

Go Lady Eagles!

**YMA Defeats Blind Brook 63-37 in Class B Semifinals:
Finals Next for the Gold Globe at the County Center Sunday**



YMA Junior Point Guard Liliana Toro See Story on Page 2

The Countdown to Yonkers St. Pat's Parade Has Begun!



Aides to Grand Marshal Jennifer Murphy Oelkers, left and Sheila Halligan

See Story on Page 11

Westchester Filmmaker Movie Highlights an American Tragedy: Homeless Veterans



Moive Poster for The Veteran, left by Filmmaker Wilfred La Salle, right

See Story on Page 5

Yonkers Public Schools Face \$101 Million Budget Gap for 2026-2027

Mayor & Superintendent Head to Albany



Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano and Superintendent of Schools Anibal Soler, Jr. head to Albany tomorrow to meet with State representatives and New York State's Division of Budget to advocate for additional funding to help close a \$101 million budget gap for 2026-2027. Driven by a structural gap created by an outdated Foundation Aid Formula used to calculate funding for New York school districts and rising special education and health care costs, Yonkers Public Schools face drastic cuts in programs and services for the next school year.

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Joyous Festival of Purim at Chabad of Yonkers



See Story on Page 4

Actor Lilo Brancato Talks About Addiction, Recovery & Growing Up in Yonkers



Lilo Brancato

By Dan Murphy

Many readers remember Lilo Brancato as Calogero in Robert De Niro's 1993 film, *A Bronx Tale*, and as Matthew Bevilaqua, a young mobster, in *The Sopranos*.

Raised in Yonkers, Lilo has experienced many ups and downs since his breakout role over 30 years ago, including struggles with addiction, arrest, and jail time.

Lilo has been sober for years and now shares his story to help others battling addiction.

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Spring 2026 Hudson Valley Restaurant Week Underway: \$24.95- \$44.95 Lunches & Dinners



As spring unfolds across the Hudson Valley, Westchester restaurants are welcoming guests for the Spring 2026 Hudson Valley Restaurant Week that will run from March 2–15. To mark the start of two weeks’ worth of unique dining offers and deals, Westchester County hosted a culinary kick-off event at Zwilling Cooking Studio in Pleasantville, NY — bringing together chefs, hospitality leaders, media and community partners to celebrate one of the region’s signature dining events.

The kickoff showcased the creativity and diversity of Westchester’s dining scene with live cooking demonstrations alongside chefs from the Zwilling Cooking Studio and featuring three of this year’s participating restaurants and their signature dishes: Freddy’s Restaurant (Pleasantville), Red Horse by David Burke (White Plains) and Dubrovnik Restaurant (New Rochelle). Hudson Valley Restaurant Week is one of Westchester’s most impactful seasonal tourism initiatives. With visitor spend reaching \$2.4 billion in 2024 — including \$876 million in food and beverage sales, which was a 12% increase year over year — Restaurant Week continues to play a key role in driving visitation and supporting the local economy.

The Spring 2026 Hudson Valley Restaurant Week will feature 51 participating restaurants, offering specially priced prix-fixe lunch and dinner menus that encourage residents and visitors to explore new establishments while supporting local favorites.

Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins said: “Hudson Valley Restaurant Week highlights the extraordinary talent of our chefs and the strength of our hospitality community. Events like this not only showcase Westchester as a premier culinary destination, they generate real economic activity for our restaurants, small businesses and workforce. I encourage everyone to take advantage of Restaurant Week and experience the remarkable flavors found throughout our County.”

Westchester County Tourism & Film Director Natasha Caputo said: “Travel and tourism continue to be a powerful economic engine for Westchester. Restaurant Week helps drive that momentum by increasing visitation, supporting local businesses and encouraging discovery. The spring kickoff demonstrated the creativity and energy that make Westchester a premier culinary destination.”

Hudson Valley Magazine Associate Publisher Lauren Buerger said: “This kickoff party was a taste of what makes Hudson Valley Restaurant Week so special. From talented chefs to incredible food, and a strong sense of community. It’s the perfect way to launch two weeks dedicated to exploring and supporting our local restaurant scene.”

Hudson Valley Restaurant Week continues to serve as both a celebration of local cuisine and a strategic tourism initiative. With many participating restaurants located near Metro-North stations, visitors can seamlessly combine dining with shopping, arts, and cultural attractions, or an overnight stay at one of Westchester’s many hotels. At all locations, diners can savor fresh, delicious fare with prix-fixe lunches and dinners priced at \$24.95, \$29.95, \$39.95, or \$44.95 (tax, beverages, and gratuity not included).

For more information about Hudson Valley Restaurant Week, visit: hvmag.com/events/restaurant-week.

Yonkers Idol Auditions in March 7

Yonkers Idol
 Mayor Mike Spano
 the City of Yonkers, Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation
 and Untermyer Performing Arts Council
 presents the
18TH ANNUAL Yonkers Idol Search
 A free and exciting three round city-wide singing competition.
 Yonkers Junior Idol Search (ages 10-14)
 Yonkers Idol Search (ages 15-19)
REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN!
 Register at register.capturepoint.com/yonkers

General information:

- This is a competition for Yonkers Residents Only - PROOF OF AGE AND ADDRESS REQUIRED.
- Winner is awarded the title for a year and participation in a variety of city-wide events and programs.
- Audition Date: March 7, 2026 at 9am @ Yonkers Montessori Academy.**
- Final Showcase: **June 13, 2026**
- JUNIOR IDOL contestants must be at least 10 years of age & not have reached their 15th birthday by 1/1/26
- IDOL contestants must be at least 15 years of age & not having reached their 20th birthday by 1/1/26.

CALL FOR FURTHER INFORMATION 914.377.6450
 PLEASE DO NOT ENTER THE FACILITY WITHOUT CHECKING IN AND PROVIDING DOCUMENTS TO PARKS STAFF.



Go Lady Eagles!

YMA Defeats Blind Brook 63-37 in Class B Semifinals: Finals for the Gold Globe at the County Center Sunday

In a Defensive Masterpiece, the Yonkers Montessori Academy Lady Eagles Basketball team shut down Blind Brook High school in the Class B quarterfinals at the County Center in White Plains on March 3, 63-37, in the Section One Class B Girls Semifinals.

YMA, (19-3), took control early in the match, stretching their lead to 27-points by the third quarter. The Eagles' strong performance included a pivotal 9-0 run sparked by Arselia Mustafaj's three-pointer.

Emilee Doherty led the YMA Lady Eagles with 21 points. "I think we really came out today on defense. We had a lot of energy and shared the ball really well. We focused in practice all week on defense and it showed. We are locked in for the finals and everyone is going to kick it up to another level," said Doherty who was interviewed after the game by Gameday One on Instagram https://www.instagram.com/gameday_one/reels/

Any message to the YMA fans from Yonkers and beyond? "Come out and support us and hopefully we will bring the Gold ball home."

Arsela Mustafaj scored 14 points and Toro and Anisa Mustafaj each added 10 points. Grace Gleeson scored six.

Next up in the Class B Finals for YMA are their rivals, Hamilton High School, (20-2). The two teams have already played each other twice, with YMA winning the first game, 53-42 on Jan. 7, but Hamilton won the next game, 58-48. Several YMA players were sick with the flu for that game.

The championship game will be on Sunday, March 8 at 5pm at the Westchester County Center.

For the YMA Lady Eagles, this is a chance to make history and become one of the truly great high school sports teams in Yonkers history. They were Class B champs last year and are looking to repeat.

YMA Coach Ellie Moise said, "We want to win another so bad. We want it for this city, and to show that last year wasn't a fluke."

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On This Day in Yonkers History...



*Allan L. Benson
1916 Socialist Candidate
for President, from Yonkers
got 3.5% of the vote*

By Mary Hoar, City of Yonkers Municipal Historian, recipient of the Key to the City of Yonkers, President Emeritus Yonkers Historical Society, recipient of the 2004 Key to History, Yonkers Landmarks Preservation Board Member, Founder of Revolutionary Yonkers 250 and President Untermeyer Performing Arts Council

Monday, March 9th

March 9, 1906: Mayor Nathan Warren urged the Common Council to build a Yonkers swimming pool, stating the Hudson River was “not fit to swim in.”

