

# HERALD



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Courtesy Jovon Photography

**HOLOCAUST SURVIVORS, CLOCKWISE** from top left, Alex Konstantyn, Sami Steigmann, Leo Ullman, Gilda Zirinsky, Reha Bennicasa and Mireille Taub, shared their stories, to help educate future generations about the atrocities of the Holocaust, by using artificial intelligence.

## Artificial intelligence preserves history

By **ROKSANA AMID**  
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The crowd that gathered at the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County on Jan. 18 stared at a large screen on which an elderly woman was answering questions from Zachary Graulich, the center's director of programs, who sat in the audience.

When Graulich asked the woman a question, she answered. In this age of advanced communication technology, it didn't seem like much — except for the fact that the woman, Holocaust survivor Ruth Lowenstein, died earlier this month.

It was the first of many testimonies to come that evening by way of artificial

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## Vets decry Santos' alleged theft from a homeless veteran

By **WILL SHEELINE**  
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The latest chapter in the unfolding story of alleged lies and fraud by U.S. Rep. George Santos may just be the darkest one yet.

Richard Osthoff, a United States Navy veteran, claims that in 2016 Santos, going by the alias Anthony Devolder, stole \$3,000 from a GoFundMe project to save the life of the then-homeless veteran's service dog, Sapphire, who ultimately died.

In response to the claim, Nassau County Legislator Josh Lafazan held a press conference Jan. 19 condemning Santos' alleged

theft and calling on Speaker of the House Kevin McCarthy to remove Santos from Congress.

"I'm here to say that this is the final straw," Lafazan said. "That dog ended up dying, and this veteran, who already had PTSD, is scarred for life."

Mitch Farman, a Vietnam War veteran and resident of Oyster Bay, joined Lafazan in his condemnation of the embattled Republican congressman. Farman pointed out that not only were Santos' actions contemptible, but the fact that he's become a pariah on Long Island means he won't be able to fulfill his duties to his constituents, including the many veterans and

**T**hat dog ended up dying, and this veteran, who already had PTSD, is scarred for life.

**JOSH LAFAZAN**  
Nassau County legislator

veteran organizations who rely on Congress for funding and aid.

"Twenty veterans a day commit suicide in this country," Farman said. "What George San-

tos did here is despicable; what he's done all along is despicable."

Lafazan explained that he has also set up a GoFundMe for Paws of War, an animal protection organization that trains and provides service dogs for veterans suffering for PTSD. The project's goal is to raise \$3,000, the same amount allegedly stolen by Santos, and can be found at [gofund-](https://gofundme.com/f/raise-3000-for-paws-of-war)

[me.com/f/raise-3000-for-paws-of-war](https://gofundme.com/f/raise-3000-for-paws-of-war).

The National Bobblehead Hall of Fame and Museum released a new line of Santos-themed bobbleheads on Jan. 25 to help raise money for dog-related GoFundMe campaigns as well. The Museum says it will be donating \$5 from every bobblehead sold,

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# At Holocaust Center, teaching empathy through A.I.

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intelligence.

Graulich posed a question to the Lowenstein on the screen, "What are the most important lessons you've learned about humanity?"

"The most important lesson about humanity is to be kinder to each other," she said, "to look out for each other and don't let people get away with nasty things."

Stories like hers and other Holocaust survivors are no longer just archived at the center. HMTC is offering a new interactive approach for educators and students utilizing artificial intelligence.

Education about the Holocaust is primarily the historical study of the systematic, bureaucratic, state-sponsored persecution and murder of six million Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators.

Students often learned about the atrocities committed during that time by reading first-hand accounts or hearing them from survivors. But as the events of World War II and the Holocaust fall further into the past and the last survivors die, there will no longer be anyone able to share the atrocities they either witnessed or experienced themselves.

To keep the stories of Holocaust survivors alive for generations to come, the Glen Cove center presented a project involving artificial intelligence and survivor stories.

The testimonies were uploaded to StoryFile, a software that lets people create videos which "reply" to viewers' questions, using artificial intelligence to play relevant video clips as responses.

"You feel like they're really there."

Meris First, the center's treasurer and secretary, said.

First said children will always choose to speak to a survivor given the opportunity.

Storytellers like Dana Arschin, former reporter and anchor for Fox 5 News, have taken the initiative to sit down with remaining survivors to collect their stories. Arschin has interviewed 20 survivors so far.

She asks biographical questions about their life before, during and after imprisonment. But what's more important, she said, is to let survivors tell their stories.

"I really let the interview go in the direction that feels right," Arschin explained.

Anyone wishing to learn more about the Holocaust can come to the center to experience the artificial intelligence pro-

gram. They can ask both historical and personal questions to survivors.

Arschin is taking as many testimonies as she can, including that of Sami Steigmann, 83, one of the youngest remaining survivors of the Holocaust. Steigmann

was imprisoned between 1941-1944 and was subject to medical testing when 1 1/2 years old. He still feels varying levels of pain in his head, neck, shoulders and back as a result of those experiments.

Steigmann said that because of his young age, he never felt like he belonged to any organizations benefiting children of the Holocaust because he wasn't separated from his family.

After joining the Museum of Jewish Heritage in Manhattan, he

got his first assignment to speak to sixth graders. Steigmann said that even though he didn't approach the students with a particular narrative, a sixth grader ultimately changed his perspective about Holocaust education.

In a letter, the student wrote that she felt overwhelmed by Steigmann's experience. She promised that when she had

children someday she would share his story with them.

"Because of her, I have decided to dedicate the rest of my life to reach as many people as I can nationally and internationally," Steigmann said.

His experience is not unheard of. The Nazi regime used medical research to shape its racial definitions and rationalize its discriminatory policies.

Nursing students will also be utilizing the center's artificial intelligence program as lessons in empathy. The traditional healing work of doctors and nurses often conflicted with the policies of the Nazi regime, something that Sheri Vishnick, a volunteer at the museum hopes to emphasize.

The program will talk about nursing during the Holocaust and connect the lessons learned from it to potential ethical dilemmas nurses might face today, she said.

"Whatever field of nursing they may go into, you're dealing with human beings," Vishnick said. "Everyone deserves to be treated with respect and understanding."

The museum is currently accepting donations to help fund educational programs and continue their work with artificial intelligence.

For further information, or to schedule a tour call (516) 571-8040 or email zacharytraulich@holocaust-nassau.org.

**T**he most important lesson about humanity is to be kinder to each other, to look out for each other and don't let people get away with nasty things.

## RUTH LOWENSTEIN

Holocaust survivor



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Roksana Amid/Herald photos

**RALPH COMITINO, WHO** works for the city's department of public works, was one of many who helped collect trees and put them into the woodchipper. DPW workers use the mulch for city parks to help preserve the soil.

# Chip a tree event closes the holiday season

The smell of pine wafted across Morgan Park Saturday morning as the city commenced their annual Chip A Tree event. For three hours, the Glen Cove Beautification Commission, Department of Public Works, Old Country Tree Service and volunteers withstood the frigid temperatures and snow-flurry to collect old Christmas trees to repurpose them into mulch. The environmentally friendly tradition has helped to close out the holiday season in the city for decades. This year they collected over 140 trees.

Mulching, also known as tree cycling, is an easy and practical way to dispose of old Christmas trees. Mulch is a thick layer of material placed over the soil and around plants used to suppress weeds and lock moisture into the soil while acting as a physical barrier to drying winds and direct sun. Mulching provides a variety of benefits for gardens, including temperature regulation and weed suppression, retaining moisture, and preventing erosion. Ralph Comitino, from DPW, said the mulch is used to help landscape parks around the city.

