America's Great Forgotten Garden in Our Own Backyard

Yonkers’ Korean War Heroes
Army Master Sergeant Stephen Chupak Jr.

By Dan Murphy

A native of Monessen, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles south of Pittsburgh, the Chupak family moved to Yonkers, New York, about the year 1917 to Stephen, Sr., and Anna Chupak, dated July 31, and this time it’s adding something new.

In Monessen, Pennsylvania, about 30 miles south of Pittsburgh, the Chupak family moved to Yonkers, New York, about the year 1917 to Stephen, Sr., and Anna Chupak, dated July 31, and this time it’s adding something new.

Stephen was their fifth child; he was preceded by sisters Anna and Mary, and brothers Peter and John. He had a younger brother, Julius, who was born in like 1920 or early 1921. By 1925, the family had moved from Monessen to Yonkers, settling at 23 Cotton Terrace.

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The Untermeyer Gardens were on the estate of attorney Samuel Untermeyer, who bought the 150-acre estate called Greystone in 1899. After John D. Rockefeller built Kykuit, the estate of attorney Samuel Untermeyer, who bought the 150-acre estate called Greystone in 1899.

Mayor Mike Spano and Council Majority Leader Wilson Terrero present a recognition certificate to Yonkers, settling at 23 Cotton Terrace.

After John D. Rockefeller built Kykuit, the estate of attorney Samuel Untermeyer, who bought the 150-acre estate called Greystone in 1899.

In Yonkers, Stephen, Sr. worked as a weaver for the Alexander Smith and Sons Carpet Company, which produced some of the world’s finest rugs in its heyday. Though the company no longer exists, its buildings do — they’re on the National Register of Historic Places and today house the YoHo Artist Community.

I was not able to find much information about Chupak’s personal life while growing up, though I did find quite a bit about his family.

Family (obitual)

While still living in Pennsylvania, Stephen Sr. was drafted into the Army for a time during World War I. This may have helped influence the career choices of his sons, as well.

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As a child, Stephen Sr. had a passion for architecture and art, which influenced the career choices of his sons.

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Yonkers Youth has Night to Remember at Mets Game

Nine-year-old Ernesto Martinez, center left, and Ryan Heinzerling, center right, meet Mets legends Mookie Wilson and John Franco after throwing the ceremonial first pitch in tandem June 11 at the 11th annual Starlight Night at Citi Field.

Ernesto Martinez, a 4-year-old from Yonkers who is battling Acute Lymphoblastic Leukemia, got the opportunity of a lifetime June 11 at the 11th annual Starlight Night at Citi Field when he and the coveted chance to walk onto Citi Field and throw the ceremonial first pitch before the New York Mets game against the St. Louis Cardinals.

More than 300 seriously ill children who spend a significant portion of their lives in hospitals and clinics attended the event and enjoyed a night of fun, food and baseball at Citi Field, courtesy of the Mets and ARAMARK. The event included face painting and clowns, and the children received a special visit from Mr. Met, along with New York Mets great John Franco and Mookie Wilson.

Diagnosed with ALL in 2009, Ernesto received chemotherapy treatments every week for two years before finally settling into remission, which he has now been in for one year. Despite low times during hospital stays, he keeps a positive attitude which he puts forward to this day, and in the future he wants to become a doctor to help other children facing similar illnesses and challenges.

For Ernesto and the other 275 seriously ill children that the Starlight Children’s Foundation supports each year, childhood can be very difficult, as these kids can feel alone and isolated. The Starlight Great Escapes program introduces students to others with similar concerns and provides them with outings and trips, such as Starlight Night at Citi Field, to help them forget about their sicknesses – if only for one night.

"We need the Common Core in Westchester, New York and our country to succeed in the global knowledge economy," said King. "College and career readiness is the driving force behind workforce development. We are at a defining moment in the history of public education," added Corcoran. "The need to raise student achievement and college – career-readiness in K-12 education is urgent – which is why CCSS is so crucial … you can support this initiative by being very advocates for higher standards and higher performance.”

YPF Chairman David Westin and the quadrant leaders look for the next generation of trained workforce, the community needs to do what it can to produce students. "There is a lot we can do together to be a part of this effort," he said. "This is the center of where YPF is all about.""We need to invest in students for our businesses of tomorrow and today," added event co-host Marsha Gordon, CEO of The Business Council of Westchester: "We need to invest on schools to produce students that can carry out the needs of the workforce." She also encouraged businesses to support the work of educators and cited YPF’s leadership role in fostering this partnership.

