# Son of Sam arrested in Yonkers 40 years ago

shootings in New York City in the late 1970s terrorized the region and redefined a Yonkers

MARK LUNGARIELLO

YONKERS-After nights of murder in New York City, the killer commuted from his grist, blood-puddled crime scenes to bis spartment here on quiet Pine Street. I Here, the "Son of Sam" slept on a mattress laid flat on the floor. Here, he posted sheets over his windows to block out a postcard view of the Hudon River and Palisades cliffs. Here, he worked on the anonymous letters sent to taunt deterties on his trail, tense the press and terrorize neighbors.
"How dare you force me into the night

taunt detectives on his trail, tease the press and terrorize neighbors.

"How dare you force me into the night to do your bidding," said one letter to downstairs neighbor Craig Glassman. "True, I am the killer. But Craig, the killings are your command."

It was here that cops finally arrested postal worker David Berkowitz 40 years ago, on Aug. 10, 1977.

In eight random attacks over the course of a year, he'd crept yo on young victims late at night, then unloaded his 44 at close range. Six people died. One was paralyzed and another blinded. In total, he'd shot 13 people, all of them in New York City boroughs — the Bronx, Queens and Brooklya.

Now in his 60s and locked up in Shamgunik prison in Wallkill, Berkowitz is serving a sentence of more than 300 years.

serving a sentence of more than 300 years.

Pine Street is a narrow one-way clinging to a hill in a tucked away section of northwest Yonkers, less than 10 miles north from the New York City border. The whole street stretches less than 500 yeards with little foot or car traffic.

The neighborhood hasn't changed much over the decades, although the address of Berkowitz's former building has been changed from 35 Pine St. to 42 Pine St. The idea was to erase the connection between the seven-story building and its most notorious resident, who lived on the top floor.

between the seven-story building and its most notorious resident, who live do nthe top floor.

All the contract the seven and even all these years later most can point you to "the Son of Son building."

"Just last week someone asked me would you work there or live there? and I said no way," said area resident Susan Turres, St. "Hers on there anymore but it gives me the heeble jeebies just thinking about it." out it. A sense of fear took hold of the region

A sense of fear took hold of the region and grew more oppressive between the first shooting and Berkowitz's arrest. The first shooting occurred on July 29, 1976, in the Bronx, and killed Donna Lauria and injured Jody Valenti. After Columbia University student Virginia Voskerichian was shot dead on March 8, 1977, in the fifth attack, police confirmed a serial killer was on the loose. News reports said the shooter was going after young women with dark hair who were often sitting in or getting out of cars.

who were often sitting in or getting out of cars.

By the summer of '77, women were cutting their hair short, wearing it up or dying it. Nightclubs were mostly empty as the panic soared, even at the height of disco fever.

Kathleen Zaccagnino, a Yonkers native, was in her 20s and living in Tarrytown at the time. She remembers coming home late and running from her car to her parents' front door.

"You're not safe doing normal things," she said. "You're going out at night and something had could hoppen."

New York City in the 1979 wasn't the booming real estate market with confidence of the country of

lent crime.

Last year, there were 335 murders reported in New York, according to local police data. In 1976, there were more

police data. In 1976, there were more than 1,600. But the shocking randomness of the Son of Sam attacks and the fact the victims were "every Jane and Joe" terrified people, broadcaster Geraldo Rivera said during a pamel discussion last month at Manhattant's Roxy Hotel Thiese. "The victims were people that every me can relate to and everyone was subsequently fearful that they were next," asid Rivera, who participated via Skype. The discussion was part of the premiere of a documentary airing on Smithsonian Channel called "The Lost Tapes: Son of Sam."

Sam."
Writer Lawrence Klausner who also participated in the panel, said the con-Writer Lawrence Klausner who also participated in the panel, said the constant media coverage contributed to the collective anxiety. Klausner, whose 1980 book "Son of Sam" was re-released as an e-book Monday, said circulation shot up for The New York Post and Daily News as they traded scoops about the investigation into the shootings. "Their sections and their words, the reporter's, created death and havoc," he told The Journal News/should.

Both papers sold more newspapers

WESTCHESTER BRONX Son of Sam **Shootings** An oppressive fear took hold of the New York City region as serial killer David Berkowitz took to Throgs Neck Br Whitestone Br. 1 Oueenshoro Br OUEENS BROOKLYN CHRIS BROWN/USA TODAY NETWORK

the morning after Berkowitz was arrested than when President John F. Kennedy
was shot, he said.

Omega, and The John F. Kennedy
was shot, he said.