Drop-off was swift. When cars approached the site, it took only a few moments for volunteers to cut ties from car-bound trees and pile them next to the industrial woodchipper. Cars showed up roughly every 10 minutes for the popular event.

"They're trying to do the right thing and there's no place else more convenient than this," said Gerard Herbert, who has been participating in the mulch-



**NICK AND LUCA** Piotrowsky decided to carry their tree to the site.

ing for 15 years. While Herbert said he would usually wait around to see the woodchipper in action, it was too cold to stay.

Elizabeth Mesteres, a volunteer with the Beautification Commission, said that tree collection usually starts a week before they're scheduled to be chipped,

but residents are always welcome to drop off their trees the day of the event.

Watching trees go through the woodchipper can be a unique experience. "This event is so much fun that last year, I invited my son to come help," Dr. Eve Lupenko Ferrante, a member of the Beautification Commission, said.



**MAYOR PAMELA PANZENBECK** helped sweep debris left over from the trees after each batch was placed in the woodchipper.



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### In Wills We Trusted

Ask most people if they've done their estate planning and a common answer is, "Yes, I have a will." However, estate planning is not just a plan for death. It's a plan for life that addresses what happens if you become disabled. About half of us will eventually become disabled. You can choose ahead of time who will be in charge of your affairs if you become disabled through a power of attorney, health care proxy, and a trust.

A will cannot provide for disability. A will tells the world where you want your assets to go when you die. A will is probated, which means proven, in court, and becomes a public document. Those without their own living trust plan, with their personal choices for who will be in charge if they become disabled, risk getting the state's plan of guardianship proceedings where the court chooses who will handle your affairs if you become disabled.

Probate court proceedings can go smoothly but they may also be complicated, such as having a special needs child or disinheriting a child. Also, if you own property

in another state, a trust makes more sense than a will because you may deed the out-of-state property into the name of your trust, and avoid both a New York probate and a probate in the other state.

Having a will as an estate plan does nothing to protect your assets from long-term care expenses for either care at home or in a nursing facility. Without a trust to protect your assets from long-term care costs, by the time you pass there may be no assets left for your heirs.

Trusts can also protect inheritances from children's divorces, lawsuits and creditors and pass those assets by blood instead of by marriage. In today's world, a "simple will" often does more harm than good by giving the client a false sense of security that their affairs are arranged.

Elder law estate planning addresses the issues mentioned above, plus many more, including funeral and burial instructions, organ donation, and final instructions to the family.

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Courtesy Cynthia Banos

**ELIZABETH COMITINO HELPED** many people study for and pass their American citizenship exam.

## A life dedicated to helping others become citizens

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Communities like Glen Cove thrive with the selfless nature of volunteers like Elizabeth Comitino. Born in New York City to Puerto Rican parents, the 90-year-old has spent much of her life volunteering for many different programs ranging from the Youth Bureau, Cub and Girl Scouts to various services with St. Patrick's Church as a literacy teacher for those seeking American citizenship. The later program has been one of her most in-demand acts of kindness.

For over 30 years she's had much success, with 900 of her students passing the American citizenship test. Although she's stopped holding the program due to the coronavirus pandemic, people continue to ask her when she will resume the program.

As the oldest of nine children, Comitino developed her kind nature as a child.

"When I was younger, I always liked helping people," Comitino said. "That was my thing."

Cynthia Banos, director of Hispanic

ministry, is also a longtime friend of Comitino and has witnessed many of her acts of kindness. If people needed help with getting clothing, food, or other essentials, Banos said Comitino would always help.

Rev. Dom Gabriel Rach, who has known Comitino for over 10 years, said that she's the kind of person that will come up a stranger just to say hello. Comitino is also well known for her dry sense of humor.

"Every pastor can think of a dozen people that just have seemingly been there forever," Rach said. "And it's just hard to imagine them not being around. Certainly, Elizabeth fits into that category."

Initially, Comitino didn't plan to teach the American citizenship courses. But residents reached out to her for help through the church's outreach program. When she saw her community was in need, she knew she had to act. Comitino spent her own money and time buying books, creating lesson plans and teaching the class herself once a week for two hours in the evenings in the church.

Becoming an American citizen can

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GLEN COVE

# HERALD

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# Constituents of color claim Santos a product of Trump

By WILL SHEELINE

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Phyllis Burnett, the president of the Glen Cove Kiwanis Club, is one of the many Black residents of New York's 3rd District. She said only one thought crossed her mind when she read about Rep.-elect George Anthony Devolder Santos in the New York Times article that uncovered lies about his education, professional and personal background — He may not have gone to college, but he definitely went to Trump University.

Her horror was shared by other New Yorkers who read of the multitude of Santos' lies, but especially people living in the Third Congressional District. The breaking news story indicated that someone they had just elected as their new congressman was not who he had claimed to be. In fact, if what they were reading was true, then Santos was a serial liar, who had completely misled voters.

To many residents of the district, this revelation was beyond belief. How could someone running for one of the most hallowed offices in the land have lied to voters so brazenly, so boldly?

But for several people of color in the community, the reason for Santos' successful duplicity was clear. It was the result of lowered standards of integrity

ushered in by former President Donald Trump and the Make America Great Again movement.

"(Santos is) following in the footsteps of the very infamous 45th," said Burnett, referring to Trump by his presidential number: "When you're a chronic liar, you believe your lie and you live your lie, just like the 45th does."

In addition to the numerous assertions Santos has made about himself, some of which he's admitted are "embellishments" and others which are alleged, are his dangerous, and sometimes confusing, positions on race in America, which some Third District residents claim he also learned from Trump. On the one hand, Santos has claimed to be of African descent, while on the other, he posted a highly offensive meme of Barack and Michelle Obama with chimpanzee faces on Twitter in November of 2020.

Pastor Linda B. Vanager, who leads Hood African Methodist Episcopal Zion Church in Oyster Bay, said that she believes Santos' lies show deep-seated emotional and psychological issues. She also agreed that Santos likely got his

inspiration from Trump, who has made a habit routinely of defending his widespread lies with an admixture of bluster, name-calling, and claims of victimhood.

"It's just so sad that in this day and age, at this time when we're trying to live in unity and peace with one another, that (Santos) is lying to his constituents," Vanager explained. "How could one put his or her trust into George Santos now, knowing that he is a liar, when there are issues of importance that have to be addressed, and not knowing whether or not he's sincere in wanting to help out."

During the Congressional election for Speaker of the House, Santos also was alleged to have flashed a white power symbol while casting his vote for Kevin McCarthy. The "OK" symbol which he appears to have made, is when one uses three outstretched fingers to create a "W" for white, with the thumb and pointer finger forming the top of a "P" for power.

"Santos gives people what Donald Trump gave them — the basis of understanding themselves of the premise that I am white, this is my country, and this

candidate is going to ensure my white identity in the world," Reverend Roger Williams, pastor of the First Baptist Church of Glen Cove, said. "He can lie all he wants, he can demean the truth all he wants, but as long as he gives them that he'll be fine."

While it is unclear whether Santos is of African descent, having also claimed to be white when he admitted to committing check fraud to the Brazilian government in 2010, he certainly lied about his Jewish heritage, asserting that his maternal family were Ukrainian Jews who had escaped the Holocaust, which subsequent independent genealogical studies have proven to be false.

