



# YONKERS RISING

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## PAL Easter Egg Hunt



Photo by Ed Whitman

Yonkers PAL Chairman Angelo Martinelli (left) and James Vetrano (right), PAL Board member, with the Easter Bunny, golden egg winner Ryan Corchoran (center), his mother, Mary, and his siblings

The annual Yonkers Police Athletic League (PAL)'s Easter Egg Hunt, held last weekend at Cook Field, was a big hit, with over 400 children and parents enjoying this annual event. The beautiful weather added to the perfect day, as hundreds

of Yonkers girls and boys ran out to collect candy-filled eggs. A visit by the Easter Bunny topped off a spectacular day.

The Easter Egg Hunt starts a busy season for  
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## YOHO Artists to Hold Open Studio April 17 & 18

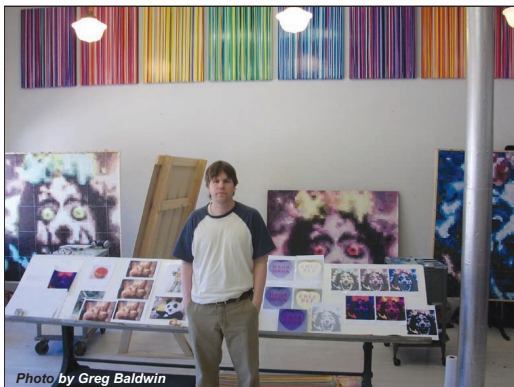


Photo by Greg Baldwin

Artist Adam Shultz at his YOHO Artist Studio

The YOHO Artists Studio, located at 540 and 578 Nepperhan Ave., is celebrating its seventh annual Open Studio weekend on April 17 and 18. Many of the studios at YOHO, occupied by a varying number of artists, will be open for the public to visit, all part of a weekend-long list of free events to celebrate this thriving artistic

community in Yonkers.

YOHO, Yonkers' version of SOHO, is a group of 55 Yonkers-based artists having studios and producing their works in renovated loft spaces within the former Alexander Smith Carpet Mills buildings on Nepperhan Avenue.

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## Yonkers Rallies for Education!



Future Yonkers Public Schools students joined in the effort to protest cuts to education funding, demanding that they deserve better.

The Yonkers Council of PTA/PTSA held a rally this week on the steps of Gorton High School; alongside parents and students were teachers, support staff and community leaders who joined together to protest budget cuts to education.

Governor David Paterson has proposed a \$22 million cut to education funding in Yonkers, and Mayor Phil Amicone has projected a \$40 million budget hole in the city's budget for education.

The state budget, due on April 1, has not yet been passed, so Amicone, Yonkers Public Schools (YPS) Superintendent Bernard Pierorazio and the Yonkers Board of Education don't know what final amount of aid will come from Albany.

The rally was an effort to put pressure on the state to restore the \$22 million for Yonkers education funding. The State Senate has come up with its budget outline — which would restore the \$22 million for YPS — but the Assembly has no restoration in its budget.

Combine all of this with a \$9 billion budget gap in Albany and it adds up to a very troubling budget for Yonkers and YPS. Amicone has estimated that 500 YPS jobs would have to be cut if Paterson's budget is adopted.

The mayor and the superintendent attended



Parents waved signs and united with one another to demand the best for their children.

Photos by Greg Baldwin

the rally, but the focus was more on the parents, staff and students, who joined together to call for the amount of education funding they deserve.

**See more photos from the education rally on Page 2**

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## News 12 Westchester Reporter & Yonkers Resident Emcees 'Walk4hearing' Kick-Off Event

News 12 Westchester reporter and Yonkers resident Lidia Ujkaj recently served as emcee at the kick-off luncheon for the Hearing Loss Association of America (HLAA)'s 2010 Westchester Walk4Hearing, held at the Royal Regency Hotel in Yonkers, with approximately 100 people in attendance.

Featured keynote speakers included John Tiffany, headmaster of the New York School for the Deaf, and Ronnie Adler, National Walk4Hearing HLAA manager. The fifth annual Walk4Hearing will be held on Saturday, May 15, at FDR Park in Yorktown Heights.

