The McLean Avenue Merchants Association; Yonkers Department of Parks, Recreation and Conservation; and the City of Yonkers presented their annual Christmas tree lighting Dec. 7 at the 9/11 memorial in Conor Park. The evening featured Christmas carolers, Irish dancers and hot chocolate and cookies provided by the Chipper Truck Celi.

Unveiled toy were collected for donations to Toys for Tots.

Conchilman Dennis Shepherd welcomed Mayor Mike Spano, Council President Liam McLaughlin and Councilman Mike Bruno.

Continued on Page 2

This year, the Yonkers Downtown Business Improvement District and local businesses once again presented their gift to the community — “WinterScape: A Holiday Concert in Manor Square” – on Dec. 11.

The event included live music and fun activities for children, including face-painting, crafts, decorating and a visit by Santa Claus and all his ties for children, including face-painting, crafts, decorating and a visit by Santa Claus and all his treats and spread holiday cheer to all the visitors, while the Walled Garden – its architecture and plantings – was dramatically illuminated Dec. 11. The Walled Garden – its architecture and plantings – was dramatically illuminated Dec. 11.

Despite the warm weather, “It’s Beginning to Look a Lot Like Christmas!” is certainly a joy to be Jewish at Christmas.

Phelpie Manor Hall recently celebrated the holidays with two annual traditions. St. Nicholas Day on Dec. 5, and a free gingerbread house event Dec. 15.

The manor helped honor the traditional Dutch holiday of St. Nicholas Day, which is a trademarked yearly event that celebrates the warmth of the holiday season while honoring the Dutch origin and traditions of Phelpie Manor Hall. St. Nicholas himself visited the Manor Hall and spread holiday cheer to all the visitors, while artst April Armstrong and her companion performed songs and singalongs that harken back to the first Dutch settlers in the area, and how they celebrated the holidays.

Then, children created and decorated gingerbread houses made by local children from the YMCA and YWCA, as well as several businesses from the downtown area, were also featured.

The Untermyer Gardens Conservancy and City of Yonkers co-sponsored a Grand Holiday Illumination at Untermyer Park and Gardens, 985 N. Broadway, which kicked off Dec. 11. The Walled Garden – its architecture and plantings – was dramatically illuminated as the Untermyer Performing Arts Council sponsored Encore, a string quartet, played classical music.

Recorded music from the Zorastrian, Jewish, Christian and Islamic traditions will continue to be played as the illumination continues through Jan. 3. “Peace on earth and goodwill toward men” is the theme of the event, as the Walled Garden is a Persian garden, hence, Christian and Islamic traditions will continue to be played as the illumination continues through Jan. 3.

Vol 110 Number 51-52
www.RisingMediaGroup.com
Friday, December 18-25, 2015
It is during this holiday season that we look forward to the time we’ll spend with our families and those we love. It is also a time to give thanks for the many blessings in our lives.

For many, though, who may have been separated and estranged from our families, we can make it a time to reconcile with those who once were close to us. It can be a time of forgiving, as the following reminds us:

There are many things in life
That are really hard to do,
But there is one that’s very hard,
For me as well as you.

It’s forgiving those who hurt us,
And have caused much grief and strife,
Whether they be friends or family
Or others in life.

Their words or deeds were hurtful
With no apology for years
And often when we think of them,
It brings us close to tears.

Perhaps the others did not know,
They caused so many sorrows.
So try to reconcile with them
Before life’s long tomorrows.

They too may have been waiting
Not knowing what to do
But wanted oh so badly
To hear again from you.

The message here is loud and clear
Forgive with all your heart
For sorrow turns to gladness
When you make that brand new start.

Holidays: Time to Forgive; A Poem by Ann Muro

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X20’s Christmas Cabaret
A Spectacular Evening

Audience participation included the “12 Days of Christmas” and “5 Golden Rings.”

Rabbi Hurwitz greets visitors for the menorah lighting at the Temple.

The entrance to the Walled Garden.