Ravin Chetram, the vice president of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Chamber of Commerce, declared that he found Santos' lies "disgusting," and that someone with even a shred of empathy would know not to do that. Santos' manipulation of his ethnicity hurts not just him personally, Chetram, of Guyanese descent, said. It is an insult to every resident of color in the Third District.

"In my opinion the only thing worse than a white supremacist is a non-white white supremacist," Chetram explained. "To have someone who we all resent so much representing us in the Third District, it's nauseating."

**H**e may not have gone to college, but he definitely went to Trump University.

**PHYLLIS BURNETT**  
Glen Cove resident



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# 6 Santos accused of stealing from GoFundMe for dying dog

January 26, 2023 – GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

some of which have elongated noses to accentuate Santos' Pinocchio-like problem with lying.

Veterans from around the North Shore expressed their disgust towards Santos regarding his alleged treatment of Osthoff and Sapphire. Lou Legeri, a Vietnam veteran and member of American Legion Post 336 in Glenwood Landing, claimed he was shocked that a human being could even contemplate such an act.

"(Santos is) the lowest form of human being, to do that to somebody in that situation," Legeri said. "He sets the record for lowering the bar, lowering the standard of decency."

Service dogs like Sapphire are in many cases essential to improving the mental health of veterans struggling with PTSD. In addition to providing emotional and mental support, they can provide veterans in extreme circumstances with a reason to get out of bed in the morning.

Fred Nielsen, another member of American Legion Post 336, emphasized the dangers of ignoring the negative impacts of PTSD in veterans.

"That violation of trust brings this veteran more closely associated to suicide ideation in his health, so the wrongs done here had many layers and cover many topics," Nielsen said.

"Anyone who cares at all about veterans has got to sanction Santos so we can pull him out of office."

Tony Jimenez, a Vietnam veteran and director of Veteran Affairs for Glen Cove, said he's seen firsthand the positive impact service dogs can have on veterans suffering from PTSD.

"I thought it was a disgrace," Jimenez said. "Anytime that a veteran who put his life on the line for the country and needs a little help, if somebody takes something away from them, they're the lowest of the low."

These allegations are particularly concerning for veterans' organizations, which often rely on their representatives to provide much-needed funding.

Bill Laderer, commander of American Legion Post 336, expressed concern for Santos' ability to serve any of his constituents, let alone the district's veterans.

"The man has done such an injustice, lied through his teeth about everything, and now is expecting the people in government to work with him," Laderer said. "This is a pathetic miscarriage of



Michael Malaszczyk/Herald

**VIETNAM WAR VETERAN** Mitch Farman described the psychological damage Rep. George Santos' alleged theft caused veteran Richard Osthoff, whose service dog, Sapphire, ultimately had to be euthanized. With Farman was County Legislator Josh Lafazan.

justice as far as I'm concerned."

Additionally, Santos continues to struggle with mounting condemnation from local and national politicians on both sides of the aisle.

His claims to being a descendant of Jewish refugees from the Holocaust have been roundly disproven through genealogical research by the Jewish news source Forward.

Furthermore, the New York Times recently broke the news that Santos' mother was not in New York during the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks on the World Trade Center. He had previously claimed that his mother, Fatima Devolder, was a high-level executive who worked in one of the towers that day. Santos has given conflicting statements that his mother's death was directly caused by the tragedy.

His campaign finances have come under particular scrutiny, with at least four separate investigations launched against him, including one from the Nassau County District Attorney's Office. Santos apparently lent his own campaign \$705,000, despite apparently only having made \$50,000 in 2020.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Glen Cove Cares fundraiser soon

Glen Cove Cares will hold its annual fundraising gala this weekend. The nonprofit provides education and other services and support for patients, survivors and family members who are dealing with cancer.

The evening will feature games of chance, raffles, prizes, live entertainment, cocktails, dinner and dancing. The fundraiser will take place at the Metropolitan Restaurant & Bar, 3 Pratt Blvd., Glen Cove, on Jan. 28 at 7:30 p.m.

### Phoenix Rising gala to support VFW 347

Want to help James E. Donohue Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347? The post, in Glen Cove, lost its home in

August 2021 when a fire broke out, and members have been trying to gather the funds to make the necessary repairs ever since.

The Phoenix Rising Committee will hold an awards ceremony and fundraising gala to celebrate veterans and support VFW Post 347 next month. All are invited to attend, and are asked to arrive in time for the opening ceremony.

The 2023 honorees include Vincent Martinez Sr., William Lawson, Dave Whitting, Tom Kenary, Pete Prudente, Evelyn Kandel, David Hubbard, Eva Casale and Team Eva, Genalie Prezeau and Virginia Gaudio Cervasio.

The gala will be held at the Metropolitan Restaurant & Bar, 3 Pratt Blvd., Glen Cove, on Feb. 4, at 6:30 p.m. Tickets are \$75 for non-veterans and \$60 for veterans. Because tickets are selling quickly, all are urged to order tickets in advance before Jan. 27.

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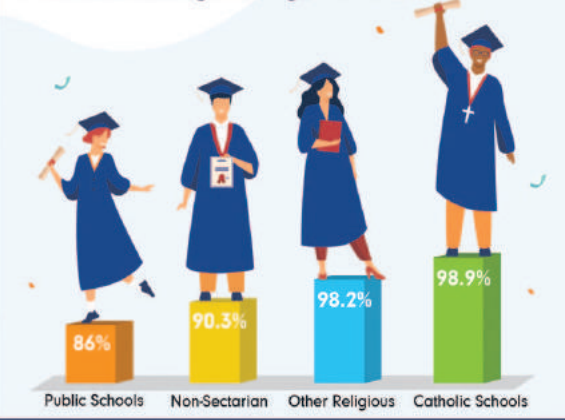


- ✓ Reinforce the positive values that you live in your family.
- ✓ Reassure children that they are safe and loved, and that God loves them.

- ✓ Teach children that their value is not based on how others see them.
- ✓ Feature teachers who are models of the faith.

### U.S. Graduation Rates

A look at national high school graduation rates.



Sources: Broughman et al. (2021); Irwin et al. (2021)

### Staffing of Schools

Elementary 12.4:1  
Secondary 10:1  
National 11.6:1



Sources: U.S. Catholic Elementary and Secondary Schools 2021-2022: The Annual Statistical Report on Schools, Enrollment and Staffing (NCEA).

GLEN COVE HERALD – January 26, 2023

## Connect with families ready to invest in an enriching summer



# HERALD Community Newspapers CAMP & SCHOOL

Presents: A comprehensive guide to summer camps and enrichment programs

Year in, year out this supplement is highly anticipated by parents as a resource in making camp and related decisions about family activities prior to summer. Camp and School features a strong editorial component that isn't available anywhere else, along with a targeted guide to local camps and other family resources.

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# Santos defends animal rescue efforts, blasts parodies

By MICHAEL MALASZCZYK

mmalaszczyk@liherald.com

It's a few weeks into U.S. Rep. George Santos's tenure, and the media firestorm surrounding him has yet to dissipate.

After The New York Times revealed last month Santos fabricated many aspects of his life while raising serious concerns about how he funded his congressional campaign against Robert Zimmerman, a number of people who have interacted with the congressman over the years have stepped forward with stories of their own.