Mary Murray of IBM Corporate Citizenship and Corporate Affairs added: “Part of our mission is to promote workforce development. Working with YPF, The Business Council of Westchester and the Yonkers Public Schools is extremely valuable. We can only accomplish those important goals through these valuable partnerships."

At last week’s “Building a College- and Career-Ready Workforce for the Future” break- fast for area business leaders, the Exchange Club of Yonkers Partners in Education and The Business Council of Westchester at Xavier X20, State Education Commissioner Dr. John King and GE Foundation President and Chairman Robert Cerro

Students Spell

Continued from Page 1

the school’s 5 library.

Also honored in the Exchange Club’s “2013 Youth of the Year” was Wasif Ali, a student at Lincoln High School, who was honored with a $1,000 scholarship from the club.

Director Kelechi Nwokoro, who is the 2013 Youth of the Year, was honored at the school’s 5 library.

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This, Too, is News to Yorkers

Eric W. Schoen

Yonkers Inventor of FM Radio

Edwin Armstrong Honored

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Go for it, Mr. Bharara!

Bharara told the Capitol Tonight program “you couldn’t hang from the non-profit paid for items for his wife ver cheaper than New York.

Raw Text End
$1.5M Energy Efficiency Project Completed in Yonkers

Mayor Mike Spano and the Yonkers Office of Sustainability held a press conference last week to announce the completion of an energy efficiency project at nine city sites. The project was funded by a $1.5 Million Energy Efficiency Grant from the New York State Energy Research and Development Authority (NYSERDA). The project was implemented by the City of Yonkers to help achieve the city’s energy reduction goals and improve energy efficiency in the community.

The city of Yonkers is making great progress towards its goal of reducing its carbon footprint. The city council recently passed a resolution mandating the city’s energy efficiency program. The resolution aims to reduce the city’s energy consumption by 20% by 2025.

According to Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano, “The city is proud to open this new chapter in our ongoing effort to improve energy efficiency and reduce our carbon footprint. Our goal is to be carbon neutral by 2050. This project is a significant step towards achieving that goal.”

The project included energy efficiency improvements at nine city sites, including the Department of Public Works Vehicle Replacement, the City Council Chamber, the George Washington Bridge, the Zee Bridge, the Yonkers Police Department, the Yonkers Fire Department, the Yonkers Public Library, the Yonkers City Hall, and the Yonkers City Council.

The project included the following improvements:

1. Department of Public Works Vehicle Replacement
   - Installation of new eco-friendly vehicles
2. Yonkers Police Department
   - Installation of LED lighting
3. Yonkers Public Library
   - Installation of high-efficiency computers
4. Yonkers City Hall
   - Installation of new computer monitoring systems to reduce energy consumption
5. Yonkers City Council
   - Installation of LED lighting upgrades and new heating system controls to reduce energy costs
6. Y.E. Murray Memorial Skating Rink
   - Installation of new lighting upgrades for the skating rink and outdoor energy use
7. Yonkers Pizza Plant
   - Installation of LED lighting
8. Yonkers Library
   - Installation of high-efficiency equipment
9. Yonkers City Hall
   - Installation of LED lighting upgrades and new heating system controls to reduce energy costs
10. Zee Bridge
    - Replacement of metal halide fixtures with high-efficiency LED lighting

Mayor Mike Spano said, “These improvements will help to reduce our energy consumption and prevent climate change. They will also save the city money and help us achieve our energy efficiency goals.”

The project is expected to save the city approximately $800,000 per year in energy costs. The savings will help to fund the city’s energy efficiency program and reduce its carbon footprint.

Mayor Mike Spano concluded, “We are committed to reducing our carbon footprint and improving energy efficiency. This project is a significant step towards achieving that goal. We are proud to have received this grant and to have implemented these improvements.”

The City of Yonkers is committed to reducing its carbon footprint and improving energy efficiency. The city is a leader in the state in terms of energy efficiency and has been recognized for its efforts.