Untermeyer’s
Continued from Page 1

on the concept of the Garden of Eden.
Every night, the Walled Garden will be
open for visitors to stroll, admire the lights and
listen to peaceful classical music from 5:30
until 8 p.m. On Friday, Saturday and Sunday
evenings, free hot chocolate will be served by
various community groups.
Admission is free.
For more information, visit www.unter-
myergardens.org.

Paul Kelly, Ned Kelly and Mary Lou Shriber take a well-deserved bow.

Paul and Ned Kelly perform their “Sisters from Boca Raton” skit.

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16 School Street - Rye, NY 10580

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www.sonyma.org

The photos on this page were taken by Donna Davis.

For more information, visit www.unt-
myergardens.org.
Dear Mr. Murphy, I picked up your news paper today and Eliza’s mother, Maria Guzman, sent us this message:

‘Congratulations to Eliza Guzman from Port Chester who is this year’s winner of Rising Me Chester who is this year’s winner of Rising Me.

Dear Mr. Murphy, I picked up your newspaper today and Eliza’s mother, Maria Guzman, sent us this message:

‘Congratulations to Eliza Guzman from Port Chester who is this year’s winner of Rising Me Chester who is this year’s winner of Rising Me.'
Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano announced last week that projects in the City of Yonkers have been awarded nearly $3 million in economic and community development funding as part of round five of Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s Regional Economic Development Council Initiative and the Upstate Revitalization Initiative.

“Combined with $7 billion of private investment in Yonkers, this funding proves that economic development, job creation and innovation are back on track,” said Spano. “I’d like to thank Gov. Andrew Cuomo and our state Legislature for their continued support as we work to further grow our city, improve our economy and position Yonkers as the best city in which to live, work and play.”

“I’m pleased that key projects in my district will get essential resources in this highly-competitive grant process,” added State Sen. David Carlucci (D-Ashford-St. Bernard-Cono). “The City’s Regional Economic Development Councils continue to provide a strong, locally-focused approach to economic development and job growth, supporting businesses and expansion, building housing, and generating new opportunities for Yonkers. That’s why I continue to vote for this important funding.”

About the Projects:
- SoVo Mixed-Use Development, $215,000 — SoVo Exca, LLC, will undertake the construction of a mixed-use, mixed-income, mixed-tenure development at Larkin Plaza, near the intersection of South Broadway and McLean Avenues.
- Yonkers Downtown Riverwalk Expansion, $800,000 — The City of Yonkers will enhance and advance the downtown waterfront environment.
- Yonkers Rail Trail Phase One Capital Construction, $394,200 — Grassroots Hillside Valley will use funding to construct phase one of a 2-mile rail trail that stretches from the downtown Yonkers waterfront to the 242nd Street subway station in Riverdale. This segment includes a major new park and play area along the trail, which was a primary request from local residents during the planning phase.
- Greyston Bakery Capital Improvements, $200,000 — Greyston Bakery will invest in equipment upgrades utilized within its Yonkers facility, including environmental control and electrical systems upgrades.
- Yonkers Arts and Culture Project, $500,000 — The City of Yonkers, ArtsWorkplace, and the Yonkers Board of Education will work with local artist Vinnie Bagwell to develop an urban-harbor public sculpture.
- Production Training, $39,488 — Greyston Foundation, Inc., of Yonkers will train 93 workers.

“I am extremely pleased that Yonkers projects were so successful in the grants awarded by the New York State Regional Economic Development Council Upstate Revitalization Initiative competition,” said AIA/RIBA-accredited Choosing a Place. “Clearly, the council recognized the important role Yonkers and all our partners in the Upstate Regional Economic Development Council for their hard work and commitment to these projects that will generate jobs, increased revenue and continual growth for our region.”

Yonkers Carpet Mills Arts District Rejuvenation Project, $500,000 — J. Rose Reilly, LLC will make critical improvements to the former Alexander Smith Carpet Mills site to transform the aging facility into a working arts and technology hub.

