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Friday January 28, 2022

Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade to Return March 19, 2022



WE ARE BACK!

Meet me on McLean
March 19th 2022

Yonkers St Patrick's Day Parade

By Dan Murphy

After a two-year COVID postponement, the Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade is scheduled to return on McLean Avenue on March 19, 2022 starting at 1pm. "On March 19th 2022 at 1pm we will once again march up the Emerald Mile. Please join us in this celebration of our Irish heritage. All sign ups will be approved by the LOM committee and band's will be contacted after signing up here for confirmation & contracts. "Your feet will bring you where your heart is." Irish proverb," said the Yonkers St. Patrick's Day Parade on McLean Ave. committee in an email-Facebook post.

A sign up page for those interested in participating can be found at the link below:
<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLSdFSUfBEuLrIwIkeU3k0AyKgbNIYTXBY4vPqtv7Uib5tezvvg/viewform>
"We are thrilled to be back, it has been such a long two years in so many ways. The parade will be a celebration of so many things and we welcome all to join us," said Deirdre O' Mara

The last scheduled Yonkers St. Patrick's Day parade was on March 21, 2020, but was cancelled at the beginning of the COVID pandemic. The Grand Marshall Patricia McCrudden, and her aides for the 2022 parade have waited two years to march up the Emerald Mile. The Aides to the Grand Marshall are: Annmarie Acosta, Father William Cleary, Joan Henchy, Timothy Hodges, Sean P. Mayer, Richard McSpedon, Jr., William J. Saich, Nancy Walsh. McLean Avenue in Yonkers has earned the nickname "The Emerald Isle," and in a few years, the Yonkers parade on McLean has become one of the best in NY.

Congressman Bowman Arrested in DC Protest "Lowey and Engel Never Got Arrested"



Congressman Jamaal Bowman, placed under arrest at the U.S. Capitol on Jan.

By Dan Murphy

For more than 30 years, most of Westchester County was represented by two democratic members of Congress; Nita Lowey and Eliot Engel. And while Rep. Lowey and Rep. Engel were considered liberal members of Congress, neither Lowey or Engel were arrested during a protest for causes that they held dear. That is why the Jan. 20 arrest of Westchester Congressman Jamaal Bowman, with 25 others, including faith leaders and youth who had been hunger striking in support of passage of the Voting Right Act, is of interest. The non violent protest resulted in the arrest and release of Rep. Bowman on the same day. On Twitter, the US Capitol Police wrote, "Just before 12:00 pm, demonstrators started blocking one side of the North Barricade outside the U.S. Capitol. We have already issued them three warnings. The demonstrators refused to move out of the driveway, so we are making arrests. We made a total of 27 arrests for Crowding, Obstructing or Incommoding (DC Code § 22-1307), and one for violating U.S. Capitol Police Traffic Regulation Section 16.3 (Crowd Control)." Rep. Bowman has been an outspoken supporter of protestors in demanding that the U.S. Senate pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act named after the civil rights hero. On Jan. 19, efforts in the U.S. Senate to pass the Lewis Voting Rights Act failed, as did an effort to change the filibuster rules. Senate democrats needed 60 votes, and the motion to end debate failed 51-49, with every democrat except for Senator. The makeup of the Senate is 50 democrats and 50 republicans, with Vice-President Harris breaking the tie in democrats favor when a simple majority is needed. Democratic Senators Joe Manchin, and Kyrsten Sinema both oppose changing the Senate rules concerning ending debate.

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Yonkers Residents Encouraged to Learn More About Westchester Community Energy Program

WANT TO MAKE A POSITIVE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT?

RENEWABLE ENERGY IS DOABLE!

Hey Yonkers Neighbors!

Have a question about the new Community Energy Program, Westchester Power?

Drop in during our weekly office hours. Pass the word, tell your friends, community groups and others, too. The more you know the more informed your choice...

Westchester Power Office Hours every Thursday at 12PM & 5PM
Sessions include Spanish-speaking support
Scheduled Dates: 1/20, 1/27, 2/3, 2/10, 2/17, 2/24
Zoom Link: <https://tinyurl.com/WestchesterPowerOfficeHours>

By Dan Murphy

It has been the talk of the City of Yonkers for the past two weeks, but Yonkers residents, homeowners and any one with an electric bill needs to learn the facts about the Westchester Power Community Energy Program, which Yonkers has joined to give its residents and Con Ed customers a choice of using renewable energy. The program will start on March 1, and residents recently received a notice in the mail about the program. This reporter has heard all of the rumblings from residents about having to Opt-Out of the program, or else they will automatically be Opted-in to the renewable energy plan. This is how the state implemented the program, as a way to bring enough people to join that they will make up a large pool of energy customers to make it feasible. Nobody is trying to trick anyone into joining the Westchester Power Community Energy Program. In fact, that is why we are featuring this story, to inform residents so that they know what this program is about and know what there options are, and that they have to decide whether to opt-in or out. The real question that homeowners and Con Ed customers should be asking is, what is the cost of each program and is the Westchester Power program more expensive? The answer is no it is not more expensive, and in fact, as of today (Jan. 26) a comparison in the energy costs of both programs finds Westchester Power's rate for Yonkers residents is cheaper than Con Edison's rate.

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Bar Mitzvah at Age 56 for Former FBI Agent, Prosecutor, and NFL- NBA Executive



Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz, completes wrapping of the arm tefillin for M. Quentin Williams. Photo (c) Robert Kalfus

by Robert Kalfus

Former Yonkers resident Michael Quentin Williams recently addressed the Yonkers Police Dept. how to "train law enforcement how to serve better, not to police better." At that meeting, Yonkers Police Dept. Chaplain Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz learned the facts of Quentin's life: born and raised by a non-observant Jewish mother who soon after he was born, Quentin was abandoned by his biological Black father from St. Kitt's, and then abandoned by his mother's family. Quentin was raised by loving grandparents and supportive community members. Quentin was further supported by educators and coaches who saw quality, promise and greatness in him, and believing to him, helped him to succeed. M. Quentin Williams' story began with his mixed-race upbringing in New York poverty: Quentin attended and graduated from Yonkers' Charles E. Groton High School, with activities in the National Honor Society; Football; Track & Field; and Swimming; won admission to Boston College with a Football scholarship and graduated from Boston College, with a Bachelor of Arts in Economics, where he was active in Varsity Football and Track. In the late 1980s following graduation, Quentin worked for two years as a bouncer at New York nightclubs, but prodded by a mentor, who told him that being a bouncer would not be his life's career, Quentin applied to law school, and graduated with a law degree from St. John's University School of Law, with a Juris Doctor law degree in 1991. Starting in 1992 for almost four years, M. Quentin was a Special Agent for the FBI in New Haven, CT, investigating Federal criminal matters, and then worked as an Assistant US Attorney from 1995 to 1996 as a Trial Attorney in the

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Westhab Gets Financing for 113-Unit Affordable Housing Redevelopment for Hudson Hill, 76 Locust Hill, Yonkers



Westhab's Hudson Hill Affordable Housing rendering

Westhab, a leading provider of affordable housing and social services, wrapped up 2021 by closing on construction financing for two very different developments that move the organization's mission forward. Hudson Hill in Yonkers is a 113-unit ground-up affordable housing development incorporating state-of-the-art green technologies. The Briarwood Rapid Re-Housing Center in Queens is a substantial renovation of a commercial property to create a 175-bed transitional shelter. These developments are a continuation of the nonprofit's substantial growth in recent years, strengthening its role as the largest nonprofit developer of affordable housing in Westchester County and a significant partner in New York City's efforts to address homelessness.