People like Gregory Morey-Parker, who said he shared an apartment with Santos for several months in Astoria. He told CNN's Don Lemon that Santos always had "delusions of grandeur."

"He would just go to bars with rolls of hundred-dollar bills, and then three days later, have no money," Morey-Parker said. "It just didn't seem feasible for him to come from all this generational wealth."

Morey-Parker made another claim that surprised Lemon. He didn't know his roommate as George Santos, but instead with the name Anthony Devolder — his middle name and mother's surname.

Morey-Parker also said Santos stole a scarf from him, even wearing it to Washington, where he delivered a speech on Jan. 5, 2021 — the day before a mob attacked the U.S. Capitol.

From the jobs Santos claimed he "embellished" to the schools he didn't graduate from, there was a lot political opponents could have picked up on during campaigns in both 2020 and 2022. That means stronger opposition research by hiring investigators outside the campaign to dig up information like this.

"Given that so much politics and the narrative is happening on social media, the negative on the opponent is increasingly important, in order to sort of meet the media moment and the evolution of where and how politics are covered on Twitter," Alyssa Cass, a political consultant who works with Slingshot Strategies, told amNewYork. "The very best campaigns understand that dynamic and prioritize opposition research."

Zimmerman — the Democrat who ran against Santos last November — claims he had good opposition research, but after the contentious primary, did not have time to bring that information forward in time for the general election.

Santos also claimed to have run an animal rescue charity — Friends of Pets United. Once again using the name Anthony Devolder, Patch reported that Santos raised \$3,000 for U.S. Navy veteran Richard Osthoff for his dog, Sapphire, who needed lifesaving surgery for a stomach tumor. Santos raised the money, Osthoff said, and then "disappeared."

"He stopped answering my texts and calls," Osthoff said. Sapphire died a few months later.

Santos responded to the claims on social media that "reports that I would let a dog die is shocking and insane. My work in animal advocacy was the labor of love and hard work. Over the past 24 hours, I have received pictures of dogs I helped rescue throughout the years, along with supportive messages."

Since the revelations, one of Santos's most vocal detractors is Josh Lafazan, the Nassau County legislator who ran unsuccessfully against Zimmerman in the Democratic primary for the seat. He has held a number of news conferences since about Santos, more recently condemning what Osthoff claimed Santos did to him.

Lafazan officially filed this week to run against Santos in the 2024 election.

Anticipating there could still be a special election on the horizon, Newsday reports both Democrats and Republicans are preparing candidates to run. The list on the GOP side include Alison Esposito — who ran on Lee Zeldin's gubernatorial ticket last November — state Sen. Jack Martins, and Brookville mayor Daniel Serota.

On the Democratic side, names being bandied about include Zimmerman, and even a chance that U.S. Rep.

Tom Suozzi might step back in and claims his old seat.

Another claim that made the news again was over how and when Santos's mother, Fatima Devolder, died. Santos has claimed she died as a result of the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks, contacting cancer and passing away years later after working in the south tower that morning.

NBC News called that claim into question this past week, revealing immigration paperwork showing his mother was in Brazil between 1999 and 2003, and wasn't even in the country during 9/11.

**H**e would just go to bars with rolls of hundred-dollar bills, and then three days later, have no money.

**GREGORY MOREY-PARKER**  
Queens

## Elizabeth Comitino, the city's consummate volunteer

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 4

be challenging, especially for those who can't read or write English proficiently. The process can take up to five years and is a daunting multi-step process. Firstly, all applicants must determine if they're eligible for citizenship. Then an N400 form must be filed with a \$725 application fee included.

Then an applicant must submit biometrics, such as fingerprints and photos. After they complete an interview process, they take the citizenship test, and wait for a decision. Before the interview begins, applicants will swear to tell the truth. The United States Citizenship and Immigration Officer will then ask about their background, character, place and length of residence, ability to answer civic questions and willingness to take the Oath of Allegiance.

Applicants need to be completely honest during their citizenship interview. If an officer discovers that an applicant

has lied on purpose, they could deny the application, or even begin deportation proceedings. If they're accepted, they take an oath of allegiance.

The new citizenship test that went into effect in Nov. 2020 is longer than before. Now applicants are required to answer 12 out of 20 questions correctly instead of six out of 10. It is also more complex, eliminating simple geographic questions. Of the 18 questions removed from the previous test, 11 were questions that had simple, often one-word answers. A new question, "Why did the United States enter the Vietnam War?" has one answer that is considered correct, "to stop the spread of Communism." The test does not take on the issue of the vehement and often violent protests or the huge death toll that resulted from that war.

In the fiscal year of 2021, 813,861 people became naturalized citizens in the United States. This is an increase from

the previous year, when 628,254 people became naturalized citizens. This figure that was likely due to the impact of the coronavirus pandemic.

All Comitino's students approached her with a dream to gain one or more of the many benefits to American citizenship. Once a citizen, her students gained all the rights of American citizenship, including the right to vote, evading deportation and better employment opportunities.

According to newamericancampaign.org, naturalized citizens on average do better economically than noncitizens. As a group they earn between 50 and 70 percent more than noncitizens, have higher employment rates and are less likely to live below the poverty line. New citizens could also see their individual earnings increase from 8 to 11 percent, because they have had more job preparation, better employment matches and a greater ability to switch jobs.

Santos was also seen back in New York for the first time last week, visiting Shri Saneeswara Temple in New Hyde Park, according to News 12. Religious leaders there said Santos had not been invited, and stayed for three hours. There have been no other reports of Santos making public appearances in the district, although he did state on Twitter he was returning to Washington this week.

Santos also took to social media to boast about being "enshrined in late-night TV history" after a number of shows brought in actors to parody the congressman. Jimmy Kimmel from "Jimmy Kimmel Live" on ABC and Stephen Colbert from "The Late Show" on CBS both introduced actors claiming to be Santos. Bowen Yang played Santos in two different sketches on NBC's "Saturday Night Live" over the weekend, and just a couple floors down in Rockefeller Center, Jimmy Fallon brought in comedian Jon Lovitz as Santos on "The Tonight Show."

Santos called the impersonations "terrible" on social media,

"Jon Lovitz is supposed to be one of the greatest comedians of all time, and that was embarrassing," Santos wrote, "For him, not me. These comedians need to step their game up."

Calls for Santos to resign continue to grow among both Republicans and Democrats, but House Speaker Kevin McCarthy appears to show no interest in it, deferring the matter to the House Ethics Committee, which he has already moved to defund.

In fact, McCarthy gave Santos two committee seats — Small Business and Science, Space and Technology. ...

Cynthia Basos' husband, Jamie Banos, was one of Comitino's students in 2017. He heard about Comitino's class through a friend at church while working as a landscaper and in a restaurant. Banos joined a group of 20 other students for two years while going through the many steps to citizenship. Banos said he felt like he could talk to Comitino about many things given her courageous personality. He passed his exam and became an American citizen.

"After I became a citizen a lot of opportunities opened for me, to have a better job, to finally have a home, to feel freer to travel to anywhere in the world," Banos said.

Banos said he didn't just receive an academic education from Comitino. He felt as though he could approach her with other problems he was dealing with while on the path to citizenship. Through her advice and guidance, Banos now works as a plumber.



# STEPPING OUT



It's time to go, go *Gogh*...  
Inside the paintings

By Karen Bloom

Immerse yourself in Vincent Van Gogh's world. For those haven't yet, now's the time. The popular art exhibition, which first came to the attention of the New York metro area in various incarnations in 2021, now makes its way to Long Island.

