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Friday December 23-30, 2022

## “Angels” Help Majority Leader Stewart Cousins Bring Holidays to 180 Grandparent-Caregivers



Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, giving back to Grandparent Caregivers

### Record Number of “Angels” Give Back

Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins’ Angel Project brought holiday gifts this past week to 180 grandparents who are the primary caregivers for their grandchildren. The gifts were purchased and donated by 140 generous “Angels” (a record number) who fulfilled the grandparents’ wishlists, which were given at a holiday luncheon at Yonkers’ Castle Royale.

Majority Leader Stewart-Cousins created the annual Angel Project seven years ago to bring holiday cheer to grandparents who care for their grandchildren. While there are a number of organizations focused on making sure children have toys for the holidays, she found there were none focused on the caregivers, who often receive nothing. Many grandparents take on the role of caregiver to keep the children out of foster care. Most are on fixed incomes and think of the children before they think of themselves.

The Senator herself, also served as an “Angel” this year for a grandparent who is raising a grandchild with special needs. ---continued on pg 4-

## Marriage Equality “Pioneers” Celebrate Marriage Protection Act At White House



Robert Voorheis, left, and Michael Sabatino, at The White House

### The Culmination of a Long Journey By Michael Sabatino and Robert Voorheis

Last Tuesday, December 12, 2022, was an exciting day for us. It was great to be at the White House with so many other plaintiffs and advocates as the President signed The Protection of Marriage Act into law. We still have work to do as the LGBTQ community is under attack throughout our country. The next step is for Congress to pass the Equality Act.

This was the culmination of 2 1/2 decades of work. While the bill is not perfect, it will protect our marriage and those in interracial marriages from being dissolved or negated.

In 1998, we joined a small group of individuals in their effort to highlight the inequality in the marriage laws of the United States. Committed couples were being denied access to marriage simply because of who they loved.

Marriage Equality NY (MENY) was formed as a political organization to lobby the New York State Legislature. The group had no illusions that their goal would be achieved in their lifetime, but the movement needed to begin so that the next generation would gain the access that was needed to protect the families of the LGBTQ+ community. Support spread quickly and we soon realized that a distant dream might actually become reality.

Through numerous legal struggles both in New York and in other states, and ultimately the United States Supreme Court, the court cases overcame the objections of the detractors. As one of the couples involved in those cases, we were ecstatic when the New York State Court of Appeals agreed with our assertion, and we became one of the first couples to have their marriage recognized by New York State.

Sabatino and Voorheis got legally married in Niagra Falls Canada on October 4, 2003. In 2009, the New York State Court of Appeals heard the couple’s case and recognized legally performed marriages in other jurisdictions before same sex marriage became legal in New York State on July 24, 2011.

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## Happy Chanukah Yonkers!

Spreading the Miracle of Light of Chanukah in Yonkers



by Robert Kalfus

The first night of Chanukah, the Festival of Light, started this past Sunday night when the first candle is lit, with each night adding yet another candle, continuing for 8 days, with all of the eight candles lit on Sunday night, December 25th. Chanukah recalls the miracles of a small outnumbered band of Jewish partisan fighters who fought for 25 years, refusing to accept defeat from the better armed, more numerous and overwhelming Syrian-Greek forces, sent to crush their culture, religion, and entire way of life. The Maccabees liberated the oppressed Jewish nation, bestowing independence, and were inspired by the miracle of the single cruze of undefiled oil, sufficient for only one day of kindling the lights in the Holy Temple in Jerusalem, yet lasting for eight days, the length of time necessary until new pure olive oil could be pressed.

Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz of Chabad of Yonkers/Greystone Jewish Center welcomed almost a hundred people who braved the cold and came out to witness “spreading the light”, who saw the first candle of Chanukah lit at the Ridge Hill Shopping Center, celebrating Chanukah, starting with the music of Mr. Shabbos band, Keith Leaf’s amazing fire and juggling show, a gelt chocolate candy drop from a cherry picker, and free hot latkas (potato pancakes) and sufaniot (jelly and chocolate donuts), where Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano braved the cold to ride up in a cherry picker to light the shammash, the service candle serving to light the first night’s light.

Rabbi Hurwitz noted “Judaism is not a religion to be practiced just in the syn- continued on pg 4-

## Remember Our Missing Children & Teens This Holiday Season -by Dennis Richmond Jr.



(L-R) Neilyn DeJesus and Roselin Angeles Suarez. Both teenagers are missing from Yonkers.

Chaessy Rodriguez, 14, went missing in Mount Vernon on October 30th. The day after Halloween, Jenelle Hough, 13, went missing in Albany. As of November 24th, 2022, both teenagers are still listed as missing on the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s website.

According to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children’s website, teenagers across New York State are missing. In October and November, teenagers went missing from everywhere from the Bronx to Warsaw, and Selden to Yonkers. Neilyn DeJesus, 16, is listed as missing from Yonkers since October 16th. Just one day later, Roselin Angeles Suarez, 17, is listed as missing from Yonkers too. Deyanira Andino, 14, is listed as missing from the Bronx. Deyanira went missing less than a week after Roselin.

In 2021, NPR said, “tens of thousands of Black girls and women go missing every year. Last year, that figure was nearly 100,000. Yet their cases hardly ever grab national headlines.” A journalist in California is doing what she can to try to change that, by telling as many of their stories as she can — and hopefully helping them get the justice they deserve. Our Black Girls centers on the often untold stories of Black girls and women who have gone missing or, in some cases, were found dead under mysterious circumstances.” The website was created by Erika Marie Rivers.