"We're very excited to begin construction on both Hudson Hill and Briarwood in 2022," said Rich Nightingale, President and CEO of Westhab. "Westhab is proud to create more high-quality, affordable housing in Westchester and to continue expanding our services to those most in need in New York City. We are dedicated to the communities we serve, and we look forward to another year of building communities and changing lives."

Located at 76 Locust Hill Avenue in Yonkers, Hudson Hill will create 113 permanent, affordable housing units for lower-income residents. All units will provide permanent housing reserved for families earning no more than 60 percent of the area median income for Westchester County. Forty-five apartments will provide supportive housing for formerly homeless tenants with funding from New York State's Empire State Supportive Housing Initiative (ESSHI). Thanks to its highly sustainable design, the Hudson Hill development earned Westhab a \$1,000,000 award for the project's financing in New York State's Buildings of Excellence competition.

To bring this project to fruition, Westhab has received financing and support from numerous partners and investors at the federal, state, and local level. Financing includes \$43 million from New York State Homes and Community Renewal. The City of Yonkers provided HOME Funds and a PILOT Agreement through the Yonkers Industrial Development Agency, and Westchester County provided grant financing through its New Homes Land Acquisition program. Lastly, Enterprise and TD Bank acted as the tax credit equity investor providing additional grant financing, and Leviticus 25:30 Alternative Fund provided an acquisition/predevelopment loan. Partners in the Hudson Hill project include Amie Gross Architects and Lasberg Construction Associates, Inc. The completion of the project is expected in December of 2023.

"I strongly support this vital project and I will continue to advocate for affordable housing in my district and across New York State," said State Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins. "This development will provide safe, low-cost housing for those that live there and improve the lives of the community at large as we continue to revitalize the area. I am pleased to lead the State Senate that is so focused on funding affordable housing, a chief priority of mine."

"Hudson Hill is bringing safe, affordable, resilient housing to low- and moderate-income individuals and families," said Westhab's Senior Vice President of Real Estate, Andrew Germansky. "The building's sustainable design incorporates both proven and novel technologies and strategies to reduce energy consumption, increase healthy living, and lower the building's carbon footprint. We're very grateful to New York State Homes and Community Renewal and to all of our partners for helping to make Hudson Hill a reality."

Yonkers IDA Helps Provide Incentives for \$508 Million in Private Development in 2021



rendering of Point and Ravine development, 146 affordable units

Since 2019, Yonkers IDA Has Provided Financial Incentives to Projects Representing Total Private Investment of \$1.48 Billion

The Yonkers Industrial Development Agency (IDA) posted another solid year of success providing financial incentives in 2021 to residential and commercial projects representing a total private investment of more than \$508 million. The developments are projected to create 1,009 new residential units and more than 1,739 construction jobs.

Since 2019, the Yonkers IDA has provided financial incentives to development projects representing a total private investment of approximately \$1.48 billion. The developments are projected to create approximately 3,259 new residential units and approximately 3,365 construction, full-time and part-time jobs. Ten percent of all new residential units are set aside for affordable housing.

"2021 was another banner year for the ongoing redevelopment of Yonkers," said Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, YIDA Chair. "Our successes are paving the way for more long-term interest and investment in our city, all within a diverse landscape of properties – proving Yonkers is the place to live, work and play. We look forward to more opportunities in 2022!"

The Yonkers IDA finished 2021 with final approval of financial incentives for the \$60 million Phase 2 expansion of Lionsgate's motion picture studio complex at iPark on the Yonkers waterfront. The expansion involves Buildings 3, 4 and 5 as well as the remaining surface lots and private roads at the iPark site. Lionsgate will use the expansion for additional studio space, support services and additional parking. In 2020, the Yonkers IDA approved financial incentives for the \$60 million Phase 1 of the project. Both phases of the project represent a total private investment of \$120 million and are expected to create between 265-420 full- and part-time jobs. A total of 400 construction jobs is projected to be created.

Other projects that received Yonkers IDA incentives in 2021 included:

Point & Ravine: Developer: Conifer Realty. Location: Point Street and Ravine Avenue. Total Private Investment: \$77.7 million. Rental housing. Number of apartments: 146 units, all affordable. Jobs: 250 construction jobs

56 Prospect Street. Developer: 56 Prospect Holdings LLC. Location: 56 Prospect Street. Total Private Investment: \$32.6 million. Rental housing. Number of apartments: 126 units. Jobs: 250 construction jobs

Horizon at Ridge Hill Developer: Azorim. Location: 601-701 Ridge Hill Blvd. Total Private Investment: \$75.6 million. Luxury rental building. Number of apartments: 184 rental units and 18 affordable units. Jobs: 100 construction jobs

Hudson Hill . Developer: Westhab. Location: 76 Locust Avenue. Total Private Investment: \$53.9 million. Number of apartments: 113 residential units for low-income families. Jobs: 83 construction jobs

Greyston Bakery. Developer: Greyston Bakery. Location: 40/44 Runyon Avenue. Total Private Investment: \$8.8 million. Acquisition and renovation of vacant warehouse. Jobs: 25 construction jobs.

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News in Yonkers and around Westchester

This week at YonkersTimes.com

DA Rocah Issues Report on Death of Kathie Durst and says, He (Robert Durst) killed her (Kathie) in Westchester"

Former Salesian HS Teacher Charged With Sending Naked Videos, Sex Acts to 15-Yr Old

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Latimer Announces New COVID Vaccine Clinic in Yonkers



County Department of Health Office, 20 South Broadway

On Jan. 21, Westchester County Executive George Latimer announced that he is adding COVID-19 Vaccine Clinics at the County Health Department in Yonkers to help reduce the spread of COVID-19. The County Health Department will offer free COVID-19 vaccines in Yonkers and White Plains, and COVID-19 PCR tests at the County Center through the end of February. First and second doses and booster shots are available at both locations.

COVID-19 Vaccines at Westchester County Health Department Clinic in Yonkers:

The County will offer COVID-19 vaccines on Mondays, beginning on Monday, Jan. 24, from 4 p.m. to 7 p.m., in the Yonkers Clinic at 20 South Broadway, 2nd Floor. Appointments are encouraged but walk-ins are welcome. (There is no clinic on Feb. 21.)