"Beyond Van Gogh" arrives at Samanea New York — the retail/entertainment complex that was formerly the site of the Mall at the Source — in Westbury on Feb. 3. This latest Van Gogh showcase was created by French-Canadian visual designer Mathieu St-Arnaud — executive creative director and founder of Montreal's Normal Studio — with his team of multimedia specialists and artists. Their pairing of digital technology with the artworks enhances light and hues, allowing spectators to completely immerse themselves in the images, accompanied by a lively soundtrack.

It's a look at Van Gogh's art — freed from its frames you might say — that puts the observer front and center, incorporating both still and moving art. Some 300 masterpieces — including, of course, such classics as "The Starry Night," "Sunflowers" and "Café Terrace at Night" — come alive, appear and disappear, flowing across multiple surfaces, the minutiae of details enveloping visitors' heightened senses. The show is projected on every surface around you, making you feel as though you have stepped directly into a Van Gogh painting.

Occupying more than 300 square feet, the intent of "Beyond Van Gogh" is to represent the full scope of the artist's creative life.

"We are telling a narrative," says art historian Fanny Curtat, who consulted on the project. "There's a natural and chronological progression in Van Gogh's work that resonates strongly with the core of this show, which was to go beyond the darkness of Van Gogh's legend. We all know that he's famous for cutting his ear and his mental health issues. But out of the darkness he turned to light and beauty. Our focus is on the sheer power of the work itself. There's an irony to the fact that Van Gogh tends to be remembered for the darkness of his life when most of his work is filled with bright colors and beauty."

The evolution of his creative output comes through as visitors



- Feb. 3 - April 2
- Tuesday-Thursday, Sunday: 10 a.m.-8 p.m.; Friday and Saturday: 10 a.m.-9 p.m.
- Tickets start at \$45.99 adult; \$29.99 ages 5-15; available at [VanGoghLongIsland.com](http://VanGoghLongIsland.com)
- Samanea New York  
1500 Old Country Road,  
Westbury



experience the images, moving from one room to another. The Education Room leads into the unique Waterfall Room that flows into the Immersive Experience Room. The paintings appear on projection-swathed walls, inviting guests to fully involve themselves in the incredible detail of his work and be enveloped in his ever-shifting, swirling and colorful flowers, cafes and stunning landscapes. And, hearing the artist's own dreams, thoughts and words set to a symphonic score completes the experience.

"It is so clear when you look at his whole production, that he goes from darkness to light," Curtat adds. "His work centered on joy, and you'll see a sense of purpose. He goes from darker shades, when he starts to paint, to a brighter palette. Then when he gets to Paris and sees the Impressionists there's an explosion of vibrant colors. And when he gets to the south of France he really develops his own style, which is so easily identifiable."

The 19th century meets 21st century in this compelling artistic journey.

Courtesy Paquin Entertainment

Photos: Van Gogh's masterpieces come to life through projection technology.



## Friends of the Brothers

Friends of the Brothers visit the area with their dynamic tribute to the Allman Brothers Band. Their powerful celebration of the Allman Brothers, featuring musicians closely associated with the original band, continues the brotherhood with passion, committed to the ideals of every night being special and unique. Their first-hand experience with the Allman Brothers Band and their deep knowledge of the repertoire, its roots and heritage allows them to play with an unrivaled depth. They honor the music, while playing the tunes as if they were their own. Hear songs from every stage of the Allman Brothers' career, backed by these inspirational, veteran players, including drummers Dave Diamond (Zen Tricksters, Bob Weir, Robert Randolph) and Lee Finkelstein (Tower of Power, Blues Brothers), bassist Craig Privett (Half Step) and keyboardist Mike Katzman (Leslie Mendelsohn, The Electrix).

Friday, Jan. 27, 8 p.m. \$33, \$28. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. (516) 767-6444 or [LandmarkOnMainStreet.org](http://LandmarkOnMainStreet.org).



## Mike DelGuidice and Big Shot

Mike DelGuidice and his band always give it their all, especially when playing Billy Joel's iconic songs. DelGuidice leads his band, Big Shot, in a rousing concert that highlights the Piano Man's decades of hits. Like his idol, DelGuidice has become one of the area's most celebrated performers, balancing his schedule between performing with Big Shot and touring with Joel. DelGuidice, as with Joel, grew up mastering several instruments including bass guitar, guitar, piano, and drums. He's renowned for his encyclopedic knowledge of the Joel catalog, which caught the attention of Joel himself, who ultimately brought him on stage with him. DelGuidice and his band pack hit after chart-topping hit in a high energy show that's always a crowd pleaser.

Friday and Saturday, Feb. 3-4, 8 p.m. \$60, \$40, \$30, \$25, \$20. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or [ParamountNY.com](http://ParamountNY.com).



# THE \$ SCENE



**Jan. 28**

### Andy Falco and Travis Book

Andy Falco and Travis Book, members of the Grammy award-winning bluegrass band The Infamous Stringdusters, visit the Landmark stage with their tribute to Jerry Garcia, Saturday, **Jan. 28**, 8 p.m. Inspired by their love of the music of Jerry Garcia, the duo branches off on their own for occasional tours to celebrate Garcia's timeless songs. While their musical influences run the gamut, the bandmates are bound to Garcia and share that passion with their fans. \$36, \$31. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. (516) 767-6444 or LandmarkOnMainStreet.org.

**Feb. 23**

### Art talk

Grab your lunch and join Nassau County Museum of Art Docent Riva Ettus for her popular "Brown Bag Lecture" live, via Zoom, Thursday, **Feb. 23**, 1 p.m. She'll discuss the current exhibition, "The Big Picture: Photography Now." Participants are invited to ask questions at the end of the program. Register at least 24 hours in advance to receive the program Zoom link. Also Feb. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

### Historic Spirits Tour

Stop by Raynham Hall Museum, at 30 West Main Street in Oyster Bay, Saturday, **Jan. 28**, to learn about three generations of Townsend family occupants with Samantha Lynn Difronzo, a spiritual healer. To purchase tickets for the event visit RaynhamHallMuseum.org or call (516) 922-6808.

### A Donde Llega el Silencio

Visit Planting Fields Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Road in Oyster Bay, for a performance by Argentinian musician Jacinta Clusellas, Saturday, **Feb. 18**, 6-8 p.m. Hear tunes from her second EP, "A Donde Llega el Silencio," with a wine and cheese reception following. For more information, call (516) 922-9210 or email info@plantingfields.org.

### Readicculus

**Jan. 28**

Pop by Still Partners, 225 Sea Cliff Ave. in Sea Cliff, for a tribute to Phish, Saturday, **Jan. 28**, at 8 p.m. Listen to Phish cover band Readicculus play the band's greatest hits. For more information call (516) 200-9229.

### Tot Shabbat

Head to the North Country Reform Temple, at 86 Crescent Beach Road in Glen Cove, for an interactive, musical experience for young children up to 7 years old, Friday **Jan. 27**, 5:30 p.m. The program will include a family-friendly Shabbat dinner. To register, contact (516) 671-4760 or office@ncrt.org.

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## A BRONX TALE

### His 'Bronx tale'

Chazz Palminteri returns to Long Island with his one-man version of "A Bronx Tale," Sunday, **Jan. 29**, 7:30 p.m. His autobiographical coming-of-age story, which became a movie and then found its way to Broadway, tells of a young New Yorker torn between the temptations of organized crime and the values of his hardworking father. \$99.50, \$89.50, \$79.50, \$59.50, \$49.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.