Why are Black and Hispanic teenagers specifically targeted? Dr. Umar Johnson and the late Dick Gregory talked about organ harvesting. People are stealing organs from Black and Hispanic people. Illegal activity, such as payment for this process, takes place on the dark web. Hopefully, none of the missing teenagers, some of whom are white, have a connection to the dark web.

Teenagers across the country are also going missing due to sex trafficking. Last year, a man was arrested for sex trafficking in Detroit on October 14th. A man in Milwaukee was arrested too. According to FOX6 Milwaukee, some of his charges include “interstate transportation for prostitution” and “interstate transportation of a minor for criminal sexual activity.”

On October 24th of this year, Florida police broke up a sex trafficking ring. Not to mention, a story just broke on November 19th, 2022. According to WCBS News Radio 880, a New York man, 26, pleaded guilty to attempted sex trafficking of a 14 year old.

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## Charter School Students Bake Cupcakes for Foster Families



Culinary students at the Charter School of Educational Excellence recently baked 500 cupcakes as holiday treats for foster families.

The culinary class baked the goodies for Graham-Windham, a New York City foster care agency that offers life-altering support for children, youth and families overcoming some of life's most difficult challenges and obstacles.

"I honestly hope they enjoy them," said Crystal Harris, a senior at the charter school. "They are our future generation, so the least we can do is make them some cupcakes that taste good and are pretty. I hope they love them."

The school at 220 Warburton Ave. baked the cupcakes for the charity as part of its commitment to the surrounding community.

"Our purpose is to bring hope and cheer to children who are less fortunate and who are hopefully going to have a better future," said Alan Richter, the school's culinary teacher.

The students baked their cupcakes in a new, state-of-the-art commercial kitchen where they familiarize themselves with tools of the trade as they develop the essential skills for culinary careers. The new kitchen opened in the fall of 2021 as part of the new \$27 million high school that will graduate its first cohort of seniors in the spring.

Culinary jobs are expected to grow at a faster-than-average rate nationally, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, which estimates that culinary careers will grow at 15% through 2031. The average growth rate for all professions in this period is 5%.

### Missing Children, continued from pg 1-

I don't know if any of the missing teenagers have been found. I haven't found any information stating that they have. I also don't know if any of the missing teens in New York are victims of organ harvesting or sex trafficking. The continued hope is that everyone's connected with their loved ones, especially during the holiday season. That can only happen when more people start talking about it and reporting on it. Visit <https://www.missingkids.org/HOME>, and <https://ourblackgirls.com/>, for more information.

**Dennis Richmond, Jr., is an author and journalist focused on the Black, Latinx, and LGBTQIA+ Community. He lives in Yonkers. Follow him on Twitter @NewYorkStakz.**

## United Way Women's Breakfast Highlights Helping Families Living Paycheck to Paycheck



**L-R: Aleida Frederico, chair of Westchester Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Tom Gabriel, CEO United Way Westchester- Putnam; Jan Fisher, executive director of Nonprofit Westchester; Mary Calvi, WCBS TV anchor and author; Michelle A. Nichols, chief diversity officer & director of community development, PCSB Bank; , Taryn Duffy, vice president, Public Affairs Northeast Group, Empire City Casino & MGM Springfield, Elizabeth Bracken Thompson, Thompson & Bender.**

United Way of Westchester and Putnam's Women's Leadership Council hosted a panel discussion about helping the ALICE population in the county at its sold-out "Take a Walk in Her Shoes" breakfast held at Tappan Hill in Tarrytown on Tuesday, Dec. 6.

The event celebrated the remarkable work of Jan Fisher, executive director of Nonprofit Westchester, and Aleida Frederico, former senior relationship manager, VP, TD Bank, and chair of Westchester Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, who were each recognized as Women of Distinction. It was a fundraiser to support programs helping ALICE women, children, and families. CBS News anchor and author Mary Calvi was a guest speaker at the breakfast.

ALICE is an acronym coined by United Way to describe asset-limited, income-constrained, and employed individuals, what was formerly called the working poor. At its core, it is a new way of defining and understanding the struggles of households that earn just above the Federal Poverty Level but not enough for a survival budget.

In Westchester County, 40% of families live as ALICE or in poverty, and some groups are disproportionately represented. The ALICE report shows that in Westchester County, 71% of single female-headed households with children are considered ALICE or living in poverty and that African American/Black or Hispanic households are more than 50% likely to be so.

"ALICE households are everywhere ... in Peekskill and Mount Vernon, but also Scarsdale and Pound Ridge," said United Way CEO Tom Gabriel. "These are hard-working families struggling to make ends meet, but when a crisis or tragedy occurs, they must make difficult decisions between paying the rent or fixing a car so they can get to work. These people add to our economy and enrich our lives and community."

