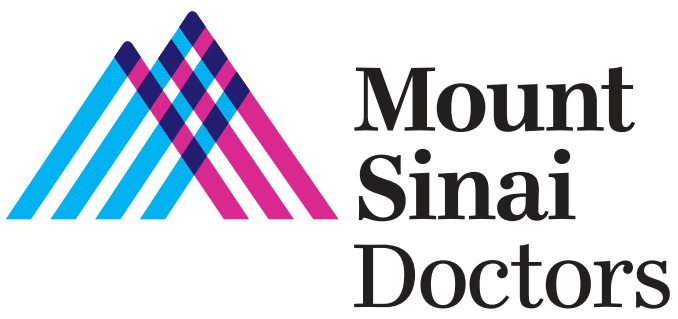
The Rabbi of Temple Emanu-El, Abraham J. Klausner marched with Reverend King. We remember Martin Luther King on this special day President Ronald Reagan signed into law to honor him. If you want to learn about a most interesting man, google Rabbi Abraham J. Klausner. He, too was an amazing man saving lives during World War II.

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.

**Editor’s Note: Congratulations to my friend Eric Schoen, on his 500th column. It is not only remarkable that you have penned 500 columns, but all of them have been unique and interesting.**

**In my travels around Yonkers, the one response that I get more and more from our readers is how much they enjoy Eric Schoen’s column. Congratulations, you have become a part of the fabric of the City that you love.**

**For those of us who have to write every week without fail, it is an incredible feat to come up with an idea that the readers will enjoy for 500 weeks, or 10 years. Thanks, and here’s to another 500!-Dan Murphy**



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