Omega, and State of State of State
Omega, and State of State
Omega, and Officers, was assigned
to find the serial killer. The police "were
going through hell" as they were unable
to break the case and media attention
was frenzied, Klausner said. "Why don't
heir own families," he said. "Why don't
heir own families," he said. "Why don't
you catch him? You're big time, you have
a gold shield, you're a detective."

Mich Stein was following to dat the
time. One night in April 1997, while his
parents were away in Florida, he
brought his future wife Susan to his parents' home at 1950 Hutchinson River
Parkway in the Brom. They fell asleep,
then woke up late and he offered to take
her home.

While she fixed her hair in the bathroom, the light is flickered.

While she fixed her hair in the bathroom, the lights flickered.

"I made a joke: King Zeus is saying
something to us," Stein, now 63 and living in Ardsley, said.

Susan stayed overnight instead of
venturing out at what they believed was
a dangerous time of night, Stein said. The
overnight Alexander Essa and Valentina
Suriani were shot dead in a car nearby.
Stein would be shocked moths later
when he read about Berkowitz's arrest
and realized they'd gone to school together as children in the Bronx. Stein described him as no crazier than an average young boy.

"I may be a some stein of said."

"GO OUT AND KILL COMMANDS
FATHER SAM," the letter stated, in part.
It was signed, "YOURS IN MUKDER
MR. MONSTER:

"House week carrier; a dog was shot
with a 22 caliber bullet in a Youkers.

The dog's owner, Sam Carr, had been receiving cryptic, anonymous letters in the
mail. Harvey, Carr's black Labrador, sur-

The dog was later blamed for order-

The dog was later blamed for ordering Berkowitz to kill.
Carr, the "Sam" in Berkowitz's alias, tipped off the Omega team about Berkowitz in July 1977. A week after the complaint, on July 31, the killer claimed Stacy Moskowitz's life in a shooting in Brooklyn.

cy Moskowitz's life in a shooting in Brooklyn.

Near the site of that shooting, Berkowitz's car was ticketed for parking near a fire hydrant. It was through tracing the ticket that Omega detectives put Berkowitz at the top of their list of suspects.

Bill Clark, a rettired NYPD homicide detective and member of Omega, said he'd always expected the shooter would be found to be a resident of one of the five boroughs.

"Yonkers came out of nowhere," he said.

he found to be a resident of one of the five boroughs.

The conferes came out of nowhere," he said unifers came out of nowhere," he said unifers came out of nowhere," and the said unifers the said unifers to describe the said unifers the said united to the said unifers the said unifers the said unifers

Glassman had received four anonymous letters dating back to June - the

same month Daily News columnist Jimmy Breslin received a letter from the killer that started, "Hello from the gutters of N.Y.C. which are filled with dog manure, vomit, stale wine, urine and blood."

One Saturday in August1977, Glassman woke up to the sound of crackling outside his front door. Someone had started a fire and thrown handfuls of 2.2 bullets into the flames. Yonkers police who took the report mentioned the similarities between Glassman's letters and Control of the started a fire to the control of the similarities between Glassman's letters and Control of the started of the control of the started of the sta

Late at night on Aug. 10, New York City police swarmed Pine Street and the surrounding streets. There were several unmarked cars in the quiet neighbor-hood and residents immediately knew

unmarked cars in the quiet neighborhood and residents immediately knew something was up.
David O'Gorman, who has lived across the street from Berkowitz's former home for most of his life, called it an "eveni" as neighbors sat in their front yards with lawn chairs to see what the buzz was about.

After police saw what appeared to be artife in the backsear of Berkowitz's yellow Ford Galaxie parked out front, they waited for a Yonkers judge to sign a search warrend of the huiding at around 10 p.m. and got into his car. Police surrounded time, guns draw, was reported to say "you got me."

"Who do I have?" Falotico said.
"You got the Son of Sam," Berkowitz said, according to the account the late Detective Joe Coffey gave this newspaper 10 years ago. The Charter Arms 44 Buildog gun was in a brown bag in the car.

Pine Street was mobbed by press and

car.
Pine Street was mobbed by press and spectators late into the night and into the next morning. The Yonkers Herald-Statesman, a predecessor of The Journal News, reported a young woman saw the

### **Obituaries**

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### DEATHS

formerly of Ridgewood -Campbell, Dr. Maryann, 82, died on 8/2/2017, arrangements ured on 8/2/2017, arrangeme by C.C. VanEmburgh Funeral

Ossining - Maxwell, David G., 78, died on 7/5/2017, arrangements by DORSEY FUNER-AL HOME,INC

Peachtree City -Welzenauer, Norma, 84, died on 8/2/2017, arrangements by Donovan Funeral Home, Inc.