- Schedule a Booster Vaccine (Ages 12 and over)
- Schedule a First Dose Pfizer Vaccine (Ages 5 and over)
- Schedule a Second Dose Pfizer Vaccine (Ages 5 and over)
- Schedule a First Dose Moderna Vaccine (Ages 18 and over)
- Schedule a Second Dose Moderna Vaccine (Ages 18 and over)
- Schedule a Johnson & Johnson Vaccine (Ages 18 and over)

COVID-19 Vaccines at Westchester County Center in White Plains, afternoons by appointment only, Wednesdays through Fridays and on Saturday, Feb. 12, 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

- Schedule a Booster Vaccine (Ages 12 and over)
- Schedule a First Dose Pfizer Vaccine (Ages 5 and over)
- Schedule a Second Dose Pfizer Vaccine (Ages 5 and over)
- Schedule a First Dose Moderna Vaccine (Ages 18 and over)
- Schedule a Second Dose Moderna Vaccine (Ages 18 and over)
- Schedule a Johnson & Johnson Vaccine (Ages 18 and over)

COVID-19 PCR Tests will be available at the County Center through February. To schedule a test, go to www.westchestergov.com/health.

Deadline for MLK Video Contest Feb. 11



BLACK HEALTH AND WELLNESS

2022's theme for Black History Month is "Black Health and Wellness," which takes a look at how American healthcare has often underserved the African-American community. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. often spoke about how of all the forms of inequality, injustice in health was the most shocking and the most inhumane.

VIDEO CONTEST

Submit a 3-5 minute video depicting how some of the healthcare inequalities have improved and where we can, as a nation, expand and or do better in regard to those who are underserved. Also, include **two** prominent African American champions who have donated their time, efforts and science to improve health and wellness in all communities.

CONTEST RULES:

- Open to all Yonkers students in grades 1 – 12; one entry per student
- Complete Submission Form
- Upload the video to a cloud platform (Facebook, Twitter, YouTube, etc.) and email the URL
- Video format should be in MP4 or MOV
- Videos cannot exceed three minutes in length
- Winning videos will be displayed on the City of Yonkers website and all social media platforms
- One winner will be chosen from each grade group (1-4), (5-8) and (9-12)

IMPORTANT DATES:

Friday, January 14, 2022	Contest Opens
Friday, February 11, 2022	Submissions Due
Monday, February 14, 2022	Winners are notified
Thursday, February 24, 2022	The 3 winning videos will be featured at the City's Annual Black History Month Virtual Celebration on Facebook @CityofYonkers on Thursday, February 24, 2022 at 5:30 pm. In addition, residents will be able to view the City's Annual Black History Month Virtual Celebration on television Channel 39 (FiOS), Channel 78 (Cablevision) and on the City of Yonkers website at www.yonkersny.gov .

End Gun Violence? Time to Work Together!



by Eric W. Schoen

Eric Adams, the new Mayor of New York City has had a tough few weeks. The biggest issue he is dealing with? Gun Violence. The situation in New York City is out of control. And if we don't watch, it will spill over into the suburbs though some say it already has.

Mayor Adams earlier this week issued 'The Blueprint to End Gun Violence.' Google it. It is a comprehensive report that everyone involved in the Criminal Justice System needs to read. Citizens of New York. The cop on the street. Those who work in our Court Systems including the Judges. Mental Health professionals. State Legislators and the Governor. Local Elected officials and Judges. Members of Congress and while we are in Washington, President Biden too.

Why? Because let's be clear. The problem, a long time in the making is not going to be resolved unless everyone works together to resolve it. You always like to give the new guy a chance but we are at the point of break. If everyone doesn't work together, more companies will move out of New York and it's suburbs. More people will move out. Fewer people will visit New York and it's suburbs out of fear. The already Covid fragile economy will plummet.

Do I like to write about guns? Probably as much as I like writing about liver-wurst. But I'm tired of reading headlines like I saw in this paper last week. 'Attempted Cop-Suicide Results in Police Shooting and Injured Officer. I'm tired of New York City Police Officers getting killed and injured in the line of duty. Officer Jason Rivera, 22 years young shot and killed while responding to a domestic incident in Harlem. A second officer, Wilbert Mora, 27 years young has died as I sit writing this column. Please keep these officers and their families in your prayers.

Some of those involved in solving this problem are bitching and moaning about the details in Mayor Adams report. It's up to us to keep the pressure on them to put the common sense solutions Adams outlined into action. Whether it be our State Legislators who came up with this crazy bail reform everyone agrees is a disaster to a Court System with a backlog of 4000, yes 4000 gun cases. And as the saying goes, if they can't stand the heat get the hell out of the kitchen!

Let's take a look at some of the common sense solutions Adams has come up with. We need to put roadblocks on every river and entrance to New York City and it's suburbs to keep guns out. We need more police on the streets, not fewer as some were advocating several years ago. Adams proposes Neighborhood Safety Teams in the 30% of the precincts where 80% of the violence occurs. A good place to start.

Officers Uniformed and those without uniforms with body cameras so we can make sure when a crime occurs, the officers are doing their jobs. Nothing is perfect, but we have the technological tools in 2022 to be sure things are being done correctly.

The New York State Police were sent to New York City as a punishment to former Mayor Bill DeBlasio as he wouldn't play along with Andrew Cuomo. You remember the former Governor of New York State who resigned over a litany of misdeeds too long to list. Adams proposes to expand the partnership with New York State Police who are responsible for patrolling our roads coming into the city and suburbs which is how many illegal guns arrive. State Police can do spot checks at points of entry.

So many of those roaming the streets of New York have mental health issues. Our Mental Health system in this country is broke. On a practical level you and I can understand. Due to low reimbursements from insurance companies it was practically impossible to find mental health services whether it be a psychiatrist, psychologist or social worker who accepted your insurance prior to Covid. Forget it now. Adams proposes to take the millions, probably over a billion dollars DeBlasio and his wife wasted in the ThriveNYC program to provide support for the homeless on the street. He wants to revisit laws to get people impacted with mental health illness the help they need. When Doctors and Judges recommend hospitalization for the mentally ill he wants it to happen.

Adams promises Judicial appointments to consist of individuals who vow to keep violent criminals who use guns off the streets. 16 or 17 year olds arrested on gun charges? Law enforcement would ask the individual where they got the gun. No answer? Their case goes to Criminal Court versus the current Family Court.

Can you believe if you sell 10 or more guns in a year it is a Class B Felony? Adams wants it lowered to 3 by State legislation defining the possession of 3 or more guns as evidence of gun trafficking not just merely gun possession.

The New York State Courts are a disaster where Adams wants reform. In 2019 there were 405 criminal verdicts. In the first half of 2021 a mere 18! Crazy or what. Backlog of 4000 gun cases. Incredible!

Adams wants Lawyers, Public Defenders, Legal Aid, Assistant District Attorneys back into the court rooms. The 6 foot distancing rule in the courts should be changed to 3 feet just like it is in our schools. Good enough for the kids, good enough for the grownups.

