Autism Project’s Holiday Party a Hit With Kids

The Autism Project’s “FLOR, Inc.” (For the Love of斜音符) celebrated its second annual holiday party Saturday, Dec. 10 at the Yonkers Riverfront Library. The theme of the event was “inclusive for disabilities and individuals with special needs” (autism, down syndrome, intellectual disabilities), and many families in the special-needs community were welcomed.

Volunteers from Marcy College participated in the event for the third year by giving children and families of the door. Trained volunteers interacted with the children as they experienced different arts and crafts. Activities included sensory-friendly activities, movement building, and designing a Christmas stocking and got the crowd in the Christmas spirit.

Then on Sunday, Dec. 25 at 6 p.m., the Cross-County Shopping Center will host its annual holiday party featuring traditional Chanukah food, home-made sufganiot (sufganiot) and potato pancakes made with loving care by hand by Israelis Leah Katz and Etti Tam.

A number of Menorah lightings are scheduled to take place throughout the City of Yonkers. On Dec. 20 at 4:30 p.m., the city will light the Menorah at the City Hall Rotunda. On Dec. 28, Ridge Hill will celebrate outside Foundation at 320 Ridge Hill Boulevard.

McLean Avenue Lights Tree

Santa welcomes Yonkers Idol Susanna Stepanyan and Yonkers Junior Idol Christina Yavdoshnyak, and City Council President Liam McLaughlin to the McLean Avenue tree lighting. Photo by Donna Davis.

The McLean Avenue Merchante Association held its annual tree lighting Dec. 4 at Corner Park. Santa made an appearance, giving out candy canes to folks young and old. Yonkers Idol Susanna Stepanyan and Yonkers Junior Idol Christina Yavdoshnyak both sang holiday carols and got the crowd in the Christmas spirit.

Celebrate Chanukah At Upcoming Festivities

Santa joins Tara Conte from the Yonkers Parks Department and kids and adults with special needs from Yonkers PAL with their friends and families for a day of holiday fun, dancing and singing area come visit PAL with their friends and families for a day of holiday fun, dancing and singing. Santa, bringing holiday gifts and cheer to children, with board members and City Council Presi
dent Liam McLaughlin, Council Minority Leader Michael Sabatino and Councilman Christopher Johnson.

The Yonkers YMCA held its annual Christmas extravaganza Dec. 10 for kids up to 10 years old and their families. Games, two painting go-

Yonkers YMCA Christmas Extravaganza a Hit!

An aerial view of the Kawasaki Plant in downtown Yonkers, and the rooftop that will be used to build a proposed sports center complex.

The New York State Regional Economic Development Council on Thursday announced a $75 million grant earmarked to help develop new Yonkers Sports and Event Center, which will be Westchester County’s first indoor state-of-the-art event venues field area. The Yonkers Sports and Event Center will be the branch/field of the Armory Foundation, a New York City-based non-profit institution whose facility in Washington Heights is the home of more than 100 yearly track and field meets, including the nation’s most famous indoor meet, the New York Road Runners’ Millrose Games, and welcomes more than 125,000 athletes each season.

"We are very thankful and appreciative of Gov. Andrew Cuomo and the Regional Econ

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Friday, December 16, 2016
www.RisingMediaGroup.com
The Saunders High School Dance Club performed a flash pop-up for the crowd.

Photos by Amir Levy

The Saunders Trades and Technical High School Dance Club performed a flash pop-up dance routine and Santa was on hand to take gift requests from children.

The dress winner at the South Broadway BID tree lighting from Bella’s Events, with Executive Committee members Silvio Dimeglio (owner of Silvio’s Italian Restaurant) and Rick McPherson (Chairman of the BID Executive Committee), all joining with City Council President Liam McLaughlin, Council Minority Leader Michael Sabatino and Councilmember Christopher Johnson.

The dress winner at the South Broadway BID tree lighting from Bella’s Events, with Executive Committee member Christopher Johnson, all joining with Executive Director Karel Littman, South Broadway BID Chairman Dennis Monasebian, and Executive Committee members Silvio Dimeglio (owner of Silvio’s Italian Restaurant) and Rick McPherson.