March 9, 1945: Following Yonkers Legal Department advice, School Superintendent William Ankenbrand refused to honor the Supreme Court injunction ordering Hazel Holmes to be reinstated as a telephone operator. Her attorney Thomas Sullivan sent a letter to the Board of Education notifying them refusal was a “willful disobedience and a contumacious disregard of a mandate of the court.” Another woman had replaced Holmes May 1, 1943.

Tuesday, March 10th

March 10, 1888: The first passenger train of the Yonkers branch of the New York and Northern Railroad ran from Manhattan into Getty Square.

March 10, 1925: Acting City Judge Gorfinkel notified school authorities young high school girls were smoking and loitering in City Hall Park during school hours.

March 10, 1938: Mrs. Arthur Flegenheimer, Dutch Schultz’s widow, asked the NY Supreme Court to allow her legal team to perform pre-trial examinations of the twelve Yonkers Colonial Brewery employees. She hurled new charges at Thomas Brogan, claiming he accepted \$2500 weekly “protection payments” during Prohibition.

Wednesday, March 11th

March 11, 1888: One of the worst recorded blizzards in the history of the country descended upon Yonkers and much of the nation. Not only did it tie up traffic, it paralyzed the east coast from Chesapeake Bay to Maine, with recorded snowfalls from 20 to 60 inches. Sustained winds created snowdrifts beyond belief, sometimes covering entire houses.

March 11, 1932: Sixty ex-servicemen stormed City Hall to renew their unsuccessful and unheard objections to Mayor Loehr, protesting firing of war veterans from city employ. Percy Williams, commander of the Spanish-American War Veterans and leader of the delegation, charged Mayoral Secretary Benedict Shea refused to allow the men to see Loehr to lodge their objections.

Thursday, March 12th

March 12, 1930: Gray Place’s Robert Snody wrote and directed the new film just completed at RCA Gramercy Studio! “The Love Kiss” storyline centered around a wager two teens made about which one would kiss their handsome teacher first. Snody worked in NY studios as a director, editor and production manager.

continued on pg 11-

State Senator Shelley Mayer Endorses Frank Jereis for Assembly

SENATOR SHELLEY MAYER Strongly Endorses

“FRANK JEREIS IS SMART, TOUGH, INCREDIBLY HARD-WORKING AND KNOWS HOW ALBANY WORKS. BEST OF ALL, HE REALLY KNOWS YONKERS. THAT’S WHY I’M ENDORSING HIM FOR NYS ASSEMBLY FOR THE 90TH AD.”

-STATE SENATOR SHELLEY MAYER

FRANK JEREIS
for NYS Assembly

New York State Senator Shelley Mayer strongly endorses Frank Jereis for Assembly District 90

Senator Shelley Mayer stated, “Frank Jereis is smart, tough, incredibly hard-working and knows how Albany works. Best of all, he really knows Yonkers. That’s why I’m endorsing him for NYS Assembly for the 90th AD.”

Frank Jereis stated, “I am proud to have the support of Senator Shelley Mayer, who previously represented this very Assembly District. As the next State Assemblymember representing the City of Yonkers, I look forward to working closely with Senator Mayer on everything from addressing outrageous utility costs to securing more aid for Yonkers Public Schools.”

**CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 5:10 pm, Mayor’s Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

LOCAL LAW AMENDING CHAPTER 43 OF THE CODE OF THE CITY OF YONKERS TITLED "ZONING" BY AMENDING ARTICLE XV IN RELATION TO AFFORDABLE HOUSING

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

MIKE SPANO
Mayor
Date: March 3, 2026

First Precinct Community Council

1st Precinct Community Council Meeting will be held on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 7 PM at the 1st Precinct, 730 E. Grassy Sprain Road, Yonkers, NY 10710. The guest speakers will be Members of the Intelligence Unit of the Yonkers Police Dept. All are welcome to attend.

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Joyous Festival of Purim at Chabad of Yonkers

By Robert Kalfus

This year's Purim festival at Chabad of Yonkers saw people dressed in an Italian Bakers' theme, most wearing bakers' aprons and wearing tall "toque blanche" (white baker's hats) with music, dancing, singing, and a delicious kosher dinner of various chicken items, frankfurters, spaghetti, and which included plentiful three cornered cookies known as hamentaschen, filled with poppy, prune, apricot, or other fruits.

More than two thousand years ago, Persia, having defeated the Babylonian empire and now ruling the largest empire at that time spreading from India to Ethiopia, King Achashverosh's concern was now how reward the princes, governors, and subordinates of the 127 far-flung provinces and to ensure their loyalty. The King threw a 180 day party in his new capitol of Shushan with unlimited drinking, food, and more where he could display his unlimited wealth and splendor to the thousands whom he invited. King Aschashverosh demanded that his Queen Vashti appear before all his assembled princes and governors wearing nothing except her crown, immodestly displaying her beauty. Vashti's refusal to appear so angered the King that he ordered her removal and the search for a new virgin to replace her. Esther, a niece of Mordechai, was chosen but Mordechai advised her not to reveal her origins.

Yet his viceroy, the wicked Haman, had an irrational resentment and hatred not only of Mordechai, but all of the Jewish people, and conspired to kill, murder, and annihilate in one day all of the Jewish men, women and children living throughout the Persian Empire's 127 provinces. At the correct time, Esther asked the Jewish people to fast for three days and at the appropriate time she then risked her life to appeal to the King to annul the evil decree granted by the King to Haman, thus saving the Jewish people all throughout Persia.

The joyous Purim holiday annually commemorates the Jewish people's victory and salvation from the plot of the wicked Haman, who with King Achashverosh's permission was instead hung from the gallows he had erected to murder our savior Mordechai.

The present day state of Iran, which continues to persecute and murder its own population and seeks to annihilate Israel and its Jews, draws its roots back to Persia.

After an all day from sunrise to sunset fast on Monday, March 2, Purim this year started after sunset, and continued through Tuesday, March 3. On both Monday night and Tuesday, people listened attentively to the public reading of the Megillah, a handwritten scroll from which the Book of Esther is read aloud, recounting the entire Purim chronology. People dress in costumes, both disguising and revealing our true selves and intentions.

Chabad of Yonkers Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz welcomed all to the Purim party, as "it is the most joyous day on the Jewish calendar! We celebrate the day with celebration, saying we look forward to Purim with gifts of food, charity, reading the book of Esther, dressing in masquerade and festive celebrations."

Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, and New York State Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins, visited the Purim festivities, as well as candidates for NY State elected office Frank Jereis, and Brandon Neider.

An Olive Branch Grows in the Yonkers GOP



L-R-Dan D'Amico, John Issac, Bebe Ahmed, Westchester GOP Chair Doug Colety, Anthony Merante, Brandon Neider, Edwina Herrera

By Ron Matten

The Westchester County Republicans held their nominating Convention on Sunday, February 22. The upstairs banquet hall at Westchester Manor was filled with a sense of urgency. Not because of any contentious wranglings, but because Westchester was hours away from the Blizard of 2026.

Doug Colety the longstanding County Chair and Republican Board of Elections Commissioner took decisive control of the meeting, which presented few surprises. For decades, Republican conventions have been scripted. Candidates declared well before the convention and local political committees have had a chance to meet the announced candidates to interview them. Executive committees are granted all the power of selection by way of the much-maligned proxy process. Rarely have there been any dark horse candidates and this Sunday was no exception.

The Yonkers slate had declared early in January:

- Anthony Merante for Senate District 35
- John Issac For Assembly District 90
- Brandon Neider for Assembly District 89
- Dan D'Amico for County Legislature District 16
- James Nolan for Re-election to County Legislative District 15
- Bebe Ahmed for County Legislative District 14

Khristen Kerr from Greenburgh who had run for Senate District 35 had also declared her intention to challenge Merante for the party endorsement. Ms. Kerr ran for SD 35 two times before but never received more than 35% of the vote. On the second round, Ms. Kerr's percentage dipped below 34%.

The only contest of the afternoon was Kerr versus Merante. At the end of the floor vote, Merante won handily with overwhelming support of the Yonkers delegation. Mr. Merante had over 22 thousand votes to Ms. Kerr's five thousand and change. At the time of printing, it appears that Khristen Kerr will be attempting to primary Anthony Merante the Republican endorsed candidate.

It was one year ago that the Yonkers City Committee was at odds with former Councilman Merante and his League of the Aggrieved. During his interview process Merante challenged the Committee to endorse his slate as a first step in unity. The Yonkers Republican City Committee extended the olive branch by overwhelmingly endorsing the slate.