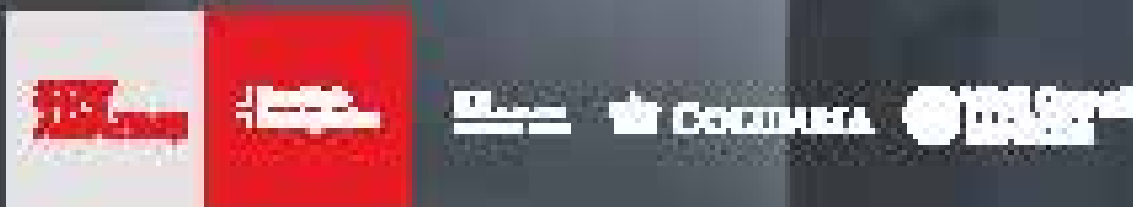
The panel discussion was led by Elizabeth Bracken Thompson, partner at Thompson & Bender and a former Women of Distinction honoree, and featured Fisher, Frederico, Taryn Duffy, the 2021 Woman of Distinction and vice president, Public Affairs Northeast

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## City Council Tackles Redistricting With Nine Week Deadline for Completion



By Ron Matten

On Tuesday December 20th the Yonkers City Council held a special meeting for the purpose of selecting a redistricting consultant. Earlier this year, Yonkers hired Joshua Simons and the Benjamin Center for Public Initiatives at SUNY New Paltz. It was announced at this meeting that Mr. Simons is no longer available. The meeting was to present two consultants to the councilmembers, but one consultant was also no longer available. The remaining consultant still interested in performing this required work was Dr. Andrew Beveridge (pronounced like the drink).

Dr. Beveridge, a former Yonkers resident is a renowned sociologist and no stranger to redistricting. He was the consultant hired by Yonkers in the redistricting of 2002 and has been a paid expert witness in legal challenges. Prior to retiring, Dr. Beveridge was the chair of the Department of Sociology at Queens College, CUNY and a former faculty member at Columbia University. He holds a PhD. from Yale and is a published researcher. His recent area of expertise is in minority migration. Dr. Beveridge's works and accomplishments are quite extensive and could fill a book.

Why is Yonkers Redistricting? Every ten years after the census data is published, states, counties, and local municipalities are required to look at their districts and ensure that they are equally distributed for population. Yonkers must involve itself in two sets of redistricting: wards and council districts. The ward system is a holdover from the era of strong council and weak mayor. It is no longer used for government representation, but still a mainstay within the Yonkers political party system.

Yonkers has 12 Wards each comprise of 20 or so election districts. It is a requirement of the charter that Yonkers engage in ward reapportionment every 10 years. This process has been going on for about eight months and is a waste of time, money, and energy. Most will not be impacted if their ward changes, Ward leaders and district leaders are not even required to live within the districts they serve. The real work is in redistricting the council.

Yonkers has six council districts that should have about 35,000 residents in each. The district populations can vary by plus or minus 2.5 percent. If the variance is any greater, the maps will be invalidated. The council districts are apportioned by residents, not registered voters. The districts must also be compact and contiguous. Yonkers has had an overall population growth, mostly within the first district.

Another requirement in New York State is that redistricting not dilute minority representation. By virtue of its ethnic makeup, Yonkers should have one African American district and two Latino(x) districts. The ethnicity does not refer to the representing councilmember, but to the majority racial character of the district.

Council members will work with each other in presenting their proposals to Dr. Beveridge. He will need to ensure that their proposals meet all federal and state criteria. This includes the recently passed, John R. Lewis Voting Rights Act of New York. Of course, each member will want to ensure they will remain in a district that gives them the best chance for re-election.

In order to run for office, interested candidates start collecting petition signatures on or around March 1 and those petitions are due on or around April 15. This election cycle will bring challengers to districts, 1, 3, and 5. Therefore, the clock is ticking. These new maps need to be presented at public meetings and receive final approval.

There also may be legal challenges as happened on the state and county levels. Is nine weeks enough time to complete this process?

Ron Matten was the republican candidate for City Council President in 2021.

## The Most Wonderful Time of the Year



By Eric Wolf Schoen

It's hard to believe that another year has gone by and that Christmas, Chanukah, Kwanza and the New year are before us. It seems like only yesterday that 2022 was here and we thought we had Covid under control. Now we have added RSV to the mix and the new item out of stock at the store is Children's Tylenol and other medicines to help treat our little ones.

Just as fast as children's Tylenol hits the shelves stores are reported to be out of it. And let's not forget the many adults we know, fully vaccinated that have come down with Covid. Everyday I hear of an occasion being ruined as a family member or friend has gotten Covid. We try to put the blame on a family event or gathering we attended but bottom line when you walk out the door of your apartment or house or even in the house with loved ones who have been exposed you can pick up the virus.

Bottom line is we are going to have to live with Covid as we have learned to live with the flu. After 5 days of quarantine it's all over and you are back to your good old self. Thank our government and vaccine makers for their prompt attention to Covid!

The holidays were always a time when whether it be my mom or my sister or yours truly we would send out greeting cards. My cards always always had a Dove and peace on them. My sister always sent out cards with cats the cat lover that she is. Her most famous card Was 2 cute cats posed by a lit menorah. The card said, 'Mr. and Mrs. Katz wish you a happy Chanukah. Those cards with that saying were hard to come by after their initial introduction.

Now with cards anything goes. Of Course to add to the December holidays of Christmas and Chanukah we have added Kwanza, Boxing Day, Festivus from Seinfeld, Winter Solstice, St. Nicholas Day, Merry Humbug Day and National Hot Chocolate day. Internet cards are nice but for Christmas and Chanukah you really need a real card signed by a real person.