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By Eric W. Schoen

There are many things that were put on hold due to the election that we need to catch up on, and lots we need to be caught up on. Elephant Invades Untermyer Park You can bring your elephant to Untermyer Park but you can’t enjoy it. Want to see an elephant? Get ready for an elephant show. Between set-up and break-down of the wedding, access to the public park was curtailed. Seating outside the senior center at the park has been removed, forcing seniors to stand in the cold and wait for the center to open. The art-and-crafts event run by the seniors was converted to an office and another room used by public works employees has a “private” sign on it (possibly the dressing room for the bride). The public works employees who would help the seniors navigate the hilly terrain at the park are now more An Yonkers city leaders are screwing the taxpayers who own the park. Very sad. You Know Your Parking Plate Number Residents have contacted me about the new parking fee collection system set up at several Yonkers Parking lots. A most normal parking lot in America, you pay your parking money in a machine and you pay the machine and you park. Not in Yonkers. The new system being installed requires you to put your plate number in to buy in fee for parking. According to Parking Authority Director Gail Burns, “The reason for the plate is the program is in place, in conjunction with a system that will be used by the Parking Authority to determine how long they will pass the car by the car with their equipment and it will tell them if the plate paid, and was the time still valid or expired.” Are they really worried about one car out one time a year? How much extra revenue will they receive? The bottom line is, make sure you know your license plate number. Airplanes, Airports and Space The death of American hero John Glenn re- minded many of us get nervous when we board a flight. For Washington and, and behold, then, Sen. John Glenn was waiting to board the same flight. All of us get nervous when we board a plane. But the fact that one flight, I fail at guessing that one flight, John Glenn had been to the moon, was a fellow traveler. Speaking of airplanes and airports, Westchester officials have a project with leased at leasing Westchester County Airport. Now, many readers remember the days when a Quon- set hut at the old Newark Airport, or the hanger or the old airport. The current facility is a far superior to that. But the airport is in desperate need of trans- mission, given all the security checks and increased airport traffic. A $90,000 Income & Living in Public Housing So, it looks like living in public housing in Yonkers will use their rents more because they are earning $90,000 or more. What, pray tell, is someone earning $90,000 doing living in public housing in Yonkers? President-Elect Trump... Help Us, Please There is nothing wrong with President-Elect Donald Trump telling Boeing that the costs for the new Air Force One are too high, or telling Lockheed Martin that F-35 fighter jet costs need to be cut back. I can think of two projects that can use Trump’s help: The reconvening of the Major League Expressway by Yankee Stadium is idling too long, with daily accidents and back-ups. And in our lifetime, will we ever have over- sized trucks lining bridges like Westchester’s roads? We have given our leaders plenty of time to solve these problems and nothing gets done. It’s time for someone else to tackle these issues. Let us know (thosinyorker@anen.com) if there are any other issues the president-elect needs to give attention to. I’ll post the list on our website. Reach Eric Schoen at thisattwoyker@aol.com and follow him on Twitter @ericyonkers. Elephants, Cars and Airplanes Meet Rising Media Group a part of your advertising plan. Call today! 914-965-4000
Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano recently announced his call for submissions to fill three positions on the new Yonkers Joint School Construction Board, the official successor to the Yonkers School Construction Board. According to the legislation, the board will be comprised of nine members, three of whom will be appointed by the mayor and superintendent of schools. The remaining board members include the president, the mayor of the City of Yonkers School District, the Yonkers Council of PTA’s designee, a Yonkers Community College designee, a Yonkers City Council designee, a representative of the State Senate, a representative of the State Assembly and a representative of the City of Yonkers Police Department.

"Thank you to Gov. Cuomo, our Yonkers state delegation, our Yonkers City Council Board of Education and all our local advocates for leading their communities to create a board that will work,” said Mayor Mike Spano. "We are one step closer to being able to hire or employ our local expertise and experience in school construction, school financing and education policy. The members also may not be employed or have been employed by the City of Yonkers or Yonkers Public Schools in the past two years."

Yonkers African-American Heritage Committee’s annual Kwanzaa celebration will be held Saturday, Dec. 17 from 1 to 4 p.m. at the Yonkers African-American Heritage Community Center, 950 Westmoreland Ave. The special guest speaker will be the Rev. Matthew Janney, the newly-appointed Yonkers Police Board of Education member.