While Sunday's convention was generally good news for republicans, the election season will be long and at times contentious. Time will tell if the Republican Party of Yonkers is on the mend.

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Read it all Online at Yonkerstimes.com

Westchester DA Charges Nursing Home Employee with Rape of Dementia Patient “No Javier I Can’t Forgive You”

Barragan got off the bed, buttoned his pants and dropped to his knees, pleading for her not to report him and beseeching “please I’ll do anything you want.”

Westchester County District Attorney Susan Cacace announced today that a housekeeper at the Yorktown Rehabilitation and Nursing Center was arrested and charged with multiple felonies for allegedly raping a resident with severe dementia at the facility.

Javier E. Barragan, 48, of Yorktown, was arraigned over the weekend in Yorktown Justice Court on Rape in the Second Degree, a class D felony, and Endangering the Welfare of an Incompetent* or Physically Disabled Person in the First Degree, a class E felony.

Justice Gary J. Raniolo set bail at \$100,000 cash/\$250,000 bond/\$750,000 partially secured bond. Barragan is due back in court on March 10.

DA Cacace said: “The defendant is accused of taking advantage of an individual with dementia so severe she was incapable of consenting to his conduct. My heart breaks for the victim and what she suffered through. I am so proud of the nursing assistant in this case, whose interventions spared the victim further trauma and helped bring the defendant to justice. She has our entire community’s thanks and gratitude.”

According to a supporting deposition from a nursing assistant that was filed with the court, on Feb. 21, at approximately 7:00 a.m., the nursing assistant was making her final rounds when she approached a room where the door had been left open and the bed privacy curtains had been drawn. When she began to enter the room, she noticed moaning and/or grunting sounds, she said.

After pulling back the privacy curtains, she witnessed the defendant, a housekeeping employee, on the bed with a patient. The defendant was “actively engaging in sexual intercourse with her,” according to her deposition.

The patient has dementia so severe that she is incapable of consenting to sexual contact.

The case was investigated by the Yorktown Police Department.

The case is being prosecuted by Child and Elder Abuse Bureau Chief Owein Levin

LoHud.com reports that a nursing assistant walked in on Barragan with his pants down on top of the woman. He pleaded with the nursing assistant not to turn him in, “please I’ll do anything you want.”

Her answer was ‘No Javier, I can’t forgive you.’ <https://www.lohud.com/story/news/crime/2026/02/26/yorktown-ny-rehabilitation-and-nursing-center-employee-caught-coworker-having-sex-with-resident/88883756007/>

Westchester Filmmaker Wilfred La Salle’s Movies Make Sure Ordinary, Working People Are Not Forgotten

Latest Film, The Veteran, Highlights Homelessness

By Dan Murphy

Our readers may have watched one of Westchester Independent filmmaker Wilfred La Salle’s movies without knowing it. La Salle has several of his creations on Amazon Prime, Tubo and other streaming services.

La Salle’s films have an authentic grit that keeps you interested. “I’m driven to tell stories about ordinary working people. You don’t have to have graduated from Harvard for your story to be important.”

His latest film, The Veteran, tells the story that many of us tend to ignore: the plight of the homeless veteran. The central character in The Veteran is U.S. Marine Jose Torres, who served in Iraq after 9/11. An injury leads him to Opioids, and after a family tragedy, Torres’ life spirals out of control and into homelessness. His life is spent in parks, train stations, and on the streets.

A Fleetwood resident who lived in Yonkers for a few years, La Salle filmed The Security Guard primarily in Mount Vernon, but often returns to Yonkers to film. “Yonkers has always been my home base for my productions, and I have met with Mayor Spano about partnering with Lionsgate and the Yonkers Film & Creative Partnership Committee.

A former corrections officer who also worked in security, La Salle, 40, has a method for creating a new film every year, and his ability to produce high-quality films across different genres, unheard of in any industry, has solidified his reputation as a revolutionary force in filmmaking.

“The Veteran marks my seventh film in seven years, and I truly believe what I’ve built has helped revolutionize independent filmmaking locally. I do this with no budget, no sponsors, and no investors.”

Using local actors and locations, La Salle Productions Inc is able to create full-length movies on a nonexistent budget.

Some of his movies you can stream include:

The Security Guard follows the journey of Omari Rusell, who works as a safety officer at her daughter’s school when gunfire breaks out. The film addresses the issue of gun control from divergent viewpoints. “Omar is the underdog,” said La Salle. Available on Amazon Prime Video and Apple TV.

Graves, 2022- Police Officer, Mark Brody, embarks on a journey to bring criminals to justice, while Michael Laforte is the hard-drinking, ruthless criminal mastermind who doesn’t play by the rules. Available on Tubi and Stash Movies.

Hilo II- Is about corrupt police officers fighting a new gang and won Best Debut Director at Italy’s Vesuvius International Film Festival and Best Film at the Madras International Film Festival. Hilo II (or Hilo 2) is part of a trilogy that began as short films before La Salle transitioned to feature-length projects like Graves and The Security Guard. This can also be found on Amazon Prime, Tubi, and YouTube.

La Salle recently secured a two-year distribution deal with Fox Soul and is now in talks with NBC to have The Security Guard featured on Peacock.

The Veteran will premiere in a private Red-Carpet event on March 12 at LOOK Dine-in Cinema in Dobbs Ferry.

Readers interested in watching The Veteran can find it on Fox Soul next month, and possibly on other platforms.

La Salle shot a lot of The Veteran in the Kingsbridge neighborhood in the Bronx, and he wants those who see it to think about and help raise awareness of some of our struggling Vets. “Veterans serve the country and then come home to another war. A soldier without stability becomes another statistic.”

There are no politics in La Salle’s movies. “The world is already divided,” he said. “I want to bring people together.”

La Salle has made numerous TV news appearances and has had local media coverage in the Bronx, all of which can be found on his website, /www.lasalleproductions.com/

What La Salle waits for is for one film to break out and get him the financial support and attention from the studios. Until then, enjoy his seven movies, including The Veteran, next month.

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Westchester BOL Celebrates Irish American Heritage Month



Legislator David Tubiolo, Sandra Feeny-Charles, BOL Chair Vedat Gashi



Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels, Pauline Galvin, BOL Chair Vedat Gashi

The Westchester County Board of Legislators marked Irish American Heritage Month on Monday evening with a ceremony honoring two remarkable change-makers: Sandra Feeny-Charles, Executive Director of the Aisling Center in Yonkers and an inspirational humanitarian who worked with the international organization Concern Worldwide, and Pauline M. Galvin, Chairwoman of the Yonkers Planning Board and a driving force behind the Untermyer Performing Arts Council, Richmond Community Services, and the McLean Avenue Merchants Association.

Chairman Vedat Gashi (D–New Castle, Ossining, Somers, Yorktown), who convened the ceremony and welcomed guests, said, “We’re proud to honor two extraordinary women whose Irish heritage and decades of dedication to community embody the very best of the Irish American tradition. Sandra Feeny-Charles and Pauline Galvin represent the work ethic and compassion that have driven Irish Americans to help build Westchester into the vibrant place it is today.

Legislator David J. Tubiolo (D–Yonkers, Mount Vernon) said, “I am delighted to have the opportunity to honor my good friend Sandra Feeny-Charles, Executive Director of Aisling Center. The Aisling Center has been a centripetal force at the heart of McLean Avenue, also known as ‘The Emerald Mile,’ and that is thanks to the dedication and hard work of Sandra and her entire team. As the legislator for District 14, it has been my privilege to work with Sandra over the years as she has helped organize toy drives, food drives, free luncheons and meal delivery programs for our seniors, assistance with navigating social programs, and so much more. Congratulations to Sandra for being our honoree for Irish American Heritage Month here at the Westchester County Board of Legislators, and we thank her for all that she does for our community.”

Legislator Tyrae Woodson-Samuels (D–Mount Vernon) said, “I chose Pauline Galvin as my Irish Heritage Month honoree because she embodies the spirit of service, resilience, and community leadership that defines both Irish heritage and the best of Westchester. Her commitment to lifting others and strengthening our community has made a lasting impact that is deserving of this recognition.”