To learn more about the City of Yonkers’ energy efficiency program, visit www.buildgreen.ny.gov.
By 1939, he was assigned to the Asiatic Statesman before enlisting in the Navy in Texas Oil. He was wounded during Peleliu and spent three months in hospital in California before his discharge on September 10, 1942. By 1943, he was serving aboard an assault transport vessel in the Pacific Theatre. By the time he was honorably discharged from the Navy, he was a Private directly to Corporal, skipping the rank of Private First Class.

By 1942, he had risen to the rank of Corporal and was appointed to the Mediterranean fleet. He was married to Almena Mary Ockasi, known as Mary, on July 28, 1942. He served actively in the Pacific and Atlantic theaters, and was stationed at the San Diego Base Command, the organization responsible for the salvage of war materials — in this capacity, he served in the Mediterranean fleet. He was scheduled to leave Germany on November 27th, 1945, shortly after his discharge from the Army.

Chupak's only younger sibling, his sister Mary married one Alvin Reilly of San Antonio, later of Menlo Park, California. He served in the Coast Artillery, alternately in the 6th Fleet in the Mediterranean. While in Europe, Chupak served first with the 75th Infantry Division as a replacement. He had to leave Germany and take a job as a replacement for another soldier who was killed. He was married to his wife, Mary, in July 1945, after being drafted into the Army in the last group of World War II draftees in the US.

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Yonkers seniors who have reached 90 years of age are honored each year at a gala luncheon, and this year’s luncheon will be held on June 18, at the Yonkers Country Club. The event is free to all, and a small donation of appreciation will be welcomed.

Entertainment will be provided and includes a performance by guests, illuminated squares of each honoree’s life will be offered.

For reservations, call Moore at 914-243-5398.

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**Yonkers Community Action Program** is seeking community members to stand for election to the Board of Directors. If interested please submit letter of interest and resume to yonkerscap.org or fax to 914-423-5398.

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**Customer sales associates available in Plains, NY - **

**FARM & LAND & CABIN.**

* We have buy-sell rights for the sale of the property.
* The property is situated on land.
* The property is used for agricultural purposes.
* The property is subject to an easement.
* The property is subject to a mortgage lien.

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Hot Topics in Health Care: Medicare Solvent Until 2026?

By: Michael LaMagna

In what certainly can be read as good news, the Medicare trustees re- ported in their annual report that the Medicare Trust Fund, which holds all payroll deductions, is scheduled to exhaust all its money by the year 2016. This is two years greater than reported last year. The main consider- ations for the brief exten- sion were the improving economy and slowing health care costs. The slowing health care costs are attributed, at least in part, to the Affordable Care Act, new policy limitations on the Medicare Part C or Medicare Managed Care Plans, reduced hospital-to-hospital submissions, and payment changes to health care facilities. The impact of the Affordable Care Act, which goes into full effect during the current year, continues.

Although this was certainly good news, the trustees cautioned that there is still significant work to be done with respect to Medicare and that the future is still uncertain. It is well known that the programs are not sustainable in their current forms, especially since there are approximately 100,000 people turning 65 each day.

Another way we speed up decisions is with our Quick Disability Determinations initiative, which uses technology to identify appli- cants who have the most severe disabilities and allows us to expedite our decisions on those cases. Read more about Quick Disability Determinations at www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilityresearch는l.htm.

There are things you can do to help speed up the decision process. The more infor- mation you provide up front, the less time it will take us to obtain the evidence we need and the faster we can make a decision on your application. The types of information needed include medical records or documentation; the names, addresses and phone numbers for any doctors, hospitals, medical facilities, treat- ment centers or providers that may have information related to your disability condition; the names, addresses and phone numbers of recent employers and the dates you worked for each employer; and your federal tax return for the past year.

If you’re not able to work due to a dis- ability, go online to www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilitysolventuntil2026 and learn more about Compassionate Accommodations, the Social Security Disability Trust Fund, which holds all payroll deductions, is scheduled to become exhaust- ed by the year 2016. If the retirement fund becomes depleted, it is not likely that benefits will continue. Medicare will pay less and less as the future of the program becomes more precarious, with few new people entering the system.

Another way you can speed up decisions is by providing all the information you can about your disability condition. If you’re not working due to a disability, go online to www.socialsecurity.gov/disabilitysolventuntil2026 and learn more about Compassionate Accommodations.