With the current bail reform legislation Judges don't have the tools to keep the community safe. He wants judges to take dangerousness into account when detaining a defendant. We constantly read about the revolving door letting those who should be in jail out. And judges who want to keep inmates incarcerated because of the danger they pose to society without the legal tools to do so.

While Brooklyn Borough Presidents Adams started the 'Safe Shopper' program expanding camera technology to catch criminals. He wants to take the program city wide. Hopefully this will stop some of the shoplifting we see and hear about not only in New York City but in communities throughout Westchester. Sadly retailers say it's part of doing business. And stores have big signs telling

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NOTICE TO NEW YORK RESIDENTS

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Yonkers Students Continue to Mask Up as Courts Decide Legality of Gov. Hochul's Mask Mandate



COVID-19 UPDATE 01-25-2022

The District is aware of yesterday's New York State Supreme Court ruling regarding the legality of the State mandate requiring mask wearing in schools and public spaces, as well as the anticipated appeal of this decision.

Late yesterday, the New York State Department of Education issued a statement that "schools must continue to follow the mask rule."

Therefore, until we receive a definitive decision from the New York State Department of Education and Department of Health, Yonkers Public Schools students, staff and visitors will continue to wear masks at all times in our schools.

yonkerspublicschools.org



Let's Chat with the Superintendent

Two Let's Chat with the Superintendent events will take place next week. Registration is required using the links below. After registering, you will receive a confirmation email containing information about joining the webinar.

Submit questions to ycpta@ycpta.org

Tuesday, February 1, 2022 at 5:00pm (in English)

Register in advance for this webinar: https://yonkerspublicschools.org/zoom.us/join/wn_ze-nGRnTeCb9lCn4ld9DQ

Thursday, February 3, 2022 at 5:00pm (en Espanol)

Register in advance for this webinar: https://yonkerspublicschools.org/zoom.us/join/wn_3atcuCYT2a2xn1-WneAqQ

Yonkers residents named to dean's list for the Fall 2021 semester at Quinnipiac University

To qualify for the dean's list, students must earn a grade point average of at least 3.5 with no grade lower than C. Full-time students must complete at least 14 credits in a semester, with at least 12 credits that have been graded on a letter grade basis to be eligible. Part-time students must complete at least six credits during a semester.

- Jessica Brij-Raj
- Amanda Caione
- Carolyn Duffy
- Crystal Mejia
- Beatriz Mendes
- Brianna Ortiz
- Michael Smith
- Isabella Ulrich

New York Army National Guard Promotions

Kevin Salvador from Yonkers, N.Y., and assigned to the Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 1st Battalion, 258th Field Artillery received a promotion to the rank of private on May 13, 2021.

Alzwell Social Club Offers Virtual Interaction and Support for People with Dementia & Caregivers



The Alzheimer's Association Hudson Valley Chapter offers a variety of social programs for people with dementia and their loved ones. Among them is the AlzWell Social Club, originally held in person in Westchester County, and now held virtually during the COVID-19 pandemic. This interactive program seeks to engage participants through a variety of activities.

It is facilitated by Debbie Marks Kahn, ATR-BC, LCAT, an art therapist whose specialties include working with geriatric and dementia populations. She said the group began around five years ago thanks to a private grant. Participants in what was then an in-person intermittent Sunday Social in White Plains wanted something to do when it wasn't held.

"They wanted the program to be similar, including plenty of music, dancing and socializing. I changed and expanded it once we got started and saw what we really needed to do," she said.

The AlzWell Social group is now held on selected Saturdays throughout the year. Marks Kahn said it fulfills a variety of needs for the participants.

"We fill a social need where people form great loving relationships with others in the same situation. We fill a musical need, where we hire musicians and dance therapists so our attendees can express themselves. We fill an expressive, spiritual, supportive, creative and psychological need. Our art psychotherapists offer supportive and creative groups for our participants."

She said COVID has significantly affected the format.

"During the pandemic, we have been forced to hold our groups on Zoom. Due to our inability to focus for long times on a computer screen, we cannot stay with our clients for as long."

While conversation over lunch that was part of the in-person program is no longer possible during COVID, the event still begins with conversation.

"During the first part of our group at 1 p.m., we start with an open discussion so members can discuss their week. Then we mix it up with various activities," she said. These include sensory stimulation exercises designed to engage the caregiver and the person with dementia. An example of this would be a scented hand lotion massage with guided imagery, which she said can help bring up lost language and memories.

"I have taught this technique I created to staff in hospitals and nursing homes and assisted living facilities all over New York State," Marks Kahn added.

Other activities include relaxation techniques and deep-breathing exercises to help those with early- or moderate- stage dementia manage their anxiety. Participants may do some mindfulness practices, such as counting or focusing techniques. They are also encouraged to reminisce and speak about their memories. She said she is requesting participants' stories with a possible future compilation in mind.

"At 12:30 p.m., we continue with dance therapy and movement to music," said Marks Kahn. This is followed by the support group part of the program at 2 p.m.

"We begin with a quick check-in and discussion and then do progressive muscle relaxation or a five-minute stretching exercise. Then we have an art therapy experiential, which includes creative writing, dialogue and deep breathing exercises. Depending on the topic of the day, this could be followed by a discussion about any challenges or successes. Then we have our closing, where we produce a positive group affirmation."

She said the support group provides an opportunity for participants to make new friends. "Participants from the support group have become really good friends that take care of each other," she said. "Some of them call and email each other. And some used to go out with together until the pandemic hit. I cannot tell you how impactful our group meetings have been to our participants. We have become a lifeline to many of them."

She said the group seeks to make everyone feel important and supported. "After being with us, we want everyone to feel calmer and in control of themselves, loved and warm inside, like a great big hug," she said.

Prescreening and pre-registration are required to participate by calling the Alzheimer's Association at 800.272.3900. Those already screened can reach out directly to Marks Kahn at dkahn28@aol.com or 914.629.4464. Visit alz.org/hudson-valley for more information.

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Jewish Educator Fired by Westchester Temple Over Blog Critical of Israel Files Lawsuit



More Than 45 Prominent Jewish Leaders Sign Letter in Support of Jessie Sander, left

By Dan Murphy

On Jan. 25, Jessie Sander filed a lawsuit in the Supreme Court of the State of New York, Westchester County, against Westchester Reform Temple (“WRT”), two of its rabbis and its executive director, for wrongful discharge pursuant to Section 201-d of the New York State Labor Law.

As set forth in the complaint, Ms. Sander started work in early July 2021 as a secular Jewish educator in WRT’s school, the Jewish Learning Lab (“JLL”). She was hired to teach and tutor the Hebrew language and to assist and support the development of social, cultural and community service programs for WRT teens. Nothing in the job or job description required any adherence to any particular point of view about Israel or its policies toward the Palestinians.

Nevertheless, WRT fired Ms. Sander after less than three weeks on the job, not for any teaching deficiencies or criticisms she received, but allegedly solely because of a blog post she and a friend had written months before her WRT employment began that severely criticized the State of Israel for its May 2021 bombardment of Gaza. In that post, Ms. Sander affirmed her passion for Judaism, her investment in building Jewish community, and her commitment to fight for justice for all Jews; and identified herself as an anti-Zionist opposed to what she believed to be a legalized apartheid regime in Israel at odds with Judaism or any other religion.