Club President Mahalab Ahmad addressed the gathering at the "End Polio" dinner organized by the Yonkers Rotary Club.

Once a worldwide scourge, Polio is now close to complete eradication, from 350,000 cases worldwide in 1988 to only 371 in all of 2016 (so far), that is a staggering 99.9 percent reduction. Polio is now only endemic in Afghanistan and Pakistan. But we can’t quit now. To fund the final push to completely eradicate Polio from the planet, the Rotary Club of Yonkers-East partnered with rotary clubs worldwide to raise funds to be channeled through the Rotary Foundation’s "End Polio Now" campaign. The event – part of the “Hope, Love, Good” efforts - took place Dec. 4 at the Royal Palace Restaurant in White Plains. This was not just a fundraising event, it was an evening of music, comedy, dancing, dining and building. Present in addition to VOOP and Yonkers Rotary members were current Rotary Shreve Grove, Lea Hughegstdor and Past District Governors Janett Benedicts and Matt Leggum, and Assistant Gov. Mary Shackleton. Among the more than 140 attendees were local business owners, physicians, bankers and real estate professionals.

The evening began with the president of VOOP introducing the Rotary Club of Yonkers to the event. Club President Mahalab Ahmad thanked all those in attendance for the efforts and the background of Rotary. He told the audience that all funds raised and sent through Rotary International Foundation’s “End Polio” program will have triple impact because the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation matches each dollar 2-to-1.

He presented a video, “Why Zero Matters,” which showed the effort to end Polio must not be abandoned. Should the virus not be completely eradicated, immunization efforts must continue, the danger of a reversion is very real, he said. According to the World Health Organization, there could be as many as 200,000 Polio cases in 30 years from now. Hughegstdor thanked the organizers, and said efforts cannot and will not be new. "We are more resolved than ever," he said. She closed the Rotary Local day over the hours contributed from more than $1 million to the end-Polio effort.

She presented Rotary Pots to the presidents of VOOP and Yonkers Rotary, as well as the chairs of both the End Polio Committee Chairperson Shreede George, who talked about the importance of Rotary in the world and the efforts of Rotary.

The campaign to end polio began with the initiative of a Rotary Club in the Philippines in 1975. After its great success, the program was replicated across the country and later in the world. This push from Rotary and its 1.2 million worldwide members sustained the campaign when, through the participation of UNICEF, the World Health Organization and the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, the campaign gathered enough resources to reach its current stage.

**Club President Mahalab Ahmad addressed the gathering at the "End Polio" dinner organized by the Yonkers Rotary Club.**
Friends of the Yonkers Public Library, an organization that supports the work and purposes of the Yonkers Public Library, honored longtime vol-
turers George and Arline Wood on Dec. 4. A dinner was
ch at Our Town Ostrom: Arline Wood served as the event's honorary chairperson. George and Arline Wood served as the organization’s mea-
t. George and Arline have been an instrumental
part of Friends of Yonkers Public Library for many years,” said President of the Board Eric Schon. “The Friends has found many of its book sales, programs, and fundraising initiatives, especially the annual book sale, in large part due to Arline and George Wood.”

Walter H. Butler, president of Friends book sales, programs and fundraising initiatives, called 914-
476-3099 for more information and to volunteer your services.

Funds for 9/11 first responders and Sandy recovery, First family. After our years-long struggle to secure this eventually. Full funding for security at Trump Tower for his entire term, as he has said he plans to do. Republican leadership will have to address this eventually. Full funding for security at Trump Tower through the inauguration is the only reasonable
plan to start.”

I am confident New York’s finest will do an excel
- lently job protecting the incoming president of the United States, as the book sale coordinator for the Friends and George Wood served as the organization’s mea-

Congressman Eliot En-
grandstand, and the attendance was in the thousands.

Congress is currently
ivating legislation to fund the government through April 29, and all New Yorkers should feel insulted, that the Republicans in Congress are still referring only $7 million to New York City for the meals and security for the incoming first family. After our years-long struggle to secure funds for 911 first responders and family recovery, New Yorkers are being brought once again to face the fact that a future president will not undertake unnecessary capital expenditures, except in the case of security.

On This Day in Yonkers History

Dec. 21, 1940: Alexander Smith and Sons

The Waring Hotel Factory at Vark Street and Riverdale Avenue.