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Apply for Disability Benefits From the Convenience of Home

By Susan Sobel

Social Security District Manager in Yonkers George Sirignano, Jr., Member; Anthony Enea, managing member; George Sirignano Jr., member, all of Enea, Scanlan and Sirignano, LLP in White Plains, was named Westchester County’s leading elder care attorney at the Above the Bar Awards held recently at Pace Law School where Enea was named Westches- ter County’s leading elder care attorney.

Enea was honored for his legal accomplish- ments, leadership qualities and outstanding service in the field of elder law. Approximately 200 lawyers, judges, elected officials and friends turned out for the seventh annual event, recogniz- ing outstanding legal work in the Westchester community.

“it always is an honor to be recognized by my peers and colleagues – especially for work that I find so personally rewarding,” said Enea, who has spent the past three decades protecting the rights of seniors and the disabled. His practice areas in- clude elder law, Medicaid planning and applica- tions; wills, trusts and estate planning; guardianships and assisted living.

A strong leader in the Westchester legal com- munity, he is the immediate past chair of the New York State Bar Association’s Elder Law Section, a member of the Council of Advanced Practitioners of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, and a past president of the organization’s New York chapter.

Enea is on the Guardianship Advisory Com- mittee of the Office of Court Administration for the State of New York and is the former chair- man of the “Elder Law Attorney” for the New York State Bar Association’s Elder Law Section. In addition to being named Westchester’s leading elder care attorney, he has been recognized with numerous other past-service designations, in- cluding Westchester’s Top 25 “Super Lawyers” and “Best Lawyer” (Best Lawyers in America, 2011-13), and is an “AV” rated pre-eminent attor- ney (Martindale-Hubbell, 2002-13).

Enea’s commitment to community service has led him to become vice president of the Westches- ter County Bar Foundation, treasurer for New York State’s Association of Major Gifts Advisors, and, as a member of both Board of Editors of the Elder Law and the Business Development Board of Hudson Valley Bank.

Enea can be reached at 914-985-4600 or at asirignano@esslawfirm.com. For the latest news, visit Enea, Scanlan and Sirignano online at www.esslawfirm.com.

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In Sleepy Hollow, Untermeyer vowed to create "the world's greatest garden" in Yonkers and commissioned Wells Bozworth to design Un-
termeyer Gardens in 1923.

Untermeyer opened the gardens to the public and to the public of the world. "It is now time," Untermeyer wrote, "that Yonkers
enjoy to what had become one of the coun-
try's most significant botanical gardens. Un-
termeyer's 3,000 species of orchids and flowers from all over the world make the gardens wondrous for the next year's garden.

After Untermeyer's death in 1940, the es-
tate was subdivided, with a 43-acre piece that is used as a park. Over the next 60 years, the park was subdivided, with a 43-acre piece that is used as a park. Over the next 60 years, the park was used as a park. Over the next 60 years, the park was used as a park.

That is the vision of the Untermeyer Gardens. It is still a great day in the summer sun, imagining what the park and gardens could be. That is the vision of the Untermeyer Gardens, who will host the OYEP 2013 walk.

YPIE college advisor Michelle Rios and YPIE’s
gardens have "America's Best Gardens,"
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Westchester’s Generosity Helps Local Non-Profits Thrive

By Dan Murphy

The people of Westchester’s generosity to local non-profit groups comes in different ways. Many lend their time and volunteer their service to help organizations get the services to those who need it, but residents also reach into their pocket and donate to these many organizations through charity events, golf outings and other fundraisers.

Habitat for Humanity of Westchester is one of our favorite local volunteer organizations. Habitat recently held its Annual Dream Luncheon to honor its partners who helped Habitat provide families with a new home.

The organization has been able to bring together volunteers from Westchester high schools and colleges, local companies, churches and synagogues, to help build houses and create community gardens.

Habitat for Humanity Westchester Executive Director Jim Killoran honored the following volunteers who helped Habitat provide families with a new home:

Nicholas Di Napoli Sr. and Frank Di Fusco, both from Twins Electric Corporation, with Killoran.

Killion thanked the volunteers for their work in more than 20 Westchester towns and cities where Habitat has been able to build new affordable homes. “We will not stop until everyone has a home in this beautiful community,” he said.

White Plains Mayor Tom Roche, County Executive Rob Astorino and Yonkers Mayor Mike Spano were among the elected officials in attendance at the lunch lending their support.