A full-time reporter for News 12 Westchester, Ujkaj has considered Yonkers her home since high school and is thrilled to be reporting for the station she grew up watching. Along with covering local news, she has also interviewed many national figures, from Secretary of State Hillary Clinton to First Lady Michelle Obama.

Additional information about Cablevision is available on the Web at www.cablevision.com.



Lidia Ujkaj

## Who Will Stand in the Way of a Governor Andrew Cuomo?



Republican gubernatorial candidate Rick Lazio (center), at the St. Patrick's Day Parade in New York City

By Dan Murphy

As the coronation of State Attorney General Andrew Cuomo to be the next governor of the Empire State (even without his formal announcement yet) draws near, two "Republican" candidates are vying to challenge the likely Democratic candidate, Cuomo, in November.



Suffolk County Executive Steve Levy, now a Republican running for governor

Levy, who is the county executive of Suffolk County on Long Island, recently switched parties (unwilling to take on Cuomo in a Democratic primary) and is running for governor as a Republican. Levy only launched his campaign a few weeks ago, but he immediately got the important endorsement from Cox.

Republican Rick Lazio and Steve Levy — a Democrat turned Republican — are the two candidates, one of whom will be seen on the ballot for governor this November. Lazio, a former congressman from Long Island, has been touring the state for months, picking up endorsements from county Republican and Conservative committees.

Levy, 50, with an impressive record of closing budgets and taking on the unions to cut spending, has taken a firm stand against illegal immigration, and is a man of the people — driving an old car and claiming that his reason for becoming a Republican was that the Democratic Party "left him behind." While Levy has taken some

Lazio is best known for running against Hillary Clinton for the U.S. Senate in 2000, and walking over to challenge her assertions in a 2000 debate, (deemed the "violation of my space" incident). Since then, Lazio has spent time in the private sector, including a stint on Wall Street (which Cuomo will likely use against him).

hits for some liberal views — including supporting President Obama's stimulus plan and supporting the health care reform package recently passed in Washington — the fact that he closed a \$238 million budget gap in 2004 with large cuts, makes him a viable candidate.

Lazio's campaign is based on three principles:

The wild card this November will be the impact of the Tea Party groups, and the thousands of New Yorkers, 69 percent of whom say it would be better for the state if most incumbents were defeated this fall. A wild card candidate could be Carl Paladino, a Buffalo attorney, developer and millionaire, who announced his run for governor this week.

- Getting the state's financial house in order: "The New York State government has lived beyond its means for over a decade. When the economy boomed, we spent nearly every tax dollar and then borrowed more," said Lazio. "New York State is currently facing a \$9 billion budget hole for their current budget, which started on April 1. State legislative leaders have been unable to agree on a budget, and have missed the April 1 deadline with no agreement in sight."

The outspoken Paladino, 63, who speaks some of the same "fed up with government, spending and taxes" sentiments shared by the Tea Party movement, will also seek the Republican nomination for governor, but could also run as an Independent, vowing to spend \$10 million of his own funds to make it to the governor's mansion.

- Getting back into the business of job creation: "I will do everything I can so that the people of New York have more job opportunities," he continued. "We have so many talented, wonderful people, who live in this state. It is my priority to correct our current economic situation so that we can leave a more hopeful future to our children and grandchildren."

"When people say to me that I have no experience in government, I say that's my greatest asset; I'm going to turn him upside down and shake out every dollar," said Paladino.

- Returning integrity to government: Lazio stated, "The time has come to do the people's business. The time has come to replace state government with a government that this state needs, wants and has earned. New York remains a state of dreams, drive and innovation. We have never quit in the face of any challenge from our past and we must not quit now."

The campaign fundraising race shows Levy with \$4 million and Lazio with \$637,000 so far, with Cuomo having a whopping \$16 million.

Westchester County Republicans have endorsed Lazio, with County GOP Chairman Doug Colety saying, "This is going to be a tsunami election year and it's important for us to have a solid Republican candidate at the top of the ticket."

Colety also said that Cox's "introduction" of Levy to the Republican Party "has energized the Lazio campaign, and in the end [he] thinks Lazio is [the Republican] nominee."

While Lazio has collected 50 percent of the state Republican chairs, he does not have the endorsement of state GOP Chairman Ed Cox, and that's where Steve Levy comes into the equation.