By Mary Rose

President of the Executive Robert Astorino.

Our energetic Westchester residents can maintain their fitness and vigorous lifestyle, “County

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Additional McGraw’s

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In recognition of Lung Cancer Awareness Month, a group of lung cancer survivors who were treated at Phelps Hospital gathered recently with family, friends, physicians and other health care providers for a "victory celebration." The survivors were invited to this special occasion, held on the hospital campus at the James House, by the New York State Department of Health chief of thoracic surgery at Phelps. The atmosphere was joyful as the survivors shared their tales with fellow survivors and recollected how those who were responsible for their recovery were there.

After a presentation by Nye, several of the survivors spoke to the entire group - and all of them said they chose Phelps because they asked around and searched the Internet, and discovered that they would be cared for by a exemplary thoracic surgeon. Their presentations revealed a similar experience. When they met Nye, they felt they were going to be all right.

Rather than dwelling on their ordeals, all of them expressed a newfound appreciation for life. "I think it is time to put all the ailments that they can to reason to think about why Social Security was there for you during the future."

Also, the Social Security Board of Trustees released its 76th annual report to Congress, presenting the financial status of the Social Security trust funds for the short term and over the next 75 years. We're pleased that legislation signed into law by President Ronald Reagan in November awarded a near-term shore-up in the probability insurance mare was that delayed in a previous report.

With that small, temporary re-allocation of the Social Security contribution rate, the DI fund will have to be on the full benefit until 2023, although the program will be able to continue until 2035. It is important that members of Congress continue to invest in the future of the program. As a whole, Social Security is fully funded until 2034, and after that it is about three-quarters financial. Many people wonder if Social Security will be there for them there. Here's a fact that will relieve any significant might have. The increased cost of providing Social Security benefits for Baby Boomers is less than the nation's increase in spending was for public education when the Baby Boomers were children. The increased cost of providing Social Security benefits for Baby Boomers is less than the nation's increase in spending was for public education when the Baby Boomers were children. The increased cost of providing Social Security benefits for Baby Boomers is less than the nation's increase in spending was for public education when the Baby Boomers were children.

Phelps Hosts Celebration For Lung Cancer Survivors

As of January 1, 2017, the Social Security contribution rate, the DI fund will have to be on the full benefit until 2023, although the program will be able to continue until 2035. It is important that members of Congress continue to invest in the future of the program. As a whole, Social Security is fully funded until 2034, and after that it is about three-quarters financial. Many people wonder if Social Security will be there for them there. Here's a fact that will relieve any significant might have. The increased cost of providing Social Security benefits for Baby Boomers is less than the nation's increase in spending was for public education when the Baby Boomers were children.

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But even more, we are no reason to tell all the skeptics that there's no reason to research to verify. There's even a day in October dedicated to skeptics. So, this is the perfect time for the survivors to express gratitude for a newfound appreciation for life. Phelps also offers support and treatment for patients who are trying to quit, with the goal of preventing cancer from occurring in the first place.

Phelps is accredited as a Community Hospital Cancer Program by the American College of Surgeons’ Commission on Cancer. For more information on lung cancer screening and smoking cessation support at Phelps, visit www.phelpsmed.org or call 914-366-2331.

Lawmakers Urge Support of Community-Based Long-Term Care

WDOMSD's ongoing re-allocation of the Social Security contribution rate, the DI fund will have to be on the full benefit until 2023, although the program will be able to continue until 2035. It is important that members of Congress continue to invest in the future of the program. As a whole, Social Security is fully funded until 2034, and after that it is about three-quarters financial. Many people wonder if Social Security will be there for them there. Here's a fact that will relieve any significant might have. The increased cost of providing Social Security benefits for Baby Boomers is less than the nation's increase in spending was for public education when the Baby Boomers were children.

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Autism Project’s Continued from Page 1

Every child picked a gift and took a picture with Santa and enjoyed food, music and a lot of fun.

Consider Adopting Taffy

The Yonkers Animal Shelter has many pets available for adoption. Taffy is about 16 months old and weighs 45 pounds. She was found alone in a building; may need to be hand-fed at first but once she does she’s sweet and affectionate. Taffy has been spayed and will be ready to go home in a week or two. She is available for adoption.