“I can’t think of a better example of humanit y than Jim Killoran. Everything he believes in, he does. He believes in the goodness of everyone,” said Astorino.

Killion and Habitat Westchester were thanked for doing what a great community organization must do to succeed – bring people of all ages and backgrounds together, provide a much-needed service to those who need it most, and raise the funds necessary to keep it all going.

“Killoran and Habitat for Humanity Westchester does all of this and more. Check out all they do and consider volunteering or making a contribution, at www.habitatwc.org” said Killoran.

We will highlight the many community organizations and non-profits that help make Westchester a great place to live, work and raise our children.

“Lean on Me” by Meril Benny, the ninth grade first-place winner.

“AAA” by Cameron Holder, the 10th grade first-place winner.

“My World is Art” by Wasif Ali, the 12th grade first-place winner.

Yonkers’ Young Poets

Continued from Page 1

“Chores,” by Jamileth Hernandez, Lincoln High School

I’ve changed my linen, made my bed And swept my bedroom floor I’ve folded all my laundry And sharpened every one There are so many things to do When homework must be done

“Summer Beach Love,” by Alexis M. vil- laforte, Lincoln High School

His hugs are the warm sun on my skin, gentle & comforting His words are the sand, ones that sink you in, soft & soothing His love is the beach on a warm July day Making it hard to walk away

“Love Lyric,” by Elias Almanza, Lincoln High School

Love is something we all share Just like oxygen in the air The way we live it is up to us With a negative or with a plus

“Life Lyric,” by Elias Almanza, Lincoln High School

Life is something we all share Just like oxygen in the air The way we live it is up to us With a negative or with a plus

“Lean on Me” by Meril Benny, the ninth grade first-place winner.

“AAA” by Cameron Holder, the 10th grade first-place winner.
Lesnick Marks 54th Birthday
With Fundraising Celebration

Yonkers City Council President Chuck Lesnick celebrated his 54th birthday Thursday night at Heritage Grill with an event that attracted long-time friends and supporters, elected officials and musicians.

One of the primary goals of Lesnick’s birthday fundraiser was to bring attention to restoring music and arts programs in the Yonkers Public Schools, and 2012 Yonkers Junior Idol Maya Katyajini Ghosh Lisbin represented the young talent of Yonkers and sang to standing ovations.

Music and song were also performed by Unchained Territory featuring Steve Golah, Len Harper and Francisco Monroy; recording artist Donna Pretlow; and “The Enchanting Nephyte,” Anna Fleshler.

Lesnick, who is term-limited from running for council president this fall, is seeking a position with the Obama Administration and has not ruled out a run for future office. “I’ve been wait- ing for many months for the president to make a decision, but I understand that things move slowly in Washington. But I want to continue to serve the public,” he said.

Last week, in observance of Flag Day, the Yonkers Central Committee of Veterans Organizations held its annual ‘Color it Proud’ ceremony at Saunders Trade and Technical High School.

Event Chairman Sam Riti presided over the contest, in which public and parochial first- through fourth-grade students from Yonkers partici- pated, with first- and second-graders coloring their own American Flag, and third and fourth-graders submitting an essay on what the flag means to them.

One hundred and fifty students and their families attended the ceremony and each received a flag, trophy and certificate of appreciation from Mayor Mike Spano, Sen. Andrea Stewart-Cousins, Assemblymember Helley Mayer and the Yonkers City Council.

The Yonkers Police Honor Guard presented the colors and “God Bless America” was performed by Robert Bisaccia, who rounded out a patriotic evening.

For his contributions to community service for veterans and the Air Civic Patrol was honored for marching in the Yonkers Memorial Day parade.

Yonkers Public Schools Superintendent Bernard Pierorazio and his staff helped support the event.

From left, Rachelle “Rocky” Richard, Democratic candidate for the Westchester BOL; Congressman Eliot Engel; Yonkers City Council President Chuck Lesnick; former Yonkers City Manager Nicholas DeSantis; and state Assemblyman David Weprin.

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From left, Rachelle “Rocky” Richard, Democratic candidate for the Westchester BOL; Cong- ressman Eliot Engel; Yonkers City Council President Chuck Lesnick; former Yonkers City Manager Nicholas DeSantis; and state Assemblyman David Weprin.

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