### AARP tax assistance

Help with taxes is available at Glen Cove Public Library, at 4 Glen Cove Ave., provided by AARP trained volunteers, Wednesday, **Feb. 1**, 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Bring all helpful documents. Masks required regardless of vaccination status. To schedule an appointment, call (516) 676-2130.

### Senior Lunch Program

Enjoy visiting friends, with a delicious lunch and chair yoga, at the popular senior program hosted by Mutual Concerns, **every Tuesday**, at Saint Luke's Episcopal Church, at 253 Glen Ave., in Sea Cliff. Those interested in joining the lunch program can call Peggie Como at (516) 675-7239.



### Financial advice

Visit the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library, at 89 East Main Street in Oyster Bay, for an Investment Seminar Series, **every Wednesday throughout January**, 7 p.m. This program is presented by Vincent Sama, financial advisor from Edward Jones. Register online at OysterBayLibrary.org or call (516) 922-1212.

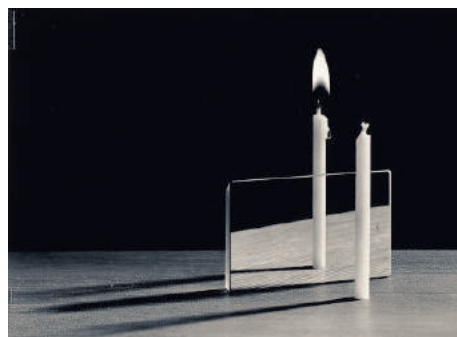
Jan. 26

### The Best of the Eagles

Get into the Eagles' groove when the tribute band visits The Paramount stage, Thursday, **Jan. 26**, 8 p.m. With special guest Fleetwood Mac. This authentic recreation features individual bandmates taking on the persona of the original Eagles members. \$39.50, \$29.50, \$19.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.

### Lunar New Year

Visit Long Island Children's Museum for a Lunar New Year celebration, Saturday and Sunday, **Jan. 28-29**, 12-4 p.m. Enjoy dance performances including the traditional Lion Dance, folk dances, and Peking opera; view artisan demonstrations of Tai Chi martial arts, sugar painting, dough sculpting and calligraphy; make your own Riddle Lantern; explore music from the sounds of the ancient Chinese instrument guzheng to contemporary songs; play Jegichagi to honor the Korean Lunar New Year, among other activities. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.



### On exhibit

Photography's ascent in the art world is an international phenomenon. Nassau County Museum of Art's star-studded exhibition spans the historical roots of the medium. View works by Ansel Adams and his generation and the thrilling, large-format

color works of such contemporary masters as Cindy Sherman, Thomas Struth, James Casebere and Gregory Crewdson, among others. From the documentary to the painterly, images bear witness to the times. On view through March 5. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.



### In concert

Chris Barron, Spin Doctors frontman, performs, Friday, **Jan. 27**, at My Father's Place supper club. An accomplished guitar player, master songwriter, and virtuoso singer, his solo show is compelling, full of storytelling and raw musical power that is poignant, extremely amusing, and utterly satisfying. Doors open at 6 p.m., concert is at 8 p.m. The Metropolitan, 3 Pratt Blvd., Glen Cove. For tickets/information, visit MyFathersPlace.com or call (516) 580-0887.

### Having an event?

Items on The Scene page are listed free of charge. The Herald welcomes listings of upcoming events, community meetings and items of public interest. All submissions should include date, time and location of the event, cost, and a contact name and phone number. Submissions can be emailed to thescene@liherald.com.

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# LIPA rolls out plan to lower electric bills

Customers could get a break depending on when they use power

By **BEN FIEBERT**  
bfiebert@liherald.com

Anyone who's taken a ride-hailing service like Uber likely knows all about surge pricing — too much demand, not enough drivers equal higher rates.

If it works for getting around, why can't it work for electricity? At least that's what the Long Island Power Authority is thinking, introducing a plan it says could modernize electricity rates by making it cheaper for homes to use power when there's the least demand on the grid.

It's called the time-of-day rate — something LIPA hopes to roll out next year. It offers one rate for times when demand is high, but lower rates for periods when not so many people are using electricity.

The new system, according to LIPA, could mean eight out of every 10 customers will pay the same or even less on the new system without making a single change on how or when they use electricity.

"Starting in 2024, the time-of-day rate will become the standard rate," said Justin Bell, LIPA's vice president of public policy and regulatory affairs. "Our goal is that most of our customers will go on a time-of-day rate. We're also going to be transitioning our existing customers, but

## How time-of-day rates would work

The Long Island Power Authority wants to implement a time-of-day rate program beginning next year as a way to encourage customers to spread out their electrical usage throughout the day and night.

It's intended to make rates cheaper during off-peak hours like from 6 a.m., to 3 p.m., and again from 7 p.m. to 6 a.m. A 'super off-peak' schedule would run from 10 p.m. to 6 a.m.

Peak times would run weekdays from 3 to 7 p.m., except on federal holidays.

Customers not sure about the new system could try it with LIPA's 12-month 'bill protection guarantee.' If an electric bill is higher on the time-of-day and super off-peak rate than it would've been on a flat rate at the end of 12 months, LIPA will refund the difference.

—Ben Fiebert

they will also have the option to choose the regular flat rate."

The name of the program — "time-of-day" — says it all.

"For the standard offering, there's going to be two prices," Bell said. "There will be one peak price from 3 p.m. to 7 p.m. on weekdays, and then all other hours will be a lower price."

There also will still be a flat rate, which is the same structure customers already pay today. But then there is a third option, Bell added, with what's being called a "super off-peak period," which will provide a rate for electricity

used when demand is lowest — typically between 10 p.m. and 6 a.m.

The new structure could ultimately save money, Bell said, simply by making small changes in their daily routine. For instance, someone could save \$4 each month simply by doing their laundry late at night. They can save another \$43 by charging their electric car when most others are asleep.

These are rates that not only benefit customers, Bell said, but also the environment.

"The peak period is one of the most carbon-intensive times in terms of ener-

gy production," he said. "So, by getting folks to use more electricity at other times and less at the peak time, we can reduce the carbon that we generate in the power grid, and it also lowers our future investment needs."

Some of the moves are coming ahead of an impending state law that requires New York to generate 70 percent of its power from renewable sources by 2030, and to actually zero-out power sector emissions by 2040.