People don't write on cards anymore which is sad. They send out beautiful cards with a full page of family pictures and a blank page on the back. Yes it's nice to see the pictures, but the personal thoughts that accompany them are what the holiday is all about. Some people send out boxed cards with no greetings. And just a name which etiquette wise is just as bad. You are sending out a card so say something like all is well or the cat ate the goldfish. It's Always nice to have each member of the family from young to old sign the card. It truly shows that you mean the message.

My sister's cards which come with a message also have her name, my name was and are signed with cats paw representing the cats she has had over the years. Her cat now is Sidney named after my father represented on the card with a smile for dads sweet disposition and big belly.

Skip the emails unless You are send a blanket one to a group or everyone at work. I find emails very impersonal, and the response even more interpersonal.

The Post Office has so many commemorative stamps. The LOVE stamps in particular add a sweet touch to your card. If the post office is out of commemoratives, find a 24 hour a day post office that will laser print whatever stamps you want. You are paying enough for the stamps you might as well have a pretty picture on them. This year there are stamps with child elves on them.

Just because something is on the dining room table doesn't mean you have to eat it. Be careful what you eat over the holidays tasting what looks good on the table rather than having a full portion. Need I tell you the importance of exercise over the holidays? If you are the host or hostess try to put healthy, tasty good foods about for the holidays. Your friends, family and doctor will thank you!

Many of you have written to me to see how I am doing with Parkinson's. Thank god the Doctors are on their was to finding the correct medicines for me. I thank to for your thoughts and prayers and the many of you who have send me links to websites and articles. Just like this came out of the clear blue sky I will deal with it.

Need I remind you that this time of year you have to check all your health insurance benefits. It's time to look at your current Benefits Book as well as next year's book to make sure you are taking advantage of what is due you. Also fill those prescriptions, and if you have a prescription reimburse plan have everything

Continued on pg 4-

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Happy New Year Yonkers! See You in 2023

## Letters to the Editor:

I just wanted to bring to your attention a very serious matter of people smoking (cigarettes and marijuana) in front of entrances to offices, apartment buildings, businesses, and stores. And, in some cases, stairwells.

Please correct me if I am wrong... but isn't there some sort of ordinance or law that states such people need to be a certain number of feet away from any entrance as not to pollute those who are going into and coming out of offices, apartment buildings, businesses, and stores?

Or is it up to each individual owner or landlord to make up a policy and monitor the area?

Also... is it mandatory to have signs in place notifying people that they need to smoke away from the building?

Would that be up to the individual owner or landlord?

I bring this to your attention because I am SICK and TIRED of walking out of a store and breathing in harmful and disgusting second hand smoke.

DANGEROUS second hand smoke.

I am SICK and TIRED of smelling like I smoked a pack of cigarettes after walking through plumes of smoke to get to my car.

And, most importantly... I am SICK and TIRED of watching small children having to breathe it in.

If there are laws and ordinances... PLEASE have them enforced.

And PLEASE make it mandatory that signs are clearly posted for all to see.

If there are no laws or ordinances in place... can we PLEASE create laws and ordinances???

I understand that smoking cigarettes and smoking marijuana is legal... that is not the issue.

However, it becomes an issue when our health is at stake when it is jeopardized by those who are not considerate of others' health.

I am reaching out to Westchester County because I work in Westchester County. And I am reaching out to Putnam County because I live in Putnam County. Both counties need help in curbing the smoke-filled air.

I vow to help in any way possible to make this come to fruition and look forward to working with you in resolving this issue.

My mission in 2023 is to create legacies that will benefit everyone and I need your help in making this a dream-come-true!

*Sincerely, Lisa Andrade*

Letter to the Editor, Yonkers Rising

Re: "Westchester Residents Get Sticker Shock from Home Heating Bills", John Ravitz, December 16, 2022

I read with interest the comments of John Ravitz, COO of the Business Council of Westchester (BCW) in the December 16 issue of Yonkers Rising. While titled "Sticker Shock from Home Heating Bills," missing were the causes of our high utility bills; the spike in oil prices caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine and the profiteering of the largest oil and gas companies. (In the last quarter, ExxonMobil reported \$19 billion in profit, Chevron \$11 billion, Shell \$9.5 billion, BP \$8 billion and the world's largest, Saudi Aramco, \$42 billion. That's a shocking total of over \$90 billion in just the last 3 months.)

Instead of speaking to the real cause of "sticker shock," Ravitz uses the issue to question our State's efforts to move to renewable energy sources. Few would disagree, including the BCW, that the climate crisis we face means we have to end the use of fossil fuels as quickly as possible. The longer we delay, the more it will cost us all, including Westchester's business community. Whether it's cleaning up after another super storm or increasing insurance rates because of them, shouldn't the business community in their own self interest be helping to move more quickly to renewable energy?

I think we all agree that, as Ravitz states, a "reliable" and "affordable supply of power" is vitally important. Why then would we continue to rely on the vagaries of the international oil market and the profiteering of its controlling monopolies to heat our homes, turn on our lights and power our industries?

Right now renewable sources of energy are competitive and in some case cheaper than fossil fuels. With the incentives available from the Inflation Reduction Act that will be even more true in the coming year. So the challenge to the BCW is to convince the business community to get on board with the move to renewable energy.