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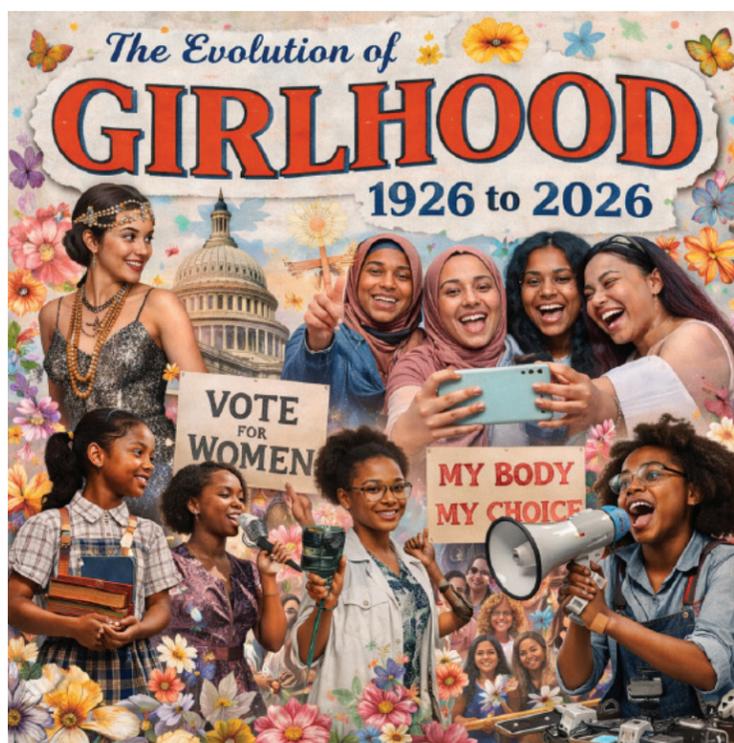
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The Evolution of Girlhood: From 1926 to 2026



In 1926, girlhood was defined by expectation. In 2026, it is defined by negotiation.

A century ago, most girls in America were raised the same way. Education for girls was expanding, but college remained out of reach for most, especially Black girls in the South and working-class girls across the country. The right to vote had only recently been secured through the Nineteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, and while there was progress, political power did not immediately translate into social equality. For many, being an innocent girl ended pretty quickly. Marriage, domestic labor, factory work, and caregiving made girls grow up fast.

But even in 1926, girlhood was shifting. The “flappers” were taking folks by storm. Young women cut their hair, shortened their hemlines, and claimed public space in ways that unsettled older generations. In Harlem, the cultural awakening of the Harlem Renaissance showcased writers, performers, and thinkers who challenged the nation’s racial and gender hierarchies.

Fast forward to 2026, and girlhood is different. Girls grow up online as much as they do offline. Identity is partially created in digital spaces. A teenage girl can build a life from her phone, have thousands or millions of followers on social media, and publicly articulate her gender and sexuality in ways that may have seemed unimaginable a century ago. With that, she might experience unrealistic beauty standards driven by an algorithm. She might also have to hear political debates over her body — from men.

Education isn’t a dream— it’s almost an expectation. Girls outperform boys on many academic measures and lead student governments, robotics teams, and protest movements. Young activists — from climate organizers to gun-violence advocates — have reshaped civic engagement. They are not waiting to “grow up” to claim influence. They are asserting it in real time.

Still, a lot of things are separate and not equal. Black girls are disproportionately disciplined in schools. Sometimes they are seen as disruptive. And let’s not even talk about the higher rates of poverty and systemic barriers. Globally, access to education and safety remains uneven. The promise of progress has never been evenly distributed.

The craziest change in 100 years may not be legal or technological. It might be philosophical. In 1926, girlhood was something society defined for girls. In 2026, girlhood is increasingly something girls define for themselves.

Girls, cis women, and trans women are athletes and coders, caretakers and critics, tradition-keepers and disruptors. They inherit a century of struggle — and possibility. And they carry the torch.

Dennis Richmond, Jr. (@NewYorkStakz) is a journalist, historian, and educator from Yonkers, NY. He writes to uplift unheard voices, honor history, and inspire change.

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UPAC & American Irish Association of Westchester Present Ira Goldman Memorial Concert

Free Concert at the Will Library -March 15



Untermeyer Performing Arts Council & American Irish Association of Westchester
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Ira Goldman Memorial Concert



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Sunday, March 15, 2026 at 1 PM

Will Library
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This concert is free and open to the public.

This program is done in cooperation with Mayor Mike Spano, ArtsWestchester with support from County Executive Ken Jenkins, Westchester County Government, the City of Yonkers, Senator Andrea Stewart Cousins, Assemblymember Nader Sayegh, Empire City Casino and our loyal arts patrons.



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March 14

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Lilo Brancato, continued from pg 1-

He recently spoke to SJRH about his journey from Hollywood stardom, through addiction, to sobriety—and how sharing his story supports others in recovery.

Lilo recently sat down with Denise Mananas, Associate Vice President for External Affairs from St. John's Riverside Hospital, for an episode of Riverside Reflections.

Q-Thanks for being here

A-Well, you know, I'm from Yonkers. I wasn't born here, but I was raised here. I was born in Bogota, Colombia, and I was adopted when I was four months old by Italians. My parents met in South Yonkers. It was like an Italian enclave.

My whole life, I went to school in Yonkers. I started at Sacred Heart, but just after I finished the 10th grade, I got thrown out. And then I got thrown out of Westlake High School up in Thornwood for using a fake address. So, my mother said, just go to Roosevelt; my paisan is over there. So, between all the throw-outs and the days looking for a new school, I went to school for 30 days that whole year.

So it was like May, and I'm in Roosevelt. And I remember I was walking down the hallway with a teacher. And I wanted to get out of going to school for the rest of the year. So, I told him, "Hey, you know, like, maybe I missed so many days." Is this year even going to count? Shouldn't I just come back in September, and we'll start all over? You know what he told me? I'll never forget this in my life. He said, you know why Mussolini made the buses run? And I said, no. Why? He goes because he was the boss. Like I'm the boss here. He said, You come to school, and you'll pass. And I passed 11th grade.

So now, over that summer vacation, I started drinking. I was sleeping in my friend's car.

I was a bad kid, a very bad guy in school. And then I remember it was the day after the 4th of July 1992. I heard about the Bronx Tale, and I heard a lot of kids were reading for it. But you think it's, like, such a long shot. This is not going to happen to you to be in this movie. It's not like it's a little part where it's like, oh, we got two scenes in a movie, but then this is the movie. You are the movie; you narrate it.

Q-So, what was that experience like once you got it?

A-Well, they found me on the beach. We went to the beach on July 5th. My brother called me out of the water because the guy was handing out flyers. My brother said, wait till you see my brother. He looks just like DeNiro. Then I went to audition, and then I got called down to Manhattan. And then I kept getting calls, callbacks. Once I met De Niro, it started to feel more real.

Q-But it had never really occurred to you to be an actor before?

A-I saw a psychiatrist when I was a kid because I was bad, and the school recommended it. I used to ride my bike to this Doctor. He was on Mile Square Road, literally right up the street. He did say you would be good in the dramatic arts. And when I got the part, he said I told you you'd be a good actor.

Q-So, you grew up in Yonkers, and you got into that movie? It was after the movie that you kind of got yourself into a little trouble.

A-Yeah, well, then I started smoking weed, and then it went from that to the next thing.

Q-What was the next thing?

A-I was a crack addict, then a heroin addict. I was spending almost \$1,000 a day at this point.

I did a scene in The Sopranos with Furio. When he comes in, I'm in my underwear. I was high on dope from the night before. That was around the time I lost my cousin. Her name was Dina. She was 21 years old. She died of brain cancer. She suffered for many years.

I was taking pills at the time, and the pills were becoming so big that the government started cracking down on them, and it made it harder for you to get on the street. So, what does that leave you then? It leaves you heroin. Then you go to that, and then, you know, you're snorting 15, 20 bags a day. Then you realize I'm spending \$2,200 a day, and somebody says, "Hey, well, if you put it in your arm, it will only be \$40." But I never went that way because I had money. But that wasn't my rock bottom.

Q-You've given us quite a story. What was that turning point for you? What happened that made that click in your brain?

A-I got in trouble on December 10th, 2005. So, all of 2006, I was in Rikers Island. I was in NIC, which is North Infirmery Command, because I got shot three times.

Q-And that was not your low point.

A-No, it wasn't.

Q-Interesting.

A-Because if anything, I was in pain. So, I wanted more pain medication because I was an addict, a junkie, and because I was in real pain, I was craving those. After the North Infirmery Command, which is a hospital, they moved me over to the main building.