Yonkers Downtown Riverwalk Expansion

A panoramic view of the Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Company, stretching from Nep- peran Avenue to Saw Mill River Road.

By Mary Beth
President emeritus, Yonkers Historical Society

Monday, Dec. 21

Dec. 21, 1906: The YPD campaign to stop children younger than 10 from attending motion pictures without their pictures or their parents around the adult entrance. The theater manager claimed the children had bought past the box office and gone into the show without paying.

Dec. 21, 1913: Prospects of a “white social life” in Yonkers City Jail opened up to 88 inmates, at the jail because of none of assistant/sheep to, an assumption placed to start an “Alimony Club” to in- clude all men improved on the charge. He announced he would “petition the court to have a woman...”

Dec. 22, 1926: For the first time in the neighbor- hood, a Christmas tree was put up at McLean and McLean Avenues. Chimneys from three area churches sung Christmas carols for the large crowd gathered for the ceremony.

Tuesday, Dec. 22

Dec. 22, 1906: Three overhead “stop and go” traffic lights were installed on Watervliet Avenue near Main Street. All three lights were oper- ated by one police officer.

Wednesday, Dec. 23

Dec. 23, 1905: For the first time in Yonkers history, the “lame duck” Common Council met. It was meeting in the St. Louis Hotel in Yonkers, the Committee of the Whole, and at least two连续 on page 8

* Yonkers Carpet Mills Arts District Rejuvenation Project, $500,000 — J. Rose Reilly, LLC will make critical improvements to the former Alexander Smith Carpet Mills site to transform the aging facility into a working arts and technology hub.

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Get Your Retirement Singing

By Julissa Javier
Social Security assistant district manager, Yonkers

When George Burns complained about being too old to play a young boy in the 1944 movie "The Cookout," he thought he was too old for the part. He was probably right because for probably close to 50 years, the traditional Irish bun dancer is served on a gigantic dining table.

Thanks to my friend's parents, my new year's resolutions are complete. These tools explain how much money you will need and for how long – something you can adjust through the course of the year. You may also get personalized benefits estimates using the Retirement Estimator at www.socialsecurity.gov/myaccount.

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Choose the Christmas tree at our friends the Caston Family's home.

The Cornman Family is one of the families of the Caston family's, where I will only have our Christmas Eve celebration (christ- maseve in their family home). I will only have a few weeks to celebrate before this year's Christmas.

In a few weeks, my family and friends will gather at the Yonkers Variety Show. This is a family tradition that I will always remember. It will be a time of joy and happiness.

When I was young, I had a dream of being able to have a home of my own. This dream was not only for myself, but for my family as well. Now, my dream has come true.

The Christmas tree is the centerpiece of our Christmas celebration. This tree is always decorated with lights and ornaments.

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Dr. Margaret Brady was the winner of the polls, having received 192,334 ballots for teacher Margaret Brady; William LeBailey received 326,610 votes; and top letter carrier John J. McCormick topped policemen with 1,318,762 votes; Thomas Barden was the lead -

**Donations Sought for Sharing Community Dinner**

The Sharing Community, Inc., will host its annual community Christmas Day dinner Dec. 25 to the homeless, from noon to 3 p.m. at 1 Hudson St. (behind St. John’s Church, Market Square), Yonkers.

The Sharing Community, Inc. is a minority-controlled, community-based organization that provides intervention, advocacy and referral to the homeless, hungry and ill residents of southwest Yonkers — the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of southwest Yonkers – the most distressed area of 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Nearly 14,600 children will soon experience the joy of Christmas, thanks to the combined efforts of the Yonkers community and residents from surrounding counties. Residents packed empty shoeboxes with small items like toys, school supplies and hygiene items for Operation Christmas Child, a project of Samaritan’s Purse that sends gifts to children living in difficult situations around the world.

For those who missed National Collection Week, you can still get involved. Through the Samaritan’s Purse website, you can virtually “pack” a shoebox, allowing anyone with a computer or mobile device to provide a tangible gift to a child in a world away.