By way of example, right now in Westchester County there are an estimated hundred or more large commercial buildings or warehouses with 100,000 plus square foot flat roofs that could and should have solar panels. Besides providing the building owners with its own power needs, each could power the needs of an additional 100 homes. Financing is available and the pay back time could be as little as 5 years. More than a dozen business and property owners have already done this and the BCW should be working hard to get more on board.

The fact is multiple efforts have been made to get the business community to participate in the move to clean renewable energy. First was simple persuasion beginning more than 50 years ago. That went nowhere. Then came the penalty approach towards polluters through a carbon tax. That was dead on arrival largely because of the business community's opposition. Now the focus of Federal and State legislation is on economic incentives to entice business to make the right decision.

I would urge M. Ravitz and the BCW to stop carping about the crisis we face and get on board in solving it.

*Bill Dennison, Yonkers*

### *Marriage Equality Pioneers, continued from pg 1*

These two men are walking history for marriage equality. Their archival material is now in three museums; The Smithsonian American History Museum, and the ONE ARCHIVES AT USC, and soon at the American LGBTQ Museum, set to open in New York City in 2025.

Both men live in Yonkers, and we have had the pleasure of covering their journey in Yonkers Rising and Yonkerstimes.com. Congratulations!

### *Happy Chanukah, continued from pg 1*

agogue. Judaism is a way of life, a religion which informs all your actions wherever you are", and Chanukah's celebration, inspiration, food, and joy was shared.

Chanukah's second night party moved to Yonkers' Cross County Shopping Center, where the "WhatsUp" band entertained with great music, causing much dancing and singing, keeping warm, until Chabad of Yonkers/Greystone Jewish Center Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz lit the second night's candles. All present, including those passing by and shopping, enjoyed jelly and custard donuts, and hot latkes.

All are welcome and invited Sunday, December 25th at 4:15 pm on Chanukah's eighth night to see a giant menorah lit with all eight Chanukah lights overlooking the sun setting over the Hudson River, at majestic Untermyer Park, 945 North Broadway. However you prefer to spell the many transliterated names of the holiday, Rabbi Hurwitz asks for volunteers to climb the ladder to light the menorah's Tiki torches, to publicize the miracle of Hanukah and to spread the light. Singing traditional Hanukah tunes such as Maor Tzur, and spinning dreidls, all will enjoy a large variety of jelly donuts and chocolate gelt.

Please contact Rabbi@JewishYonkers.com or call 718 679-3614.

## Holiday Travel Tips for Families Facing Alzheimer's

Holiday travel can be hectic for us all, but it is especially challenging for families impacted by Alzheimer's. For these families, even short trips during the holidays can be stressful and disorienting.

There are more than 410,000 people in New York living with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia. Though not all are able to travel, many people with early- and mid-stage Alzheimer's often do want to attend family gatherings and holiday celebrations. Careful and thoughtful planning can help ensure safety, comfort and joy for everyone involved.

When planning holiday travel, consider these tips from the Alzheimer's Association to provide the best possible experience for loved ones with Alzheimer's:

- Evaluate modes of travel: Based on needs, abilities, safety and preferences, decide what would provide the most comfort and the least anxiety. If the destination requires air travel, the Alzheimer's Association provides tips on alz.org.

- Pick a practical destination: Consider everyone's needs and desires as you plan your trip and discuss the plan with the person living with dementia. Elaborate sightseeing trips or complicated tours may cause anxiety and confusion. And consider destinations that have easy access to emergency health services and pharmacies.

- Simplify your travel itinerary: Try not to overload the person with a lot of directions or too much information. Carry emergency contact information, travel during the time of day best for the person with Alzheimer's, and don't over-schedule.

- Keep travel necessities close: If traveling by air, keep necessary medications, up-to-date medical information, a list of emergency contacts and photocopies of important documents in your carry-on baggage. For longer car trips, make sure to have plenty of water and snacks.

Brief your host: If you are staying with family or friends, make sure everyone knows what to expect. If you will be staying in a hotel, consider informing the staff ahead of time of your specific needs so they can be prepared to assist you.

Be prepared: Environmental changes or new locations can cause anxiety and agitation in people with Alzheimer's. These events can also trigger wandering. Monitor your loved one closely for signs of stress or confusion. Keep them close to you in crowded, unfamiliar places.

"We want everyone to be able to enjoy their holidays, including people living with dementia," said Meg Boyce, vice president of programs and services for the Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter. "Planning ahead can reduce stress and confusion and provide a joyous time for all."

More travel tips can be found by visiting the Alzheimer's Association website. The Alzheimer's Association's 24/7 Helpline also provides reliable information and support to all those who need assistance. Call the helpline toll-free anytime, even holidays, at 800.272.3900.

### *Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-*

ready for reimbursement on January 1. It's your money so make sure you get it back promptly.

Some people have eye glass reimbursement plans. Get those glasses before January 1. Make sure you take advantage of you dental benefits which are so limited you need to get every dollars worth.

The important thing this holiday is to relax with family and friends. We have been through almost 3 tough years dealing with Covid. RSV who knows what's coming next. Even if it means getting your family event catered from outside, enjoy.

Don't forget those in need. Contribute to the Salvation Army, Red Cross and other worthy organizations. If you see someone in the street asking for money, go into a store and buy him/her real food. You don't want them spending money on alcohol or drugs.