But I was still getting drugs there. I was getting morphine and OxyContin. I was getting, you know, everything at jail. And my mom would send money orders. But she didn't know it was for drugs. She thought it was for cigarettes. I had another kid in the next cell block. He was a blood, and he was getting heroin straight from New York, you know, bundles. The mailman was letting it in. He got arrested right out in the parking lot. We saw the whole thing. It was on Eyewitness News.

So, November 12th, 2006. I took 4 bags of heroin, and I'm smoking a cigarette in the TV room, and next thing you know, I felt like I wanted to swallow my tongue. I was overdosing, I overdosed, I had to literally hold my tongue and run to my cell and lie down.

Q: Was that the low point?

A-No, because I still liked how powerful these drugs are. They taped my cell off with yellow tape. It was a crime scene. New York City detectives came and interrogated me because they wanted to know... Where are you getting this? You're a high-profile guy. How does this come in here?

After I overdosed, they gave me a urinalysis. They found out, and then I

went to the box. But before I went to the box, I was still getting high because the kid had it, and we were still doing it. Just to show you the strength of the addiction, how powerful it is. That's my point.

Q-Yeah. That's very interesting. So, let's go to the low point.

A-Well, the low point is after I overdose, I'm doing it, doing it, doing it, doing it, doing it, doing it. And then I go to the box. And then my cousin Pat, who became a lawyer, came to see me. He knew that I was in there for overdosing, and he was very disappointed. Like, you know, you got all this. All of us here. We love you. We want to see you beat this.

And for some reason, that day it just clicked, and after that, I never had the desire to get high again. It was like a modern-day miracle. I wanted to show the world I can do this. It's just about your mindset; that's everything.

Q-All right, so now you're in jail, and you had that moment, and you kind of got clarity. How did you follow that up? Because I know you accessed care through one of our programs, our New Focus Center. Tell me about that process.

A-Well, when I first came home on parole, I had to attend a drug program. I think it was a 90-day program. It was definitely necessary for me for the transition, right? And it kept me in check for a few months, and I just learned how to, you know, walk around outside without doing anything stupid.

But I could see it was like a symbiosis, a mutually beneficial relationship that we had altogether because it's like, this is the city that I grew up in, and I lived in. Right. And a lot of these people there went to jail with me. They sold me drugs. We did drugs together.

So now everything is full circle. And I see a lot of people that I know from the street. But now you're in a position to actually help them because now you came home from jail, like people know what you went through, but now they see you're sober and stuff like that, and just me helping other people and seeing all the people that did need help and how helpful I could be to them just based on me being in movies and stuff like that. I don't think I'm better than anyone because of it, but some people, because you were in those situations, maybe will tend to listen to you a little bit more.

Q-You've had great success.

A-Right? This is a pretty cool thing I can actually help people with, because by doing that, I'm helping myself. I'm telling you to do the right thing. You don't need this. Come on, man, you know what I mean? So now you told that person that. So that person's hanging on your every word and listening to you for guidance, for courage. You can't go do that and be bad now, because he's going to say he was just telling me, and then they're going to fall off the deep end.

Q-So, when you were in treatment for 90 days, what was it about the conversation and the daily habit of that, that that really worked for you? Did it set your life on a different kind of trajectory that you were able to then sort of navigate going out into the real world?

A-When you're in prison, you are going to have structure in your life, which is something that so many addicts desperately need and they don't have. They have all this free time and no structure, and then they go do drugs because there's nothing else to do. But prison incorporates structure in your life, right?

But then, when you come home, a lot of that structure is gone. But what New Focus did for me was that I had to go five days a week, and they had structure. So, it was like a part of your day. And I live by structure-you have to have that.

And you just figure everything out for yourself. But this helps you figure it out, you know, like, alright, now it's time. And it's just, it's very necessary if you're in recovery, you have to have structure in your life.

Q-I have to believe that sharing your story does aid your recovery. It does keep you on track, right?

A-Because it's almost like you're out here preaching about your recovery and the right things to do. Then it's almost like an embarrassment to relapse. I'm building myself up so much that it makes it so much harder to go back, because what a fool I'm gonna look like. And that helps me. Whatever works. You know what I mean?

Q-So, let's talk about some of the things you're doing. You have a podcast, The Culture Project. Right. Tell me about that.

A-We give you more choices so you can live more. It's a treatment center in New Jersey. And it's just basically, you know, helping people be the best version of themselves, you know what I mean?

Q-Who are they inviting to be guests on that?

A-Well, we've had a few rappers just to show, like the kind of rags-to-riches stories we got: the girl from A Bronx Tale, and Domenick Lombardozzi, who was in A Bronx Tale. He's in a lot of stuff now. I'm the director of public relations, but I'm also boots on the ground. I run groups and similar activities. That's the stuff I really like.

Q-So, are you acting now? Are you back in that?

A-I like to do my own things. I co-wrote a film called Sleepyhead, and then I wrote one called Never Meet Your Heroes. It's about addiction with the girl Taral Hicks from A Bronx Tale. We have a daughter. Her character is a nurse, and she's going to work in this hospital.

Q-You talked earlier about growing up in Yonkers. Why come back to Yonkers? What is it about Yonkers?

A-Well, I've got all my family here. The familiarity. It's not a bad place to live. New York City is right here. You got access to trains, and upstate's right there. So Yonkers is nice.

Q-I wanted to know what message you would have for young people, adolescents today, who are faced with making decisions about what they're going to do and what they're not going to do.

A-I mean, obviously, they are at a crossroad in their lives, to, you know, either go right or left, and there's a lot of decision-making at that point. But the decision to use or not do drugs is a no-brainer. Look at the mistakes that others have made and how drugs and alcohol have impacted their lives. Because you're going to be no different if you go down that road. So, learn from others' mistakes. That's what I would say.

Watch the episode at link— <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Jgguw4AN6eM&t=32s>

Purim and Persia: A Day of Light and Gladness and Remembrance of God's Deliverance

By Judith Niewiadomski, Yonkers

Today (March 3) is Purim, the day that celebrates the deliverance of God's people from annihilation by the evil Amalekite Haman in Persia. The Amalekites were the people who attacked the weakest of the children of Israel as they were making their way to the Promised Land. Deuteronomy 25:17-19 "Remember what Amalek did unto thee by the way, when ye were come forth out of Egypt; How he met thee by the way, and smote the hindmost of thee, even all that were feeble behind thee, when thou wast faint and weary; and he feared not God. Therefore it shall be, when the LORD thy God hath given thee rest from all thine enemies round about, in the land which the LORD thy God giveth thee for an inheritance to possess it, that thou shalt blot out the remembrance of Amalek from under heaven; thou shalt not forget it."

The Amalekites were terrorists who preyed upon the weakest of the Israelites: the feeble, women and children, sneaking up behind them, cowards who avoided the warriors and slaughtered innocents. King Saul, the first king of Israel, lost his throne and the right of passing it down, to David because he spared Agag, the king of the Amalekites despite being told to execute him. His disobedience to spare a fellow king, had long term evil consequences. Centuries later, an Amalekite descendant of the royal line of Agag, highly placed in the Persian court named Haman, tried to exterminate all the Judeans (Jews) not only in their own country, but in all the realm that the Persian empire controlled. This would not have happened had Saul destroyed the royal line of Amalek and its murderous, genocidal ideology.

The Amalekite Haman, a man of Belial was a top tier advisor to the king of the Persian empire. Haman's actions show that he wanted to be king, wanted adulation like a god. The highest levels of power weren't enough for him and no freedom of thought or religion was acceptable to him. Second only to the king, like Lucifer, he wanted all control and all power over all. (Sounds like some mullahs we used to know.) Haman manipulated the king so he could use Persian government to kill all the Judeans because Mordecai recognized how evil Haman was spiritually and would not bow to him.

Through the courage of Mordecai's niece, Esther, who was willing to sacrifice her life, God's people were saved. Sometimes it takes one man or one woman in the right place at the right time, believing God and taking simple but often risky actions that enables God to move and bring deliverance. Our believing and willingness to put God's ability above the circumstances enables Him to act in our lives. Unable to change the legislation, the king gave advanced notice and told the Judeans to arm themselves and fight for their lives. They did so, rid the land of their enemies, brought more people to the true God, and established a cultural principle of religious tolerance that continues among many of the Persian people to this day in spite of the islamonazi totalitarian mullahs.