Join us online at [YonkersRising.com](http://YonkersRising.com) to take part in the discussion and post your thoughts concerning the race for governor!

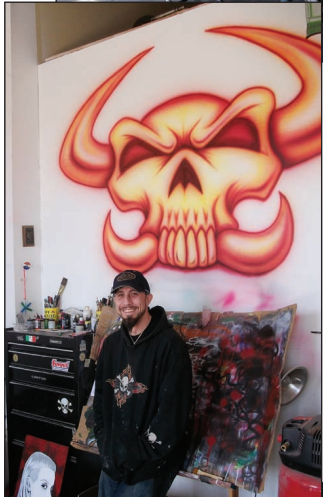


Photos by Greg Baldwin

At left: YOHO Artist Studios, located on Nepperhan Avenue



Above: Dean Tomasula, YOHO artist



At left: YOHO photographer RJ Dibenedetto

Below: A stained glass piece by Victor Rothman



### YOHO Artists Continued from Page 1

Over the years, artists have been drawn to these affordable yet spacious work lofts for their high ceilings and abundant light, and now, their critical mass represents not only the epicenter of the arts within Yonkers, but strives to be the gateway to the arts for lower Westchester in the coming years.

"Our Open Studio is intended to foster creativity and encourage experimentation in an atmosphere of cultural exchange, conversation, encouragement and freedom of expression," said George Huang, manager and developer of YOHO Artists Studios. "Creativity has a place in everyone's life, and we invite everyone to come and experience what's going on artistically in Yonkers."

The YOHO Open Studio is an opportunity to see and interact directly with the artists. It encourages people to explore art by inviting them into the artist's work studio, and learning about the inspirations, motivations, emotions and history that led to the creating of their art, their style and of specific pieces.

Participants will see a diverse group of artists, including emerging artists in their 20s and 30s as well as mid-career and well-established artists from all over the southern Westchester and the Bronx.

In addition, two piano concerts sponsored by Craftsman Piano will be held this weekend. On April 17, at 2 p.m., Dr. Yelena Grinberg will perform Bach and Mendelssohn and on April 18, at 2 p.m., Oxana Mikhailoff will perform Chopin.

Light refreshments will be also be served. *Yonkers Rising* was pleased to have the opportunity to visit with several of the artists at YOHO the YOHO Artists Studio. They include:

- Dean Tomasula, a photographer who produces family photos, portraits and photos for painters and models.
- RJ Dibenedetto, a "Comic Art" painter and sculpture, who also paints instruments and

does Web site design.

- Dakota Christianson, a sculptor, who uses leftover wood and metals to create his pieces, in a "minimalist modern design." He also creates furniture, and as a Michigan native, he found YOHO by just driving by.

- Adam Shultz, an Internet culture artist, who uses Internet culture and language and places it onto a canvas setting. Shultz found out about YOHO through word of mouth. "This community is very appealing because of the buzz about it; it's one of a kind in southern Westchester. YOHO really markets itself," Shultz said.

- Victor Rothman, who does restoration work and fabrication of stained glass, with 38 years of experience. Rothman found out about YOHO from his wife who saw a story in *Yonkers Rising*. "After seeing the place, I signed the contract 20 minutes later," Rothman said. He was particularly drawn to YOHO because, like most artists, his workspace was in Manhattan, but was too costly to keep. Here at YOHO, he "has twice the space for half the amount I would pay in Manhattan." This also works to his advantage because he's closer to home. His line of work has brought him projects from "the sublime to the ridiculous," he said.

- Carolyn Ray (Inc.), features "creative industrial" art with a specialty in high-end creative wall treatments. Ray is highly inspired by nature, and her clients are often interior designers and architects.

YOHO will also celebrate Earth Day on April 22 with its green-themed exhibit, "One Man's Trash Is Another Man's Treasure." The exhibit promotes the importance of alternative and creative ways to "Go Green" by recycling, reusing and transforming things we would normally throw away into works of art. Participating artists in this year's exhibit include RJ Dibenedetto, Kevin Gordon, Adam Shultz, Dakota Christianson, Noelle Knight, Catherine Latson, Dean Tomasula, Laurie Vigoda and George Gutierrez.

For more information, visit [www.YOHOartists.com](http://www.YOHOartists.com).