From my family to yours, a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah, Happy Kwanzaa and most importantly a happy, health new year. Love, Eric Schoen.

*Listen to Eric Schoen on the Westchester Rising Radio Show Thursday's from 10-11 a.m. On WVOX 1460 AM, go to WVOX.com and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.*

### *Angels Thanks Grandparent Caregivers, continued from pg 1-*

Partnering with the Senator are Family Service Society of Yonkers, Family Ties of Westchester, New Rochelle Advocates, Westchester County Department of Social Services, and the YWCA of Yonkers. These agencies identified the grandparents they work with and distributed the gifts to them for the holidays.

Because of the pandemic, this is the first time since 2019 that Senator Stewart-Cousins has hosted a holiday luncheon at Castle Royale for grandparents and their "Angels."

Notice of formation of Beagal, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 10/11/2022. 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, 47 Washington Blvd Mt Vernon NY 10550. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

# On This Day in Yonkers History...



comedian and vaudeville star Gus Williams

By Mary Hoar, Yonkers Historian, President Emerita Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to Histor and President Untermyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, December 26th:  
December 26, 1927: Comptroller Robert Ferguson presented gold pieces to each member of his office staff as a token of his appreciation; the staff presented him with an electric arc lamp.

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, as the men were not properly equipped.

Tuesday, December 27th:  
December 27, 1905: The Common Council voted to put two Welsbach gas lamps in front of Mayor John Coyne's home at 100 North Broadway.

December 27, 1906: Yonkers African-American residents met in Turn Verein Hall to petition the War Department to recognize the efforts of Black officers and servicemen; they wanted the department to allow them to join the Army and National Guard. President Theodore Roosevelt had dismissed three companies of African American infantry when they returned from the Cuban campaign. Captain John Waller, who had served in Cuba, said he was afraid the President did not realize the "terrible injury" he had done to the soldiers discharged without cause, and reminded those gathered many of them had voted for Roosevelt.

Wednesday December 28th  
December 28, 1783: Israel Honeywell, William Hadley and Thomas Sherwood supervised the town meeting at which Town officers were elected. The meeting for Yonkers in the Manor of Philipsborough was held at the home of David Hunt. Those elected would provide temporary government until the enemy abandoned or was dispossessed of the region. Israel Honeywell, Esq., was voted Supervisor; David Hunt, Clerk; Thomas Sherwood, Constable and Collector; Israel Honeywell, Jr., Esq., Security; and William Betts and Jacov Vermilyear were elected assessors.

December 28, 1929: Although Mayor John Fogarty gave a \$1,000 raise to the Public Safety Commissioner and \$1,500 raises for the DPW Commissioner, Corporation Counsel and City Engineer in the 1930 Yonkers budget, he refused the raise the salary of the Mayor.

Thursday, December 29th  
December 29, 1902: Gus Williams of Waring Place, well known German comedian and vaudeville star, sent out New Year's cards with the message, "Father Time Ushering in the New Year and Plenty of Coal." A Civil War veteran, his first appearance was during the Union Army's occupation of Huntsville, Alabama; he appeared as Carney in the "The Pirate Legacy: The Wrecker's Fate." After the war, he joined Tony Pastor's vaudeville show and became nationally known. His name at birth was Gustave Leweck, Jr.

December 29, 1907: More than 600 men heard Captain Richmond Hobson, a Congressman from Alabama, speak on International Peace at the YMCA. Hobson claimed the only thing preventing "trouble with Japan" was the "tactful diplomacy of our President," Theodore Roosevelt.

Friday, December 30th:  
December 30, 1912: The first Yonkers private home with an "electrically lighted Christmas tree" was on the lawn of the Edwin J. Morrison family; they lived at Fanshaw and Berkeley Avenues in the Van Cortlandt Terrace section of Southwest Yonkers.

continued on pg 6-

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# 20 Months Prison Term for Man Who Threatened to Kill Congressman Swalwell



calls made from yonkers  
Rep. Eric Swalwell

Damian Williams, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, announced that JOSHUA HALL was sentenced on Dec. 19 by United Stated District Judge Gregory H. Woods to 20 months in prison for making threats to kill a member of the United States Congress and impersonating family members of the then-President of the United States on social media to fraudulently raise funds for a fictitious political organization. HALL previously pled guilty to one count of making interstate communications with a threat to injure and one count of wire fraud.

According to the Information, Superseding Information, and statements made in court proceedings and filings:

Threat Offense-On August 29, 2022, HALL placed a series of telephone calls from in or around Yonkers, New York, to the California office of a member of the United States Congress (the "Congressman"). During those telephone calls, HALL conveyed threats to kill the Congressman to at least three different members of the Congressman's staff ("Staff Member-1," "Staff Member-2," and "Staff Member-3").

On a telephone call with Staff Member-1 and Staff Member-2, HALL stated, in substance and in part, that he had a lot of AR-15s; that he wanted to shoot the Congressman; that he intended to come to the Congressman's office with firearms; and that if he saw the Congressman, he would kill him. He further stated, in substance and in part, that he wanted to "beat the shit out of" the Congressman and that he would find the Congressman wherever he was and hurt him. On a telephone call with Staff Member-3, HALL stated, in substance and in part, that he intended to come to the Congressman's office to kill the Congressman with firearms.