Pelham Larks to Perform in Yonkers

The Pelham Larks, a 40-member a cappella chorus, are excited to be performing in Yonkers. The chorus is made up of community members from all walks of life and is dedicated to providing a quality musical experience for all. Their repertoire ranges from traditional, swing, and popular to Broadway and pop classics. For more information or directions, call 914-537-1500.

The new inductees accepted their candidacy by signing their names into the roll book and receiving the NHSPLF pledge. "We are very proud of these students and know their futures are bright because of their service, spirit and determination," said Saint Barnabas Principal Frances Dziuma.

For more information about Saint Barn- abas High School, visit www.stbarnushigh- school.com.
Members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 1666 in Yonkers joined with other veterans and city officials Dec. 7 to commemorate the 75th anniversary of the attack on Pearl Harbor. A remembrance Mass was officiated by Msgr. Thomas Shelley, a history professor at Fordham University and former faculty member at St. Joseph’s Seminary.

Veterans of World War II, the Korean War, Vietnam War and Gulf Wars joined together to remember those American lives lost in the attack 75 years ago, and the act that got the U.S. into WWII.

VFW Post 1666 Commander James McGovern welcomed all and thanked the veterans and remembered those who lost their lives in service to this country.

Grand Holiday Illumination At Untermyer Gardens

The dazzling display of holiday lights at Untermyer Gardens has opened and is on display through Jan. 8 from dusk until 8 p.m. As part of the event, hot chocolate is served by various community groups on weekends and other evenings, and holiday music in the Jewish, Christian, Muslim and Zoroastrian traditions is played.

The Walled Garden is illuminated with festive holiday lights, highlighting the rich architectural and horticultural elements of the garden. This year’s display has twice the number of lights as last year.

The Untermyer Gardens Conservancy, a non-profit organization working in partnership with the City of Yonkers, sponsors this holiday treat, which is free and open to the public.

For more information, visit Untermyer-gardens.org.

Photos by Gary Lockett.

Those With Continued from Page 1

Santa heard many requests for gifts, including a video game, radio and watch. But several of the requests touched Santa's heart: One special-needs adult asked for peace on Earth, another asked for her family to be safe this holiday season, and several others asked for nothing more than to be at the party.

Santa left with a better understanding of Christmas, thanks to all the attendees! PAL board member Chris Palandra started the party 27 years ago, and along with Tara Conte from the City Parks Department and dozens of PAL volunteers, helps to organize the party every year.

Thanks was expressed to Giulio’s Restaurant, Santos Brothers Bakery and Farmers Choice for the food. Every year, volunteers had to set up six more tables to accommodate the 350 guests.

The lines were longer to see Santa, who was overjoyed, commenting to Yonkers Rising: “To see the joy in the faces of these special people every year, and their love and excitement to come here to the PAL for this party, shows what the true meaning of Christmas is all about.”
Yonkers On the Move Celebrates a Great Walk

Yonkers On the Move celebrated another successful walking season recently with a special recognition event at City Hall. Several team members who participated in the Walk 20 challenge were recognized with certificates by Mayor Mike Spano as they broke their goal of 10,000 miles walked with 23,936 miles.

Yonkers on the Move is a community-wide walking campaign for Yonkers residents of all ages that promotes better health – one step at a time. It is a great way for people to experience this great city and take steps toward better health.

For more information, visit sites.google.com/yonkerswalk.

Santa and Mrs. Claus Stop By ‘Winterscape’

Santa and Mrs. Claus arrive.

100 Hispanic Women of West. Host Toy Drive

Members of the Westchester Chapter of 100 Hispanic Women gathered on Three Kings Day to hold their annual toy drive. In partnership with the Westchester Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, along with sponsors Goya Foods and New York Life, the event helped raise funds and collect toys for the Yonkers YMCA, San Andres, Don Juan Bosco, Westchester Coalition and Dominican Cultural Association of Yonkers.

DO YOU HAVE WHAT IT TAKES?

Enter for a chance to catch a punt from STEVE WEATHERFORD. Winner will receive tickets to a NY Football Game December 19th 7pm at Dan Rooney’s Sports Pub

Photos by Donna Davis

State Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Steve Sansone with holiday characters.

The Grinch with his fans.