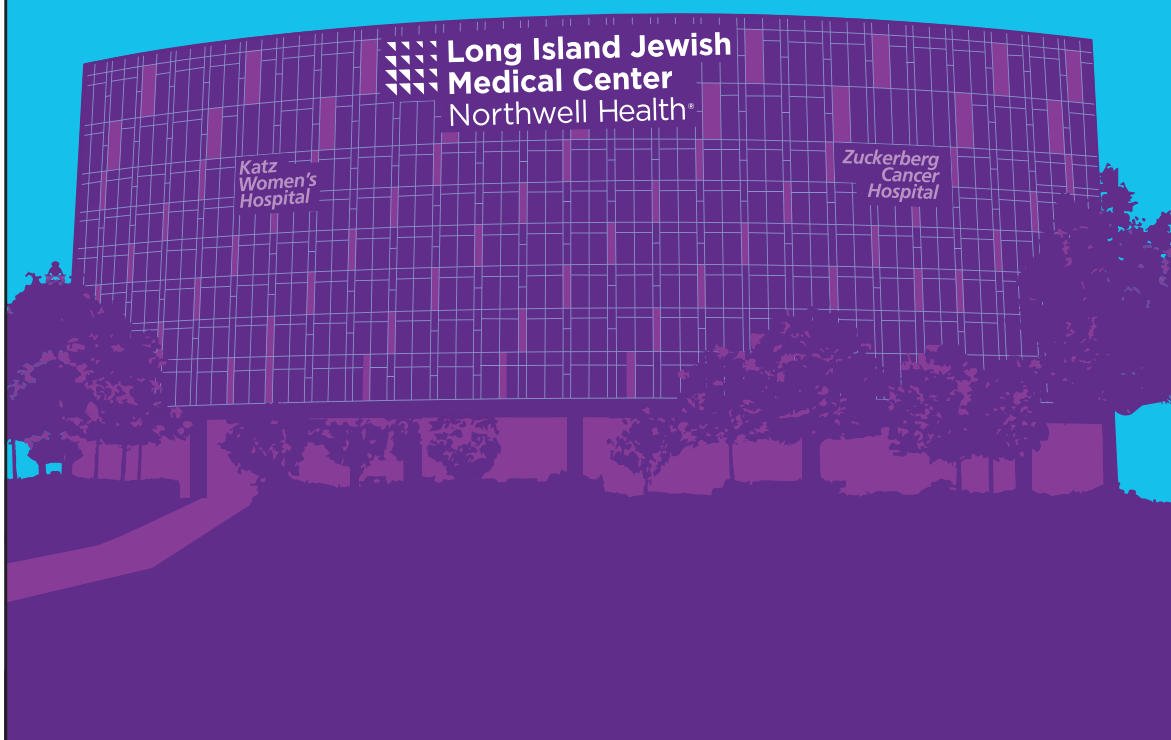
Achieving that will likely require some major capital investments from utilities like LIPA, but it's one way, Bell said, Long Island can stay ahead of the game.

"If we are able to avoid putting all of that new demand on the peak, then we can save everybody a lot of money by avoiding expensive infrastructure upgrades to our transmission and distribution system," he said.

LIPA has scheduled a pair of public hearings on Tuesday, Feb. 21, and will accept written public comments until Monday, Feb. 27 by emailing [todpubliccomments@lipower.org](mailto:todpubliccomments@lipower.org). When and where the meetings will be held have not yet been announced.

The LIPA board could approve the new rate plan during its March 29 meeting in Uniondale.

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THE TOP 3 FINALISTS\* IN

# HOME & HOME SERVICES

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Congrats to all the Top 3 Finalists in the 2022 Herald Long Island Choice Awards presented by PSEG Long Island! Check back each week for the Top 3 Reveal in each category leading up to the Oscar-style awards ceremony in April 2023. Did your favorites make it to the top? Visit [www.LiChoiceAwards.com](http://www.LiChoiceAwards.com)! \*Finalists are listed alphabetically, not in order of placement.

## 55+ COMMUNITY:

Atria Senior Living  
Beechwood Homes  
The Bristol Assisted Living at Westbury

## AC/HVAC & HEATING COMPANY:

Pipe Doctor Plumbing, Heating & Air Conditioning, Inc.  
Plumb Pro Plumbing & Heating Corp.  
Universe Home Services

## APARTMENT/CONDOMINIUM COMPLEX:

Avalon Communities  
Fairfield Properties  
The Cornerstone Yorkshire

## AWNING COMPANY:

AwningUp  
Dart Awnings  
Rainbow Awnings NY, Inc.  
Rollup Awnings

## BASEMENT SERVICES:

Complete Basement Systems  
Mid-Atlantic Waterproofing  
Vulcan Basement Waterproofing

## CARPET CLEANING COMPANY:

All Clean Carpet, Inc.  
All Pro Carpet Cleaning, Inc.  
BOWA Carpet Cleaning  
GK Carpet Cleaning, Inc.

## CESSPOOL SERVICE:

Help Cesspool & Sewer  
Imperial Cesspool Cleaning Co  
Cesspool Pros

## CHIMNEY CLEANING SERVICES:

All Access Chimney & Fireplace Inc  
Augie's Chimney Sweeping  
B&P Chimney Co.

## CLEANING SERVICE:

Merry Maids of Nassau County, NY  
Molly Maid of Central Nassau County  
The Organized Guy, Inc.

## EGRESS COMPANY:

Jenson Brothers  
Long Island Egress Pros  
Vulcan Basement Waterproofing

## ELECTRICAL COMPANY:

Duffy Electric  
Premier Electric & Design Inc  
Top Class Electric

## ELECTRICIAN:

Duffy Electric  
E.H. Haines Electric  
Premier Electric & Design Inc

## ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICE:

C2G Environmental Consultants  
Ecology Tree & Lawn Spraying  
Healthy Home Services

## FIREPLACE COMPANY:

Jetmore Fireplace and Barbeque Center  
Taylor's Hearth & Leisure  
The Fireplace Store

## FLOORING:

Anthony's World of Floors  
Cancos Tile  
Russo's Flooring

## HEATING OIL COMPANY:

Family Fuel & Heating Service  
Pacific Fuel Oil Co  
Petro Home Services

## HOME BUILDER DEVELOPER:

Beechwood Homes  
Engel Burman  
Y-NOT Home Improvement Corporation

## HOME CONTRACTOR/REPAIR/ REMODELING COMPANY:

Gibraltar Home Improvements  
OZ General Contracting Co Inc.  
RSM Building

## HOME SECURITY:

ADT Security Services  
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# PUBLIC NOTICES

## LEGAL NOTICE PUBLIC NOTICE OF NASSAU COUNTY TREASURER'S SALE OF TAX LIENS ON REAL ESTATE

Notice is hereby given that commencing on February 21st, 2023, will sell at public on-line auction the tax liens on certain real estate, unless the owner, mortgagee, occupant of or any other party in interest in such real estate shall have paid to the County Treasurer by February 16th, 2023 the total amount of such unpaid taxes or assessments with the interest, penalties and other expenses and charges against the property.

Such tax liens will be sold at the lowest rate of interest, not exceeding 10 percent per six-month period, for which any person or persons shall offer to take the total amount of such unpaid taxes as defined in Section 5-37.0 of the Nassau County Administrative Code. Effective with the February 2019 lien sale Ordinance No. 175-2015 requires a \$175.00 per day registration fee for each person who intends to bid at the tax lien sale. Ordinance No. 175-2015 also requires that upon the issuance of the Lien Certificate there is due from the lien buyer a Tax Certificate Issue Fee of \$20.00 per lien purchased. Pursuant to the provisions of the Nassau County Administrative Code at the discretion of the Nassau County Treasurer the auction will be conducted online. Further information concerning the procedures for the auction is available at the website of the Nassau County Treasurer at: <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/526/County-Treasurer>

Should the Treasurer determine that an in-person auction shall be held, same will commence on the 21st day of February 2023 at the Office of The County Treasurer 1 West Street, Mineola or at some other location to be determined by the Treasurer. A list of all real estate in Nassau County on which tax liens are to be sold is available at the website of the Nassau County Treasurer at: <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/527/Annual-Tax-Lien-Sale> A list of local properties upon which tax liens are

to be sold will be advertised in this publication on or before February 08th, 2023.