After reading the blog post, the Rabbi who had hired her and who directs the JLL met with Ms. Sander, engaged in a frank discussion of their respective views, and told her that he and WRT’s school embraced a “wrestling with Israel” position and welcomed diverse thinkers and that she should never work at a place that would fire her for her beliefs, 90% of which he agreed with. Immediately after that meeting, the Rabbi wrote an email to the Senior Rabbi and to the WRT president – which he shared with Ms. Sander — summarizing the meeting, expressing complete confidence in Jessie as an educator, and stating that she would be a good role model for WRT’s students.

One week later, however, that same Rabbi called Ms. Sander to another meeting, this time with the WRT executive director, where the Rabbi fired her. When she asked why, the executive director told her that “it’s just not a good fit.”

The facts set forth in the complaint make clear that Ms. Sander was fired solely because of the blog post she co-authored. The Labor Law makes it unlawful for “any employer” to “discharge from employment” any “individual” because of her “legal recreational activities,” “outside work hours, off of the employer’s premises and without use of the employer’s equipment or other property.” Such recreational activities include “any lawful, leisure-time activity, for which the employee receives no compensation and which is generally engaged in for recreational purposes, including but not limited” to “hobbies.” Ms. Sander, like many Americans and Jewish Americans, blogged as a hobby, without compensation, and this particular blog post was authored and published months before she began work at WRT.

More than 45 prominent Jewish Americans, including rabbis, scholars, and educators, have signed an Open Letter to WRT, urging the Temple to reinstate Ms. Sander. The letter states, in part, “If, as appears to be the case, Ms. Sander was fired because someone objected to her blog post, we urge you to reconsider your decision. You are surely aware that Ms. Sander’s views are shared by a growing segment of the Jewish community, who understand or are grappling with the role of Zionism in the dispossession of the Palestinian people from their homes and land. Their commitment to Palestinian justice is fully consistent with the Jewish values of, and commitment to, pursuing justice that they learned in Hebrew school and from their families. We are certain that there are many educators within the Reform movement with views similar to those expressed by Ms. Sander. The Reform Jewish community – and all Jewish communities – need educators with the passion and moral compass of people such as Jessie Sander. You surely understood that when you hired her. We urge you to reinstate her.”

Sander co-founded a website titled makingmensches.com, whose mission is to educate and learn with fellow white Jews to build more welcoming communities. On the website is a blog, and the blog post in question, which can be found at the following link, <https://makingmensches.medium.com/israel-wont-save-us-moving-towards-liberation-d0590cf41561>, is a tough criticism of Israel’s treatment of the Palestinian people, and the 2021 bombing of Gaza.

Sander writes with co-founder Elana Lipkin, “As co-founders of an American Jewish organization seeking to confront the Jewish community’s racist practices and beliefs, we must speak out against Israel’s most recent attack on Gaza.... We believe our role as white American Jews is to resist the American-Israeli military-industrial complex and the ways in which American Jewish support for Israel has enabled the genocide in Palestine to continue. Making Mensches believes in the right of Palestinian self-determination and rejects the Zionist claim to the land of Palestine.”

But at the end of the post, they write, “Our anti-Zionist journeys, while difficult, have been nothing short of essential to strengthening our passion for Judaism. Being anti-Zionist has made us even more invested in building Jewish community and fighting for justice for all Jews.”

A simple search of Sander’s works and writings by WRT could have, and should have been done prior to her hiring. And her comments about Israel and Palestine have the support of many American Jews, including the 45 (and counting) prominent members of the American-Jewish community.

On This Day in Yonkers History...



William Gibbs McAdoo Treasury Secretary, 1913-1918, He called Yonkers home at the turn of the century and married the daughter of President Woodrow Wilson. He was one of the better known Progressives of his day

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

Monday January 31st

January 31, 1935: Former Stanley Avenue resident Louis Kiss was the third defense witness for Bruno Hauptmann in the Lindberg baby kidnapping trial. Kiss stated he was in the Bronx bakery owned by Christian Fredericksen the night of the crime, and saw Hauptmann talking to his wife at the very time the state claimed Hauptmann was climbing into the Lindbergh nursery, making it impossible for him to have kidnapped the baby in New Jersey.

January 31, 1935: DPW Commissioner Edward Murray announced the appointment of Joseph Lennon as custodian-janitor of City Hall. Lennon was the son of the late John Lennon, long-term superintendent of the building.

Tuesday February 1st

February 1, 1907: Former Palisade Avenue resident William Webster Ellsworth entertained more than 300 Yonkers women at the Women’s Institute with his lecture on the Civil War. His vivid presentation was called “The Guns of Sumter.”

February 1, 1927: Yonkers residents in the Gray Oaks area protested the change of name of the City Tuberculosis Hospital on Saw Mill River Road to Grey Oaks Hospital. The protesters maintained the hospital was not in the Grey Oaks community, but in Nepera Park, and the name would reduce their property value. They did not win. The property was sold to Precision Valve in 1957.

Wednesday, February 2nd

February 2, 1918: Secretary of the Treasury William McAdoo advised Congressman Benjamin Fairchild that the building of the Federal Post Office Building Yonkers would have to wait until after the war. He stated the pressing demands of war made upon the financial, industrial, labor and transportation resources of the country made it necessary to direct them all for war.

February 2, 1938: Katie O’Grady, a resident at St. John’s Riverside Hospital for close to seven months, received a wonderful surprise! The burn victim received a huge basket of beautiful flowers from Pop-Eye the Sailor Man, with a note reminding her to eat her spinach. Pop-Eye, vaudeville performer Harry Foster Welch, was a member of the Manhattan Kiwanis Club as was Captain Harry Warfield, Superintendent of St. John’s Riverside Hospital. The two men became friendly, and Welch, in his Pop-Eye persona often visited the children in the Yonkers hospital.

Thursday February 3rd

February 3, 1920: The Sherman Memorial Dispensary of St. John’s Riverside Hospital was formally opened. Alexander Smith Cochran erected the building as a memorial to his friend, the late Dr. William T. Sherman.

February 3, 1938: Dr. William Crocker, Director of the Boyce Thompson Institute, was awarded the American Institute’s Gold Medal for Outstanding Achievement in Scientific Research. While accepting this prestigious award, he stated research institutions supported by private money were more efficient and valuable than government laboratories that become “administrative bureaucracies.” Crocker also paid tribute to Colonel William Boyce Thompson, saying he had “no thought of personal returns when he invested \$10,000,000 in the Yonkers institute;” as plant research had “no direct relation to the industries in which he was interested.”

Friday, February 4th

February 4, 1925: Bantamweight Jackie Williams from Oak Place knocked out Joe Dundee in his professional debut as a fighter at Columbus Hall; Williams participated in the 1924 Olympics and took the silver medal. Born Salvatore Tripoli, he fought under the name of Jackie Williams because his mother Rose did not approve of boxing.