Fraud Offense- From September 2019 until December 2020, HALL defrauded hundreds of victims by making false representations in the course of raising funds for a purported political affinity organization ("the Fictitious Political Organization") for the ostensible purpose of supporting the reelection of the individual who was at that time serving as President of the United States ("the President"). However, the Fictitious Political Organization did not exist, and HALL used the funds for his own personal living expenses.

Central to the scheme was the impersonation by HALL of members of the President's family, including the President's minor child, among others, through his creation and use of social media accounts bearing those family members' names and photographs. HALL used those accounts to amass more than 100,000 followers on social media and to obtain media coverage, a public platform he then exploited to confer on himself and the Fictitious Political Organization a false imprimatur of close ties with the President's family and to encourage victims to make monetary contributions to the Fictitious Political Organization.

In total, the scheme devised and executed by HALL yielded thousands of dollars from hundreds of victims located throughout the United States, including in the Southern District of New York.

Mr. Williams praised the outstanding investigative work of the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the United States Capitol Police and thanked the City of Yonkers Police Department for their assistance.

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NOTICE OF SALE SUPREME COURT COUNTY OF WESTCHESTER DYNASTY, LLC, Plaintiff AGAINST CGSRE ACQUISITION CORP, ET AL., Defendant(s) Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered October 22, 2021, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction at the Lobby of Westchester County Courthouse, 111 Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Boulevard, White Plains, NY on January 11, 2023 at 10:30AM, premises known as 68 Runyon Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10710. All that certain plot piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Yonkers, County of Westchester and State of New York, Section 3 Block 3112 Lot 59+60. Approximate amount of judgment \$1,792,943.78 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #50855/2019. The aforementioned auction will be conducted in accordance with the WESTCHESTER County COVID-19 Protocols located on the Office of Court Administration (OCA) website (https://ww2.nycourts.gov/Admin/oca.shtml) and as such all persons must comply with social distancing, wearing masks and screening practices in effect at the time of this foreclosure sale. Anthony J. Centone, Esq., Referee CLAIR GJERTSEN & WEATHERS PLLC 4 New King Street, Suite 140 White Plains, NY 10604 50855-2019 74515.

# Yonkers Remembers Gail Baxter



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### Yonkers History, continued from pg 5-

December 30, 1941: To comply by the State Legislature's new City Court Act, City Judge Charles Boote resigned as a partner of the firm Boote and Fay, and Council for the First National Bank. The act prohibited judges from practicing law while on the bench. Boote and Fay was organized in 1933, and the judge was with the First National Bench from its organization the same year. He had served on the City Court bench for 22 years.

Saturday, December 31st:  
December 31, 1849: The Hudson River Railroad began service between Yonkers and New York City.

December 31, 1931: Dr. James Morrissey of St. Andrew's Place purchased an airplane that he kept at Curtiss Wright Field in Rosedale, Long Island. Morrissey had completed training for his pilot's license, and was believed to be the first Yonkers doctor to qualify as a pilot.

Sunday, January 1st  
January 1, 1909: The annual run from Columbus Circle started at midnight, with the twenty-eight cyclists participating blowing whistles and horns. The group rode up Broadway, with their first top at Francfort's Inn where Yonkers Mayor Warren greeted them. From there they rode to the Florence House in Tarrytown, the end of the run.

January 1, 1939: City Clerk Francis Heafy administered the Oath of Office at City Hall to members of Yonkers' first citywide Council: James Sullivan, Robert Goodwillie, Edith Welty, Dennis Cooper and John Condon.

Questions or comments? Email YonkersHistory1646@gmail.com.  
For information on the Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit our website www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org, call 914-961-8940 or email info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org.

The Yonkers community mourned the loss of community leader and social activist Gail Baxter, who passed on Dec. 15.

"She was one voice who was not afraid to tell you what you needed to hear. Always good trouble. She will be truly missed," was one of many comments posted in Baxter's memory.

A church service will be held on December 28, at 7pm at Calvary Center Church, 712 North Broadway, Yonkers, NY 10701. The service will also be broadcast live on Facebook.

To honor Gail's lifetime of advocacy, we are in the process of creating a "Gail Baxter Memorial Scholarship" via YCPTA. This will benefit a HS senior student with special needs.

In lieu of flowers, please donate to YCPTA  
1 Larkin Plaza  
Yonkers, NY 10701  
NOTATE check Gail Baxter Fund!!

### ALICE, Westchester Woman, continued from pg- 2

Group, Empire City Casino & MGM Springfield; and Michelle A. Nicholas, chief diversity officer & director of community development, PCSB Bank.

Despite the professional success of the panel members, several of the women personally experienced the hardships of being ALICE. Frederico grew up in an ALICE household with her parents working multiple jobs to make ends meet in Tarrytown after immigrating from Cuba. Nicholas, who immigrated to the US from Guyana, became ALICE when as a single mother, she became unemployed for almost a year. Duffy, who was raised in a middle-class family, was ALICE after leaving an abusive marriage and becoming a single mother.

As individuals who lived as ALICE, the group mentioned what would have helped them the most during that time. "When I was struggling, having access to information and resources would have helped," said Duffy. Frederico added that there should be ways to help immigrants learn English and about local programs and services available.