The Bible is not a book of meaningless stories, but a record of real people, who believed God and overcame challenges, brought deliverance to individuals and sometimes to their nation. Their examples are for our learning, models of real people rising up above their emotions and the circumstances they see and feel, to reach up to trust God to deliver via His infinitely diversified wisdom, mercy, and power. Some had to go out and wage war. Esther had to risk entering the presence of the king without being summoned, which was an automatic death sentence—on the spot—unless the king granted mercy. In this case he did.

Contrary to the impulse to vent and rage that culture today encourages, Esther exercised discipline, wisdom, and self restraint to make a simple request and wait for the right time. God is omniscient. He understood the king's thinking and nature and impulses in ways that Esther never could by her five senses knowledge. But God knows what is in the heart of every man and what inspires and enrages and motivates him. God guided her in how to handle the situation to get the best results.

Esther and Mordecai changed Persia forever. As a result of the deliverance of the Judeans, Persians had a tradition of religious tolerance. When Israel was occupied by the Romans, Persian Magi who were the only ones who recognized the spiritual significance of astronomical events at the time of the birth of Christ. These Magi were Persian Zoroastrians. (Zoroastrianism is still one of the major religions of Persia and has several basic concepts similar to Judaism and Christianity.)

Iran has lived under islamic repression since 1979. Today, they are much closer to freedom and self-determination, thanks to America and Israel. The takedown of the islamo-nazi regime will greatly curtail the terrorism of Hezbollah which attacks Israel frequently. Hezbollah killed and drove out most of the Christians from Lebanon, which was supposed to be a Christian safe space country. Hezbollah, funded by the Iranian usurper mullahs, killed over 200 US Marines in Beirut. Iran's mullahs have caused thousands of deaths, including teaching Al Qaeda how to take down two US embassies in Africa; Iran's mullahs fund Hamas' terrorist attacks as well. And they have killed more muslims in their devilish lust for totalitarian control than anyone else. It isn't just Jews and Christians and Hindus that they persecute.

Pray that the Iranians are able to establish what the Iranian Resistance has been fighting for years (and were betrayed by Obama) —a secular government, personal freedom, and religious toleration. The whole world will benefit if Iran becomes a tolerant, peaceful nation.

Notice of Formation of Lifestyle Rehabilitation, LLC filed with SSNY on 10/27/2025. 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, 56 Martha Place, Chappaqua, NY, 10514. Purpose: Physical Therapy.

Notice of Formation of JB HUDSON LINE LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/20/2026. Office location: Westchester County, NY. SSNY is designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of process to: 59 Alta Vista Dr, Yonkers, NY, 10710. Purpose: any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of JJ VILL, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 11/29/2025. 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, 64 Mountindale Road, Yonkers, NY 10710. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of Monte Builders Group, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/18/2026. 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, 23 Bronxville Ln Yonkers, NY 10708. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of DoubleStripe Associates LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 2/7/2026. 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, 23 Mt. Joy Ave., Scarsdale, NY 10583. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of MPMX, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/06/2025 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, 8 Lane Street Fl. 1 Yonkers, NY 10601 Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Infinity Strategies Group LLC. Arts of Org. Filed with SSNY on September 1, 2025. Office location: Westchester County, New York. SSNY designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, 255 Huguenot Street, Apt 913, New Rochelle, NY 10801. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Hardcore In The 914 LLC Arts. Of Org. filed with SSNY on 1/5/2026. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail process to Hardcore In The 914 8 Arden Drive, Hartsdale New York 10530. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Digital Infrastructure Services LLC, Arts. of Org. filed with NY Dept. of State on 10/22/25. Office: Westchester County. NY DOS designated as agent for service of process; DOS shall mail copy of process to 7 Ridgeway Cir White Plains, NY 10605. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Notice of formation of Rat Attack Snacks, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 3/2/2026. 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, 516 Park Avenue Yonkers NY 10703. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of formation of Supreme Site Safety, LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/28/2026. 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, 318 Mile Square Road, Yonkers, NY 10701. Purpose: Any lawful activity

Notice of Formation of YureeshStyle LLC, a domestic LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secy of State of NY (SSNY) on 2/10/26. Office location: Westchester County. SSNY designated as agent upon whom process may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of any process to the LLC at 35 S Broadway, K6, Irvington, NY 10533. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of Formation of Israelov Law, PLLC. Articles of Organization filed with SSNY on 01/27/2026. Office Location: Westchester. The SSNY has been designated as agent of the PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the PLLC is: 51 Nethermont Ave, White Plains, NY 10603. Purpose: Any lawful activity.

Notice of formation of Senara & Co, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 01/29/2026. NY office location: Westchester County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. The address to which the SSNY shall mail a copy of any process against the LLC served is 455 Tarrytown Road, Suite 1307, White Plains, NY 10607. Purpose/character of LLC: Any lawful purpose.

Notice of Formation of Schmoose Pack Projects LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/20/2024. 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 Bruce Wong 10 Station Square Forest Hills, NY 11375. Purpose: Any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of S.I.T. Staying In Touch LLC. Arts. of Org. filed with the New York Secretary of State on December 25, 2025. Office location: Westchester County. New York Secretary of State designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process may be served. New York Secretary of State shall mail process to: Donald George McIntosh III, 137 Morningside Pl, Yonkers, NY 10703. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

Notice of Formation of FOREVER JADE LLC, filed with SSNY on 02/10/2026. Office: Westchester County. SSNY designated agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC: ZENBUSINESS INC. 41 State Street, Suite 112, Albany, NY 12207. Purpose: any lawful act or activity.

YPS Budget Gap , continued from pg 1-

“Albany, fund our schools now,” says Mayor Spano. “The successes of Yonkers schools are in jeopardy. Yonkers taxpayers can no longer foot the bill that Albany has long ignored because of the inequitable funding formula. The system is broken. We need action in Albany to prevent cuts in the advancements our schools have made over the last decade.”

The \$101 million budget deficit stems from the Foundation Aid Formula that does not recognize the unique needs of the District and underfunds Yonkers annually, compounding the GAP each year. While New York State fully funded the Formula last year, it did not change how the formula is calculated. As stated in the State-commissioned Rockefeller Institute Report, updating the Yonkers Regional Cost Index to reflect the Yonkers District’s location in Westchester County would close a \$17 million annual gap, or \$47 million under the Comparable Wage Index approach. Without reform, Yonkers faces reductions to programs and services despite the District’s strong testing and graduation outcomes.

Mayor Spano added, “The Rockefeller Institute’s Report very clearly outlines how to help Yonkers schools, so we are asking our partners in government to heed the advice of the Report and get it done. Grouping Yonkers along with our upstate sister cities, where the cost of living and wages are not that of the State’s third largest city, located in the most expensive county in the State, doesn’t allow us to get ourselves out of this hole. We need immediate intervention now.”

Mayor Spano and Superintendent Soler also cite rising Special Education costs, growing 50% in the last four years (\$84 million), including special education out of district tuitions that are up 17% year-over-year (\$11 million). Additionally, health care costs have risen \$12 million annually.

Superintendent Anibal Soler, Jr. added, “Yonkers Public Schools is facing a \$101 million budget gap — not because of mismanagement, but because of a structural funding formula that does not reflect the true cost of educating children in Westchester County. We serve over 23,000 students, 73% of whom are economically disadvantaged, 22% of whom have disabilities, and 13% of whom are English Language Learners — and we have achieved a 90% graduation rate, the highest among the Big 5 cities.

But let me be clear: without significant and immediate support from New York State, the progress our students, educators, and families have worked so hard to achieve is in jeopardy. This is not about maintaining the status quo — this is about protecting opportunity and the success of Yonkers. Albany must act now to reform the Foundation Aid formula and address rising special education and health care costs so we can continue delivering the excellence our students deserve.”

Yonkers School Board President Dr. Rosalba Corrado Del Vecchio said, “The Yonkers Board of Education stands united in sounding the alarm: a \$101 million deficit threatens the stability and future success of our district. Our community cannot shoulder this burden alone. The current funding formula does not account for the realities of educating students in one of the highest-cost regions in New York State, and the consequences of inaction will be devastating.

Without meaningful intervention from Albany, we will be forced to make reductions that impact programs, services, and supports our students rely on every day. Our children cannot wait. The time for incremental solutions has passed — we need bold, structural action to ensure Yonkers Public Schools continues to thrive.”

From 2022-2025, Yonkers Public Schools utilized American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funding to further enhance its music, arts, counseling and sports programs.