February 4, 1944: Hot ashes set off a late afternoon two-alarm fire at the Neperhan Community Center on Monroe Street. Quick work by the Yonkers Fire Department limited damages to \$2500. Someone put smoldering ashes in a metal barrel too close to a wooden partition; flames shortly enveloped the cellar. The Center’s basketball game against the Harlem Boys Club had to be moved to New York City.

continued on pg 7-

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Classifieds:

Eric Schoen, continued from pg 3-

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL (RFP) # 2022 – 03 REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS FOR PEST CONTROL SERVICE AND MAINTENANCE AT VARIOUS PROPERTIES OWNED OR MANAGED BY THE MUNICIPAL HOUSING AUTHORITY FOR THE CITY OF YONKERS

The Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers (“MHACY”) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms for Pest Control Service and Maintenance for MHACY at various sites as specified in this Request for Proposals (“RFP”).

This RFP package contains submission requirements and terms and conditions and other pertinent information for submitting a proper and responsive proposal. This RFP is the only information provided to prospective bidders (hereinafter “Responders” or “Respondents”) and is available online starting January 31, 2022 at www.mhacy.org/about/procurement/.

There will be a site tour for interested parties on February 17, 2022, time to be determined, starting at 1157 Central Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY. The RFP questions deadline is February 23, 2022 at 11:00AM Eastern Standard Time (EST). Any and all questions must be emailed to procurement@mhacy.org by the deadline. No telephone calls and/or written communication sent via mail will be accepted.

Proposals must reach MHACY no later than 3:00 PM (EST) on March 1, 2022. Late submissions will be handled in accordance with the provisions in Form HUD-5369B. Proposals will be evaluated on the criteria stated in the RFP. Negotiations may be conducted with contractors who have a reasonable chance of being selected for the award. After evaluation of the proposal revision, if any, the contract will be awarded to the responsible firm(s) whose qualifications, price and other factors are considered to be the most advantageous to MHACY.

MHACY reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and waive any irregularities or informalities if it is in MHACY’s best interest to do so. MHACY reserves the right to cancel this RFP or to reject, in whole or in part, any and all proposals received in response to this RFP, upon its determination that such cancellation or rejection is in the best interest of MHACY. MHACY is an Equal Opportunity Employer and does not discriminate on the basis of race, sexual orientation, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, or family status. MHACY solicits and encourages the participation of minorities and small businesses in procurement.

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

Wilson Kimball
President & CEO
Municipal Housing Authority for the City of Yonkers
1511 Central Park Avenue
Yonkers, New York 10710
Project No. 2022-03

Notice of formation of youRmore LLC LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/09/2020. 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, 10 Dassern Drive Apt I Dobbs Ferry NY 10522 . Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Thomas Family Taste LLC. Arts. Of Org. filed with the SSNY on 07/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated as the agent of the LCC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 268 Van Cortlandt Park Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10705. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Gelpdawg Media LLC..Articles of Organization filed with the New York Department of State on 12/01/2021. Office location: Westchester County. The New York Secretary of State is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served upon him or her to the company c/o United States Corporation Agents, Inc., 7014 13th Ave, 202, Brooklyn, NY 11228. Principal business address: 428 Marlborough Rd., Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful acts.

Notice of formation of JGS Notary Services LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/28/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O JGS Notary Services LLC , 588 Warburton Apt 2 Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 10/6/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O LOREDANA VICARI PHOTOGRAPHY LLC , 125 Dunwoodie Street Yonkers, NY 10704 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of a Limited Liability Company Love Jones 360 Experience LLC Articles of Organization filed with the SSNY Office on 9/23/21 Office Location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to : C/O Love Jones 360 Experience LLC , 41 Ridgeview Terrace Elmsford, NY 10523 Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Jovanna Realty LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 5/14/2021. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Jovanna Realty LLC, 100 Riverdale Ave., Apt. 8C., Yonkers, NY 10701 Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of formation of Aiyana’s Creations LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 12/20/2021. Office: Westchester County. United States Corporation Agents Inc., 7014 13th Avenue, Suite 202, Brooklyn, NY, 11228 designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. US Corporation Agents Inc shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 127 Ramsey Avenue, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of J’s Admin, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/12/22. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Julia Rea 69 Dale Ave Apt 6 Ossining, NY 10562. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

customers not to shop in the reusable bags they bring into stores. Why? Because people are bringing in reusable bags, putting their groceries in them and walking out without paying. In previous columns I warned you about that.

Adams proposes to increase Crime Stopper awards, the cash rewards for anonymous information leading to arrest. It works around the world. Why not New York?

I’ve only touched on a small number of the ideas in the Adams report. I highly recommend that you Google it and read it. I doubt there will be much you disagree with.

The gun violence situation in New York can turn a progressive Democrat like me into a Conservative. That will probably happen to you no matter where you fall on the political spectrum. The only way we will solve gun violence in New York whether it be in the City or throughout the State is for all those that are part of the solution to step up to the plate, acknowledge when they were wrong and collectively work together to make the city and state great again.

If you are a player and part of the solution and not willing to come to the table, the nationwide unemployment rate is low. There is a big demand for individuals with Commercial Drivers Licenses to transport goods and services. Pay is pretty good. And you really can’t destroy a city, the suburbs and a state in desperate need of help.

Again, please pray for Officers Rivera and Mora and their families. And pray for the safety of Police Officers in Yonkers, Westchester, New York City, New York State and our country!

Reach Eric Schoen at thistooisyonkers@aol.com. Follow him on Twitter @ericnyonkers. 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 and click the arrow to listen to the live stream or download the WVOX app from the App Store free of charge.

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Bar Mitzvah at 56, Continued from pg 1-

Criminal Division. Quentin then moved into a career as an executive with the National Football League and the National Basketball Association.

At the Yonkers Police meeting conclusion, Rabbi Hurwitz asked Quentin if he had any Jewish education, or if he had had a Bar Mitzvah. Quentin’s answered “NO” to which Rabbi Hurwitz offered a Bar Mitzvah to him if he was interested. Quentin replied that he was interested! Quentin at age 56 had his Bar Mitzvah this past Sunday morning at the Chabad of Yonkers. A Bar Mitzvah means when young people taken upon themselves the responsibilities of learning and obeying the commandments of Jewish law, customs and observances. Girls have a Bat Mitzvah at age 12 due to their earlier maturation, and young Jewish boys have their Bar Mitzvah upon reaching age 13. Rabbi Hurwitz explained that things happen on G-d’s time schedule, and now was the appropriate time for Quentin’s Bar Mitzvah at age 56.

Rabbi Hurwitz draped a four fringed prayer tallit on Quentin’s broad shoulders, as he helped Quentin recite the prayers and explained the significance of the tallit’s four fringes. Quentin next donned the tefillin’s black boxes on his arm, and then his forehead, reciting the prayers and began the shacharit morning weekday prayers, led by Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz’s son, Chaim.