Nicholas shared what her life was like when she was unemployed. Since her unemployment totaled \$1,100 a month, she did not qualify for SNAP, despite being a single mother of a young child and having to pay \$900 in rent. Nicholas got rid of her cable, telephone, and every other extra in her life. The daycare center where her son attended helped her get aid through the Child Care Council of Westchester so she could have time to look for a job. Each day Nicholas walked to the Mount Vernon Library and paid to use its computer and internet to find a job. After 364 days, she received an offer and had to accept it even though it was not a well-paid position because it still paid more than she was receiving on unemployment.

"You can open the door and give opportunities to someone," said Nicholas. "Be fair, be respectful, and know that we are all trying here; we are all trying. You can help somebody today by considering the salaries you're paying them; think about what you could be doing for the families."

Frederico and Duffy credit those who were willing to open the door for them to be able to achieve financial stability. "I am so thankful to the white men [in the banking industry] who were willing to mentor me and give me a chance," said Frederico.

"I worked in law offices around people who had money, then went into politics, and people had money, and I asked how this works," said Duffy. "I asked how you got here, how do I do this better, and then as I learned it, I did things differently."

The ALICE survival budget shows that a single adult needs to earn at least \$15.64 in a full-time position to survive in Westchester County. A family with two adults and two children in childcare must earn a minimum of \$49.50 per hour to survive. Fisher, who advocates for companies to pay their employees a decent wage, spoke about how hourly workers are the lifeblood of the community and should be paid their value.

"Too many of the nonprofit workforce, those who care for our families in nursing homes, are providing childcare, or are hospital workers, suffer many of the same indignities as the people they serve," said Fisher. "Some are living in homeless shelters, at least partially because of unfair and misguided caps on wages; these people are 80% women and over 50% people of color. They were deemed essential during the pandemic they are still essential."

Fisher continued. "We have a lot of conversations among government, business, and nonprofits about a \$15 minimum wage and how it will hurt our community. It will not hurt our community. We must find a way to do it. Let's have all the sectors come together and find a way to respect people and pay them for their worth so they can live and thrive in our society."

It is difficult for low-wage earners to be financially stable. "You could be laid off, not having an opportunity to have flexibility concerning childcare necessarily, or having paid leave," said Frederico, a proponent of entrepreneurship and economic development in Westchester County. "For some people owning their own business is an alternative. It's an opportunity to increase their income and be their own boss. It offers access to benefits such as health insurance and control of their own schedules" Entrepreneurship is a way to achieve financial stability and create generational wealth.

Duffy said lifting people up is everyone's responsibility, not just the CEOs. "I would challenge everybody here today to look around you and find the opportunity to do something, whether it's supporting a nonprofit, being engaged in your community, supporting the people around you, or ensuring that resources are available in your workplace for people," she said. "It is incumbent upon each of us to take that on as our own responsibility because we are the people that are going to lift up the people around us."

For more information about ALICE, visit www.uwwp.org/alice.

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**Ken Rosato Wears Enrico Fermi Apron for ABC-TV Holiday Cook-Off**

**Senator Mayer, Assemblyman Sayegh, Announce New Customer Protection for Gift Cards**



WABC-TV-NY news anchor Ken Rosato recently wore his Enrico Fermi Scholarship Fund Apron when he participated in his stations Holiday Cook-off. Yonkers Rising photographer Donna Davis spotted the apron, writing, "I am so delighted that Ken Rosato wore the chef's apron gifted to him by the Yonkers Enrico Fermi Scholarship Committee in May during the annual breakfast. Go Yonkers!"



On Dec. 21, Senator Shelley B. Mayer and Assemblyman Nader Sayegh were joined by Yonkers Deputy Mayor Anthony Landi, to remind holiday shoppers that their gift card consumer protection bill, which provides important benefits to purchasers and recipients of gift cards, is now in effect. The bill which passed in the 2021 legislative session (S.3467B/A4629) was signed by the Governor on December 10, 2021, and became effective on December 10th of this year.

This law strengthens consumers protections by:

- Prohibiting fees on gift cards and gift certificates other than limited activation fees which cannot exceed 9 dollars;
- Requiring that gift cards expire no earlier than 9 years after they were issued;
- Allowing consumers to exchange the remaining balances from store-specific gift cards for cash, if the remaining balance is less than \$5.

State Senator Shelley B. Mayer said, "I am pleased that my bill to enhance consumer protections when purchasing gift cards has gone into effect, just in time for this holiday season. Prior to this legislation, people who purchased gift cards frequently faced large fees, expiration dates on cards that occurred shortly after purchase, and the inability to exchange the unused portion of the card balance for cash. But this holiday season, when you purchase a gift card for a friend or loved one, you can know they will be able to enjoy your gift without undue limitations or additional costs. I introduced this bill based on my frustration with the gift card experience, and am so pleased that we were able to make important changes for New York consumers. Thank you Assemblyman Nader Sayegh for his partnership in sponsoring this bill in the Assembly, and to Governor Kathy Hochul for signing it into law one year ago."

Assemblyman Nader Sayegh said, "With Christmas and the holiday season this upcoming weekend, many consumers will be buying gift cards and gift certificates. I'm pleased that my legislation, passed by the State Assembly and Senate and approved by Governor Hochul protecting consumers is now in effect. Thanks to the enactment of this legislation, New Yorkers can rest assured that gift cards and gift certificates will not expire, dwindle and diminish in value due to miscellaneous fees. Together, New York State is leading the nation in protecting consumers and ensuring recipients can enjoy the full value of a gift they receive."



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