“While we are appreciative of State one-shots over the years and federal ARPA aid to help close these gaps, the funding has dried up,” commented Mayor Spano. “We will be left to completely restructure how the District operates and functions.”

In addition to advocating for Formula Aid Formula Reform, Mayor Spano and Superintendent Soler suggest some additional viable solutions that could keep the Yonkers Public Schools successful:

Universal Pre-K Sustainability: Fund Universal Pre-K on a full year basis and add enrollment stabilization so funding allows students throughout the year. Without stability, mid-year shifts force cuts in other programs to keep UPK running.

Special Education Services: Increase high-cost special education aid and invest in special staffing to meet mandated services and complex needs. Without this support, service delays grow, compliance risk rises and more costly placements increase.

Student Support Serves Expansion: Invest \$15 million to expand counselors, psychologists and social workers and lower ratios that remain far from what students need.

Building Infrastructure: Raise the Building Aid Ratio from 69.5% toward 90% to accelerate critical health and safety projects across aging facilities. Without higher aid, repairs slow, costs rise and burden shifts to local taxpayers.

Mayor Spano, Superintendent Soler and other Yonkers school stakeholders are expected to meet with Albany representatives over the next month and continue to advocate before the New York State Legislature votes on its budget by April 1.

**CORPORATION NOTICE
CITY OF YONKERS-NEW YORK
PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE**

Notice is hereby given, pursuant to law, that the Mayor of the City of Yonkers, New York, will hold a Public Hearing on Wednesday, March 11, 2026 at 5:00 pm, Mayor’s Reception Room, 2nd floor, 40 South Broadway, Yonkers, New York, to hear all interested parties and citizens regarding the adoption of the following Local Law, to wit:

A LOCAL LAW AUTHORIZING THE CONVEYANCE OF THE FORMER PUBLIC SCHOOL #9 FOR THE REDEVELOPMENT OF SAID PROPERTY

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

MIKE SPANO
Mayor
Date: March 3, 2026

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE:

THE CITY OF YONKERS ZONING BOARD OF APPEALS MEETING SCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18, 2026, AT 6:00 PM, WILL BE HELD IN YONKERS CITY HALL, 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, 4TH FLOOR (building is handicapped accessible).

PLEASE BE SURE TO CHECK OUR WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION AND UPDATES WWW.YONKERSNY.GOV .

OPEN/CONTINUED HEARINGS

#5790 – Area Variance - James Veneruso, Esq., on behalf of Mehranco Limited Liability Co., owner, on premises known as 1999 Central Park Avenue, Block: 4385, Lot: 42.43, (B30132) Zone: BR

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1luztIIO9IzkFlbUNhKvFBj6CNY_bLXR5?usp=sharing

#5900 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano Esq., on behalf of WAG America LLC, on premises known as 38 Hunt Ave, Block:3137, Lot:16 (B0035424) Zone: S-50

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1N-HiBBAFqe09tTtPWOCeh4OC1_expReA?usp=sharing

#5910 – Area Variances – Mark Blanchard, on behalf of Hudson Pointe, LLC., on premises known as 1205 Warburton Ave., Block: 3570, Lot: 1 (B0037131) Zone: MG.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1IPdzRuXEqveyqXwEFvD0_sZTxaGZPPSx?usp=sharing

#5912 – Area Variances – Andrew Romano, on behalf of Centro Cristiano Jehova es Mi Bandera, Inc. on premises known as 27 Glenwood Ave., Block: 2121, Lot: 30 (B0035776) Zone: M.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1eMQdFJtmqR4YVklU3LNxL_jJ6Ez4BbTo?usp=sharing

#5913 – Area Variance – Janet Giris, on behalf of Morris Westchester Upper Site Associates, LLC., on premises known as 79 Austin Ave., Block: 3285, Lot: 210 (B0034334) Zone: CM.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1X9-XUh8voN3LaCu4nsfuEMCr8tvWjeW6?usp=sharing>

#5914 – Area Variances – Stephen A. Veneruso, on behalf of AVL Homes, LLC., on premises known as 69 Spruce St., Block: 430, Lot: 58 (B0036935) Zone: A.

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1o_5iOmj08xCEPt6r-4_d-P1D4mE0WEk3?usp=sharing

#5494 & 5667 – Area Variance – Andrew Romano Esq. on behalf of 581 Development Corp, owner, on premises know as 581 Saw Mill River Road, Block:3100, Lot: 200, (B0011017) Zone: I

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1RBWzAOsVzaQil_PUqgLtBDPWCngLyarV?usp=sharing

#5915 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E on behalf of Ian Kim Ramos owner of 66 Pembroke Drive, Block:4468, Lot: 10 (B202406280) Zone: S-60

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c35LzwHRQMiGxE8n204v6PQ9iuc-AFDd?usp=sharing>

#5916 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, on behalf of Tameshwar Kallicharan owner of 25 (aka 27) Hyatt Avenue, Block: 6245, Lot:25.26 (B0036837) Zone: T

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1K1_zJm5Ynw9OStOhWWWa-sAYH-wJ_qpxO?usp=sharing

#5917 – Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, on behalf of Constantinos D. Kavas, owner of 26 Hyatt Avenue, Block: 6417, Lot: # 60 (B0037471) Zone: T

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1KNeXPgEqtzfvQRJGZMSZUJIDNG8Kq_Da?usp=sharing

#5919 – Area Variance – Shahin Badaly, P.E., on behalf of 231 Lockwood Ave LLC c/o Jagdish Mitter, owner of 139 Mile Square Road (aka 231 Lockwood Ave), Block: 2290, Lot: 20.25 (B0037342) Zone: T

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1jQM0nB3_EjAWbhnPYTeUZQ14djMttBJC?usp=sharing

#5920 – Area Variance—Leo K. Napior on behalf of Gasoline & Car Wash Corp. of Yonkers, owner, on premises known as 360 Nepperhan Avenue (aka 364 Nepperhan Avenue), Block: 2067, Lot: 69 (B0037256) Zone: I, Industry

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/187P6cI8mJzDCaP_VJoRHJseXnS6zOZNX?usp=sharing

#5921 (5895)– Area Variance – Steven A. Accinelli, on behalf of Pjeter Vukajs, owner of 9 Abner Place, Block: 6163, Lot: 32.34 (A0000269) Zone: T

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1bXRXBuH5WosPqIJdYzugg-QJzSUEOYli?usp=sharing>

NEW HEARINGS

#5922 – Area Variance – 76 Rutland Road, Block: 5412, Lot: 37. Zone: S-200, Detached Single-Family Dwelling on 200’ Lot. To Allow For: A new one-story place of worship with 81 paved parking spaces.

<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1kP1OtqthWAJLLoIo26koMERSMjH1gTsh?usp=sharing>

Yonkers Rising

PO Box 705, Yonkers NY 10702-914-815-1388. Proudly serving the the people of Yonkers with hyperlocal news. Member NY Press Association. Legal notice inquiries to: risinglegalnotice@gmail.com. Daniel Murphy, Publisher & Editor in Chief, dmurphy@risingmediagroup.com. Bayan Baker, Assistant to the Editor in Chief risingmediagroup@gmail.com.

Yonkers History, continued from pg 3-

He eventually left Yonkers and moved to California.

March 12, 1934: Principal George Bennett, who received a gold police whistle ten years earlier from the Shonnard Place station, pulled it out of its hiding place at the back of his desk drawer, and blew it long and hard. Forty minutes later, he once again gave a long and loud toot... and forty minutes after that! That day he blew the whistle several times; every time opening doors were heard along with the sounds of feet. Why? The batteries supplying power for the class period bell were dead, and Principal Bennett was blowing the changing of classes.

Friday, March 13th

March 13, 1916: After Socialist candidate for US President Allan Benson of Yonkers, speaking before the House Naval Committee, criticized Woodrow Wilson's advocacy of preparedness, the ire of some Democratic committee members was raised.

Benson said the President was not dealing fairly with the people when Wilson's speeches enflamed people's fears, yet he did not taking any action to hurry work on the millions of dollars of new military ships and equipment, expenditures already approved by Congress. Committee Chairman Padgett expunged Benson's remarks from the official record.

March 13, 1930: After being introduced by Nicholas Lasko, President of the Associate Hungarian Societies of Yonkers. Count Michael Karolyi, first president of Hungary, spoke in the Masonic Temple on Anti-Fascism. The Yonkers Committee of the Anti-Horty League sponsored his appearance. This was his second visit to Yonkers; his first trip here was in 1914.