Concluding the morning prayers, Quentin spoke to the men and women who came to honor him. Visibly moved, at times stopping to wipe tears from his eyes or recover his composure to speak, Quentin said “I speak at this Bar Mitzvah in honor of my grandparents, who changed my life”, for the better. “It was difficult in the beginning. For the first five years of my life they did not accept me. My grandmother was born into foster care, and she was ashamed of the foster care in she grew up in Chicago. Her whole life, she was always trying to please people. And when she lived in Eastchester, she felt her neighbors would be very embarrassed by the fact that she had a black grandchild. We were not allowed to go over to their house. My grandfather, on the other hand, he lived with her, so he had to do what she said. He wanted to embrace me. And then my (younger) brother came along, when I was six years old, they embraced both of us. They turned 180 degrees. So in honor of them, and in honor of the humility shown by my grandmother, in being that second mother to us and being able to embrace us, it changed my life and it changed my brother’s life.”

Quentin thanked the many people who attended the Bar Mitzvah, including Jay Brustman, one of Quentin’s mentors who encouraged him; members of the Yonkers Police Dept.; Yonkers Police Dept. Commissioner John Mueller, and the many people who attended law school with him or served as US Federal Attorneys.

Westchester Community Energy Program, continued from pg 1-

There have been some claims that in other communities the cost of power increased by 30% for those who opted into the Westchester Power Community Energy Program. While we have been unable to verify that claim, it really doesn't matter what Greenburgh, or any other community in Westchester is paying for their renewable program.

The City of Yonkers has negotiated its own rate with the vendor who has been contracted to provide renewable energy to Yonkers customers who join the program. In short, Con Ed's average price for electricity in the first half of January is around 12 cents, while Westchester Power is offering a fixed rate of 8.71 cents for renewable supply and 7.512 cents for standard supply. And the renewable rate is locked in for one year.

And a key provision for those who may be nervous about joining Westchester Power is that you can opt out and go back to Con Ed at any time.

Mayor Mike Spano used his weekly email blast to explain the program to residents. "Exciting news! Finally residents have a choice when it comes to their energy provider. Yonkers is one of the 29 Westchester County municipalities to join the Westchester Power Community Energy Program. All eligible residents should have received a letter in the mail explaining the program. If you did not receive a letter or misplaced it, you could learn more at sustainablewestchester.org/wp.

"It is important to know that the choice is yours. Residents can opt-out of the program now or at any point in time without penalties or costs. I encourage you to learn more about the program if you have not already.

"The best way to opt-out is one of the two following ways: go online to opt-out at sustainablewestchester.org/wp or email info@sustainablewestchester.org.

"Our goal was to give power back to residents. You can be in control of your energy supplier. I strongly encourage you to learn more and consider joining one of the free information sessions offered every Thursday. See the graphic for full details," said Mayor Spano.

The Westchester Power program allows local governments to procure electricity, gas, and other services on behalf of their residents and small businesses. The program supplier is a qualified Energy Service Company (ESCO), selected through a competitive bidding process.

The distribution, maintenance, and billing services remains with the utility. By joining together, communities gain leverage to negotiate better rates with competitive suppliers and choose greener power sources.

Through the competitive bidding process, Constellation New Energy (CNE) was awarded the contract to be the ESCO provider to the City of Yonkers for the initial launch. CNE will supply electricity to Yonkers starting from the program launch on March 1st, until November 30th, 2023.

There are two fixed-rate supply options available to Yonkers residents through Westchester Power: 100% Renewable: 8.710¢/kWh, and Standard (a mix of fossil fuels, nuclear, and some renewable energy): 7.512¢/kWh. The City of Yonkers has chosen to have the 100% Renewable supply option as its default offering to residents.

Several information sessions are being offered before Yonkers customers make their decision. On Feb. 2 two remote, Zoom presentations will be held at 12 noon and 6pm. On Feb. 3 another Zoom session will be held at 8pm. Links for those meetings can be found at

<https://sustainablewestchester.org/wp/yonkers/>

Other options include Wednesday Drop-in Presentations (no registration): February 16, March 2, March 30 at 12:00 PM and 6:00 PM. And Thursday Zoom Office Hours at 12:00 PM and 5:00 PM (5:00 PM sessions include Spanish-speaking support) to answer questions. January 27, February 3, February 10, February 17, February 24th.

Registration is required for some of these meetings, but all of the links to zoom calls, and additional information for residents to read and review can be found at the same link above. Please do your own research and determine what is best for you. If all things are equal, most important the cost of your power, this may be an opportunity for you to get your power with cleaner, renewable energy. To date, this program has been able to offset the emission of roughly 880,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent into the atmosphere. That represents ~191,000 cars off the road for a year, or 14.6 million seedlings grown for 10 years

Rep. Bowman Arrested continued from pg 1-

The protestors were organized by Un-PAC, and #Hungerstrike4democracy. Another progressive group, Frontline, posted, "Congressman Jamaal Bowman was arrested outside the Capitol as part of a voting rights protest. So police can't arrest a bunch of right-wing terrorists storming the Capitol and killing officers, but they can manage to arrest a standing Congressman at his place of work because he supports voting rights."

After his arrest, Rep. Bowman issued the following statement:

"It's a shame that, 58 years later, we are here fighting for the same darn thing as Dr. Martin Luther King," Rep. Bowman said. "Here is our charge in the coming weeks: We have to pass the For the People Act in the Senate, and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act in the Senate. The House has already done its job, so the Senate has to step up and do its job. But the Senate is not going to do its job if we do not exercise our unlimited power as the people of the United States of America."

"Throughout the last year, my first year in Congress, I've spent a lot of time thinking about how we, as a people, can defend ourselves from the insidious steps elected officials across this country are taking to deny us our right to not only the ballot box but to a better, safer, and more equitable future," said Congressman Jamaal Bowman, Ed.D. (NY-16).

"I've thought about our elders, whose sacrifices and determination, fuel me. I've thought about our ancestors, whose blood runs through me. I've thought about everything Black people, generation after generation, have already put on the line for our freedoms and rights. I've asked myself, 'what would Fannie Lou Hamer say and do in this moment if she were still with us?' 'What about Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. or John Lewis or Claudette Colvin?' More than anything, they'd want legislation passed and signed into law. Short of that, they'd want actions, sit-ins, and marches. They'd be proud to see activists from groups such as Un-PAC, Until Freedom, Our Black Party, The Workers Circle, and Black Voters Matter giving this fight their all. They'd also want to disrupt the country until our cries are heard. I honor their legacies and their work—the thousands of steps they've marched on tired feet and the countless times they put their lives on the line so that their sons and daughters could live to fight another day. Without them, there is no me—the first Black Congressperson to represent my district in American history. So one thing must be made clear: I will not stand by and I will not stay quiet while the fate of our democracy continues to hang loosely by a thread that the Senate is hellbent on tearing apart."