Sparkill - Pane, Beverly, 81, died on 8/4/2017, arrangements by Moritz Funeral Home

Wesley Hills - Roscia, Marie Valentina, 77, arrangements by M. J. Higgins Funeral Home

Winston-Salem - Mills, Ronald Ray, 62, died on 8/2/2017, arrangements by Frank Vogler and Sons Funeral

OBITUARIES
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Well Home Monday May No. 10 Intervention Monday May No. 10 Interv



Ronald Ray Mills, age 62, passed away on August 2, 2017. He was born on September 58, 1954 in Brone, NY to Lanconne Wisdom and Harold Anthony Mills. Ronald grew up in Spring Valley, NY.

Ronald grew up in Spring Valley, NY, Ron proudly served in the U.S. Army in the military police. He army in the military police. He was a loving statement of the military police. He has presented in death by his mother and forther. He is preceded in death by his mother and forther military of the mother and forther military. He was a loving statement of the mother and forther mother and forther mother has been deather and forther mother for deather for military for



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CAMPBELL, DR. MARYANN

Dr. Maryann Campbels, 82 and formerly of Rickgrowd, RJ., entend into eternal life on August 2, 2017. An accomplished educators to many, Maryann will be renterbred as making the lives of the richiders; her students; and her colleagues, friends and acquains.

Born on April 24, 1955 in New York to kingle, said Mary Philips, Maryann was educated at St. Johns University in Flushing NY. In St. and the Collegue of the Collegues o

George T. Davis

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Upon the passing of her husband and her retrement. Norma
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A Mass of Christian Burial
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the Evangelst in Goshen, NY on
August 12, 2017.
In lieu of filowers, domains may
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Norman's Merst the St Judeo
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of the Donouan Funeral know, how, or

### Sam

Continued from Page 10A

report on TV and drove across town in her robe and slippers to see for herself.
Journalists from Time, The Washington Post, Daily News and New York Post were later arrested for trespassing when police found them inside Berkowitz's apartment after it had been sealed.
The charges were dismissed in court, according to reports.
At local discos, people toasted the news of Berkowitz's arrest. In the days after, the venues would become crowded again.
Coffey, who died in 2015, took the confession and said he walked into the

Coffey, who died in 2015, took the confession and said he walked into the room ready to kill Barkowitz but left recling sorry for him.

"It was like talking to a head of the rice in the supermarket," he said. "He never blinked his eyes. He had a constant smile on his face, and he talked about killing people like we talk about having a cockind. In 1977, wanted at least \$10,000 to give his story to The Journal News, a former editor said in 2007 recollection printed in the newspaper.

Journal News, a former editor said in a 2007 recollection printed in the newspaper.

He didn't get that payout but his family continued to be defined by Son of Sam long after Berkowitz went to jail.

Years after his arrest, Berkowitz changed his story to say he hadn't been but trigger man at all the schooling. He had the sent trigger man at all the schooling at the trigger man at all the schooling at the trigger man at all the schooling. He had cult that regularly met in Untermeyer Park, not far from his apartment.

Untermeyer was an ominous setting thee, with large sections of its gardens overgrown and its classic Roman style columns and stone structures falling apart. It has since been restored and its gardens are well-maintained today.

So comprehensive book called "The Ultimate Evil" by journalist Maury Terry, Verry, who died in 2015, believed Satanists may have been responsible for a series of unsolved crimes in Westchester around the time of the Son of Sam shootings, including 23 attacks on women using steel darts.

Carr's two sons were rumored to Carr's two sons were rumored to died in the years after Berkowitz's arrest, but friends say the theories burdened the elder Carr until his death in

\* Sunday, August 6, 2017 11A

1996.

Carl Denaro, who was shot in the back of the head during the second attack in October 1976, has come to believe Berkowitz Issti the person who shot him. He's read flurry's book and continues to condition the large of the large o

She said Berkowitz struck her as having a "light demeanor" and that he doesn't like to talk about the years around the shootings. He's up for parole again next year but doesn't expect to ever get out.

Detectives denied the conspiracy, saying Berkowitz knew every detail of the crimes including some aspects that hadn't been reported in the press. Klausner, the write a book for their IS min. Most people even peripherally involved are still defined in some way by the case. It's an association that is tought to shake, as seen today on Pime Street.

The 110-unit building, which is a now a coop, has also been rebranded from

co-op, has also been rebranded from Pine Street Towers to Horizon Hill. The on-site superintendent has asked reporters to move from the entrance and not to photograph the exterior of the building. Twitter:@marklungariello

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PANE, BEVERLY
Bevery Pane, 81, of Sparkil,
died unexpectedly on Friday,
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