Saturday, March 14th

March 14, 1944: Eighty-eight year old George Kittredge of North Broadway dispelled some myths about pigeons when speaking to Yonkers Rotarians about his pigeon-raising hobby. He told them it was not true that pigeons mate for life; he claimed it took them about 30 minutes before seeking a new mate. He also told them, pigeons were fighters, their coo was a "cuss word," and that pigeons of both sexes flew equally well.

While introducing Kittredge, Rotarian Sam Hayward told the gathering that Kittredge's home at 592 North Broadway had been in the family since it was built in 1784.

March 14, 1953: At a program at the Asbury Church Men's Club, reporter Ed Reid, the main speaker, announced he knew the murderer of John Acropolis, and shared the man had received \$1,500 for the hit on the crusading labor leader. The DA and police investigating Acropolis' murder did not act on Reid's information, denying Reid's charges they were harboring clues they had not acted upon for "legalistic reasons." At the time, there was a \$37,000 reward for information on the murder.

Sunday, March 15th

March 15, 1930: Silent Screen heroine Anita Stewart attempted a comeback in Yonkers through vaudeville! She debuted at Loew's theater as a "speaking stage actress" in a "musical diversion" created for her by playwright Edgar Allen Woolf. Woolf later coauthored the screenplay for "The Wizard of Oz!"

March 15, 1945: Former Yonkers resident Harry Stradling won Oscars for Cinematography for "The Picture of Dorian Gray" and later "My Fair Lady" on April 5, 1965. Stradling filmed than 130 films, including twelve other Oscar nominated films.

His wife was the former Ann Linsenbarth, daughter of Albert Linsenbarth who worked for forty years in the Yonkers Herald composing room.

If you have questions, please email yonkershistory1646@gmail.com. For information on Yonkers Historical Society, Sherwood House and upcoming events, please visit their website www.yonkershistoricalsociety.org, call 914-961-8940 or email info@yonkershistoricalsociety.org



Our 4th aide to the Grand Marshall William Fitzpatrick is Jennifer Murphy Oelkers

Jennifer Murphy Oelkers is a lifelong Yonkers resident with deep roots in the Yonkers Irish American community. Most of her great-grandparents either came to Yonkers from Ireland or were born here to their Irish immigrant parents, drawn by the prospect of work in the Alexander Smith carpet factories, the lighting and gas company, and other Yonkers industries. They came from Counties Waterford, Galway, and Wexford, and went on to become active members of Yonkers Catholic parishes and organizations, including Sacred Heart, St. Mary's, and St. Paul the Apostle, and of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

Jen is the proud first daughter of Judge J. Emmett and Deborah Brill Murphy. She has a brother John Emmett Murphy III and sister Katie Murphy Dedde. Her father, Emmett has held several elected positions, including Chief Judge of Yonkers City Court and Supreme Court Justice of the 9th Judicial District. He was also Grand Marshal of the Yonkers St. Patrick's Parade in 2005.

Jen attended Sacred Heart Grade School and Good Counsel Academy in White Plains. As a child, she also received an education, observing and helping with the election campaigns that were going on around her.

After successfully managing her father's final campaign, she was asked to run several other judicial campaigns, kicking off a career as a successful campaign manager and consultant in Westchester, Rockland, Putnam, Dutchess and Orange Counties. She has since managed or advised on dozens of campaigns over the last nearly 20 years, including races for Supreme Court Justices, City Court Judges, and the Westchester County District Attorney.

She is active in her community, particularly the Yonkers football community, both youth and high school.

Jen is proudest of her family: her five children Lucy, Atticus, Noah, Eamon and Alice, and her husband, Yonkers Police Officer Chris Oelkers. They are parishioners of Sacred Heart Church in Yonkers.

Our 2nd aide to the Grand Marshall William Fitzpatrick is Sheila M. Halligan

Sheila M. Halligan is the oldest daughter of Patricia and James Halligan. A dual citizen of Ireland and the US, her paternal grandparents emigrated from County Mayo and her maternal great-grandparents from Kilkenny and Carlow. She spent her first 10 years in Yonkers, attending St. Joseph's School in Bronxville, with her sister Colleen. Sheila is a parishioner of St. Joseph's. Most Sunday afternoons, she keeps her father's love of Irish music alive, by tuning into Ceol na nGael on WFUV.

At The Ursuline School, Sheila was a member of the Gaelic Society, and at SUNY Geneseo, studying Elementary Education, she joined the Irish Student Union and Royal Lady Knights, a social-service organization. A semester at St. Patrick's College in Drumcondra, Dublin, sparked a passion for traveling and experiencing local cultures.

While earning a Master's in Literacy from The College of New Rochelle, Sheila followed her grandmother's and parents' footsteps to teach in the Bronx with the NYC Dept. of Education. She is in her 20th year at Yonkers Public Schools, after teaching in Mount Vernon, North Rockland, as well as England and Italy. She earned a second Master's in School Leadership from The College of Saint Rose and a Gifted Learning Certificate from CUNY Hunter. She is currently a Reading Teacher at PEARLS Hawthorne, a 2023 National Blue Ribbon School.

A lifeguard for over 30 years, Sheila is Pool Director at Larchmont Yacht Club. Each July, she participates in an open water swim in Long Island Sound with Swim Across America, raising money for cancer research in the NYC area. This summer, she has a new role with SAA-LIS, coordinating pool swims, for those who wish to join the fundraising in the comfort of a pool.

Sheila enjoys skiing and swimming in new places, and plans visit all 50 states, with only 6 to go. At the Davenport Club, she is learning pickleball, and relaxes on the beach. She enjoys sharing a good laugh with good friends.

In 2011, Sheila joined the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, Our Lady of Knock, Division 19, Yonkers. She has enjoyed the camaraderie of her sisters and currently serves as Secretary. Sheila is beyond proud to represent her sisters as an Aide to the 2026 Grand Marshal on McLean Ave

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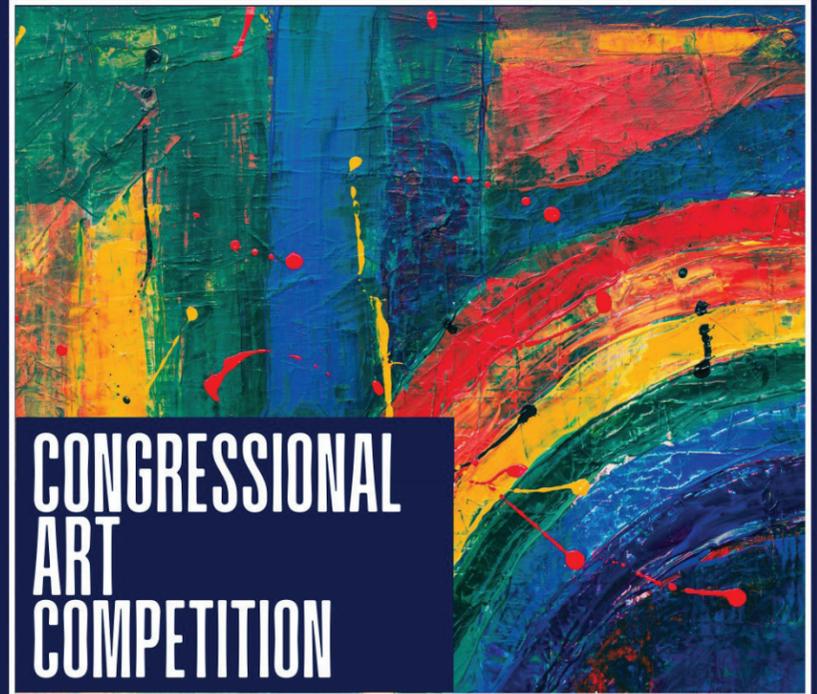
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DUE BY:
APRIL 10

- Open to all high school students who live or study in NY-16
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- Each entry must be original in concept, design, and execution

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<https://latimer.house.gov/services/art-competition>



The winning artwork of our district's competition will be displayed for one year in the U.S. Capitol. The winning artist is also invited to Washington, D.C. for an awards ceremony.

New Date!

Yonkers City Council President
 Lakisha Collins-Bellamy
 presents

BLACK HISTORY MONTH

3/12/26

A Century of Black History Commemoration

THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 2026
 5:30PM - 7:30PM
 CITY HALL CEREMONIAL COURTROOM, 4TH FLOOR
 40 SOUTH BROADWAY, YONKERS, NY 10701

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