"With everything that has already been fought over and for, there should be no reason people have to take to the streets, go on hunger strikes, or plead with our government to act in their best interest. But that isn't the case. The House did its part to pass critical voting rights legislation and legislation like the Build Back Better Act that would completely transform every community in America, particularly communities of color that have been historically left behind. Still, there are 52 members in the Senate who are a direct threat to our democracy and are standing in the way of progress. I had no choice but to join people and activists outside the Senate this week who are also tired and frustrated with our government.

"I was arrested alongside over 20 people, including youth hunger striking for our democracy. And I will do it again and again and again," said Rep. Bowman.

The response to Bowman's arrest from Westchester democrats was mostly in favor. "Thank you Congressman Bowman for standing up on Voting Rights. In the words of the late, great, John Lewis: MAKE GOOD TROUBLE," said one Westchester Democrat.

Another Democratic elected official said, "Speaking out and protesting for what you believe in has been a part of American democracy for centuries. Congressman Bowman is following that democratic tradition in an effort to get the Voting Rights Act passed. And I support him in that effort."

A few Westchester Dems we spoke to thought that Bowman, "was grandstanding and getting arrested to get into the news." Another Yonkers Dem said, "This is how progressive democrats get it done today. It's not like Nita Lowey or Eliot Engel got it done. And neither way is necessarily right or wrong. It's just different, but it will take a while for some in Westchester to get used to it."

NY Attorney General James Provides Guidance to New**Yorkers Following Expiration of Eviction Moratorium**

New York Attorney General Letitia James issued guidance to remind New Yorkers of the various rights and protections for residents following the expiration of New York's eviction moratorium on January 15, 2022. Though landlords are now able to start new eviction cases, proceed with existing cases, and issue eviction warrants against some tenants, New Yorkers still have some protections under state laws and access to rental assistance programs to help keep them from losing their homes as the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues.

"As New Yorkers continue to struggle with the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic, it is imperative that individuals are aware of their rights so they aren't left out in the cold," said Attorney General James. "Although our state's eviction moratorium may have ended, the guidance we are issuing today highlights the various measures that are still in place for New Yorkers to prevent eviction and stay in their homes. My office remains committed to protecting New Yorkers, and we will continue to do everything we can to ensure the safety and wellbeing of New York residents."

New York state's eviction moratorium previously stopped landlords from filing new eviction cases and proceeding with pending cases through January 15, 2022 for tenants who signed a hardship declaration. While the moratorium has elapsed, New York state residents can still apply to have their rent arrears paid by the state under the Emergency Rental Assistance Program (ERAP). Residents of Rochester and Monroe County, Yonkers, Onondaga County, and the towns of Hempstead, Islip, and Oyster Bay, must apply for emergency rental assistance through their local programs. For more information, including where to file an online application and to find out where funds are still available, New Yorkers are encouraged to visit ERAP's website.

In her continued efforts to protect New Yorkers and their rights, Attorney General James highlights the following information regarding New York's eviction protections as of January 16, 2022:

There is no automatic stay of eviction effective under New York state law at this time. Tenants whose cases were stayed because they had filed a hardship declaration should check with the court to find out the status.

New eviction cases can be filed without the landlord being required to provide the tenant a state hardship declaration form. Eviction cases that were previously stayed when tenants filed a New York state hardship declaration form can now proceed in court, unless an ERAP application is still pending.

Eviction proceedings where a petitioner-landlord or respondent-tenant has applied for rent arrears assistance under ERAP will be stayed until a final determination is made on their application by the New York Office of Temporary and Disability Assistance. Landlords who have received emergency rental assistance on behalf of a respondent-tenant must submit notice to the court where the eviction proceeding is pending.

Landlords may not charge late fees for rent that was due from March 20, 2020 through June 24, 2021 and may not seek these fees in an eviction proceeding.

Attorney General James also highlights other tenant protections under New York law, including: Landlords must serve written late notices and a 14-day written rent demand before starting any nonpayment eviction case in court. Landlords must also serve notice and bring a court proceeding against tenants whose leases or rental agreements have expired (without a right to renewal).

If a tenant pays the full amount in rent before the hearing date on the non-payment petition, the landlord must accept payment and the proceeding must be dismissed. Courts have the discretion, for good cause, to stay or vacate a warrant, stay re-letting or renovation of a premise for a reasonable period of time, and restore tenants to possession. Courts also have the discretion to grant an occupant a stay of up to one year by taking into consideration factors such as serious illnesses and extenuating life circumstances.

It is illegal for landlords to harass or force tenants into vacating their apartments by denying or interrupting essential services or taking other actions interfering with the use of their dwelling. This conduct may constitute illegal eviction under law. Visit <https://ag.ny.gov/coronavirus/tenants-rights> for more information.

Yonkers History continued from pg 5-

Saturday, February 5th

February 5, 1945: PFC Peter Schur sent a telegram to sister Mary Surs from San Francisco saying he was on his way home, and would be back in Yonkers in a few days. Schur, listed as missing since Corregidor fell in 1942, was the first Yonkers soldier to return since the recapture of the Philippines. Mary, who lived on Kneeland Avenue, had not received word from the government during that time about his status.

February 5, 1945: USNR Lieutenant Darwin Day of Allison Avenue returned home; He had flown more than 100 combat missions, logging 1300 hours of combat flying. Home on a 30-day leave, he had been in the South Pacific piloting a USNR Black Cat.

A part of the famous 7th Fleet Sea-Air Rescue Squadron in the Philippines, his most notable rescue was locating 26 crewmen from a torpedoed Navy destroyer broken in half by a Japanese aerial torpedo. He also had the distinction of removing a bullet from a Filipino guerilla using his Boy Scout knife while under air attack!

Sunday, February 6th

February 6, 1910: Nearly one thousand men joined the Laymen's Missionary Movement at a meeting in Philipsburgh Hall. Dr. William Schieffelin, chairman of the New York Cooperating Committee addressed the opening of Yonkers' chapter of the national movement.

February 6, 1945: Second Lieutenant August Rabe of Hillside Drive received the Air Medal for meritorious achievement in aerial flight over enemy-occupied Europe. Rabe, a P-51 Mustang fighter pilot, previously was a partner of Westchester Private Flyer. A graduate of Yonkers HS, he enlisted in the Royal Canadian Air Force May 1941, and transferred to the US Army Air Force about a year later. He flew with the Fourth Fighter Group of the Eighth Air Force, and had 69 missions over Germany before he was taken a prisoner of war. He was strafing a fuel truck when it blew up, parts crashing into his plane. He lost 40 pounds during his Nazi imprisonment, and said, "If it hadn't been for the International Red Cross, we probably wouldn't have survived."

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 yhsociety@aol.com.

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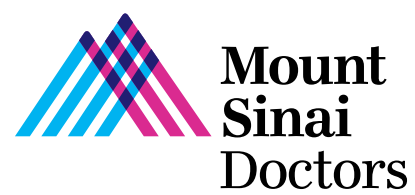
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