At www.samaritanspurse.org/buildonline, visitors can select a child’s age and gender, shop through an online selection of culturally relevant gifts, and finish by uploading a photo and writing a note of encouragement to the child who will receive it. After the shoeboxes are packed and sent by the Operation Christmas Child team, participants can discover where in the world their gifts will be delivered.

It is a convenient yet meaningful way to join in a project that brings hope to children in need.

The virtual-packing tool also offers participants the option to challenge friends to participate or the opportunity to share the gift of giving through a shoebox gift card.

Operation Christmas Child is a project of Samaritan’s Purse, an international Christian relief and evangelism organization headed by Franklin Graham. Since 1993, Operation Christmas Child has delivered gift-filled shoeboxes to more than 124 million children in more than 150 countries and territories. In 2015, Operation Christmas Child hopes to deliver gifts to another 11 million children.

For more information on how to participate in Operation Christmas Child, call 518-437-0690 or visit samaritanspurse.org/occ.
‘WinterScape’ Mesmerizes

Happy Holidays, Yonkers!

Yonkers Rising would like to wish our readers, advertisers and city officials a Merry Christmas, Happy Chanukah and a Happy New Year. We consider it a privilege and honor to provide you with a true local newspaper that delivers good news about your great city.

We also want to thank all of the 63 businesses, libraries and drop locations for Yonkers Rising to allow us to deliver your newspaper to the people.

Photos by Donna Davis

A Busy & Festive Chanukah For Chabad of Yonkers

Chabad of Yonkers, located at 600 N. Broadway and under the spiritual leadership of Rabbi Mendy Hurwitz, traveled throughout the city for Chanukah celebrations recently.

“Just to give you a brief understanding on what the holiday of Chanukah is, why we light the Menorah in public places, on the streets in the park, putting a menorah on a car and driving around with it, is because the message of the holiday is to inspire someone else, to transform darkness into light,” he said.

“Someone who may not have had an opportunity to practice his religion, for whatever reason, the message is that it’s not too late,” continued Hurwitz. “We are reaching out to those and telling them, it’s not too late when he sees these lights he can be inspired and remember his roots and reconnect. Chanukah also teaches that for everyone, it doesn’t matter of your religion. The light of Chanukah teaches that a little light can push away darkness and reminds us that we can all live together in peace.”

In addition to the Menorah lighting at Untermyer Park as part of the Untermyer Gardens Conservancy’s Grand Holiday Illumination (see photos on page 3), Chabad of Yonkers had a pre-Chanukah workshop at the Home Depot in Yonkers, where each child got to build their very own Menorah.

“It made the upcoming holiday more exciting and meaningful, for they actually built their very own menorah to light during the holiday,” said Hurwitz. “On the first night we hosted a Menorah lighting at Ridge Hill. Many city officials joined, including Mayor Mike Spano, Assemblywomen Shelley Meyer, City Council President Liam McLaughlin and Councilman Michael Sabatino. We had live music to bring in the joy of the holiday. The kids got to make their own dreidels and everyone got delicious donuts and chocolate gelt in spirit of the holiday.

“The second night we hosted a Menorah lighting at Cross Country Mall,” he continued. “We had live music, hot latkes and delicious donuts, as well as a beautiful setup candy bar for all to enjoy. Mayor Mike Spano joined the festivities and lit the Menorah.

“The third night of Chanukah we had a car Menorah parade, with a police escort we drove through the streets of Yonkers, spreading the light and joy of Chanukah. We ended at Machia Distillery on Saw Mill River Road, where an enjoyed hot pizza and yummy donuts, as well as a full open bar of Machia’s unique products.

“On Sunday night we had a special Menorah lighting at Untermyer Park in loving memory of Marty Rochelle, ‘Mr. Parks,’” concluded Hurwitz. “Congressman Eliot Engel lit the Menorah. Many other dignitaries joined in and shared memories of Marty. There were hot latkes and hot cocoa for all to enjoy.

For more information on Chabad of Yonkers, visit www.JewishYonkers.com.

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