Nassau County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodations such as those required by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) will be provided to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in all services, programs, activities and public hearings and events conducted by the Treasurer's Office. Upon request, information can be made available in Braille, large print, audio-tape or other alternative formats. For additional information, please call (516) 571-2090 ext. 1-3715.

Dated: January 25, 2023  
THE NASSAU COUNTY  
TREASURER  
Mineola, New York

### TERMS OF SALE

Such tax liens shall be sold subject to any and all superior tax liens of sovereignties and other municipalities and to all claims of record which the County may have thereon and subject to the provisions of the Federal and State Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Acts. However, such tax liens shall have priority over the County's Differential Interest Lien, representing the excess, if any, of the interest and penalty borne at the maximum rate over the interest and penalty borne at the rate at which the lien is purchased.

The Purchaser acknowledges that the tax lien(s) sold pursuant to these Terms of Sale may be subject to pending bankruptcy proceedings and/or may become subject to such proceedings which may be commenced during the period in which a tax lien is held by a successful bidder or the assignee of same, which may modify a Purchaser's rights with respect to the lien(s) and the property securing same. Such bankruptcy proceedings shall not affect the validity of the tax lien. In addition to being subject to pending bankruptcy proceedings and/or the Federal and State Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Acts, said purchaser's right of foreclosure may be affected by the Financial

Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act (FIRREA), 12 U.S.C. ss 1811 et seq., with regard to real property under Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) receivership.

The County Treasurer reserves the right, without further notice and at any time, to withdraw from sale any of the parcels of land or premises herein listed. The Nassau County Treasurer reserves the right to intervene in any bankruptcy case/litigation where the property affected by the tax liens sold by the Treasurer is part of the bankruptcy estate. However, it is the sole responsibility of all tax lien purchasers to protect their legal interests in any bankruptcy case affecting their purchased tax lien, including but not limited to the filing of a proof of claim on their behalf, covering their investment in said tax lien. The Nassau County Treasurer and Nassau County and its agencies, assumes no responsibility for any legal representation of any tax lien purchaser in any legal proceeding including but not limited to a bankruptcy case where the purchased tax lien is at risk.

The rate of interest and penalty at which any person purchases the tax lien shall be established by his bid. Each purchaser, immediately after the sale thereof, shall pay to the County Treasurer ten per cent of the amount for which the tax liens have been sold and the remaining ninety per cent within thirty days after such sale. If the purchaser at the tax sale shall fail to pay the remaining ninety per cent within ten days after he has been notified by the County Treasurer that the certificates of sale are ready for delivery, then all amounts deposited with the County Treasurer including but not limited to the ten per cent theretofore paid by him shall, without further notice or demand, be irrevocably forfeited by the purchaser and shall be retained by the County Treasurer as liquidated damages and the agreement to purchase shall be of no further effect. Time is of the essence in this sale. This sale is held pursuant to the Nassau County Administrative Code and interested parties are

referred to such Code for additional information as to terms of the sale, rights of purchasers, maximum rates of interest and other legal incidents of the sale. Furthermore, as to the bidding,

1. The bidder(s) agree that they will not work with any other bidder(s) to increase, maintain or stabilize interest rates or collaborate with any other bidder(s) to gain an unfair competitive advantage in the random number generator in the event of a tie bid(s) on a tax certificate. Bidder(s) further agree not to employ any bidding strategy designed to create an unfair competitive advantage in the tiebreaking process in the upcoming tax sale nor work with any other bidder(s) to engage in any bidding strategy that will result in a rotational award of tax certificates.

2. The tax certificate(s) the Bidder will bid upon, and the interest rate(s) bid, will be arrived at independently and without direct or indirect consultation, communication or agreement with any other bidder and that the tax certificate(s) the Bidder will bid upon, and the interest rate(s) to be bid, have not been disclosed, directly or indirectly, to any other bidder, and will not be disclosed, directly or indirectly, to any other bidder prior to the close of bidding. No attempt has been made or will be made to, directly or indirectly, induce any other bidder to refrain from bidding on any tax certificate, to submit complementary bids, or to submit bids at specific interest rates.

3. The bids to be placed by the Bidder will be made in good faith and not pursuant to any direct or indirect, agreement or inducement from, any other bidder to submit a complementary or other noncompetitive bid.

4. If it is determined that the bidder(s) have violated any of these bid requirements then their bid shall be voided and if they were the successful bidder the lien and any deposits made in connection with said bid shall be forfeited.

Dated: January 25, 2023  
THE NASSAU COUNTY  
TREASURER  
Mineola, New York  
136839

Search for notices online at: [www.newyorkpublicnotices.com](http://www.newyorkpublicnotices.com)

# Metacommunication: What's that?

What is metacommunication? Simply put, it's communication (verbal or non-verbal) about communication.

An example is communicating in a mocking tone. So if you tell your spouse, "I'd like to go out for dinner tonight," and your spouse repeats back in a mocking voice, "I'd like to go out for dinner tonight," you're off and running to a downhill race.

Here are two more examples of problematic metacommunication:

He says: Do you know where my phone is?

She responds: You never put anything away; then you expect me to find it. How should I know where you put it?

She says: It's raining; please drive carefully!

He says: Get off my back! I'm not an idiot; I know how to drive – even in the rain!

Communication is not only what you say; it's what the other person hears, interprets, and understands what you say. When you have a history with someone, a simple question may conjure up a frenzy of emotions. Before you respond in kind, it'd be a good idea to ask yourself:

- How do you think he interpreted my question?
- Did my words heighten an existing conflict?
- Was my tone of voice or body language fraught with hostility?

If you're thinking, too much work! Why do I need to think about these things? Why can't I just say what I want to say? Well you sure can. You have the right to keep repeating old patterns. You can shake your head in disdain. Tell him what an idiot he is. Call her an airhead. Mutter curse words. Build a case for how right you are! Then your conversation might go something like this:

She: I know something's bothering you. What is it? Did you have a bad day?

He: Nothing's bothering me! I just want some peace and quiet. Is that too much to ask?

She: There you go again. Not talking to me. I'm sick of it.

He: Silence

She: What kind of a marriage do

we have? You don't share anything with me. I've had it with you!

You can see where this conversation is going. Time to batten down the hatches!

Now let's imagine she starts with the same complaint but both parties alter their responses to obtain a different outcome.

## Person to Person



LINDA SAPADIN

She: I know something's bothering you. What is it? Did you have a bad day?

He: Nothing's bothering me! I just had a stressful day and want to relax. I need time to unwind.

She: Okay, I hear you; you want to retreat to your cave. Hopefully your

hibernation won't last too long. When you emerge, remember I'm here to listen.

He: I know but I'm not like you; I don't always want to talk about stuff.

She: Yeah, you're a quiet guy. I know that. Still, it makes me feel alone, and distant from you when you don't share what's going on in your life.

He: I'm zonked. Let me be, and we'll talk later after the kids are asleep.

She: Okay, I look forward to it.

What did this couple do that de-escalated the conflict? Here are five communication skills that made a difference.

- Validated the other person's perspective.
- Stated their own needs without attacking their spouse.
- Asked for what they wanted directly without drama.
- Communicated respectfully and optimistically.
- Avoided gridlock by seeking a solution to the conflict.

Relationships thrive or fail based on communication skills. It's never too late to learn more effective ways to communicate with others.

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Linda Sapadin, Ph.D., psychologist, coach and author specializes in helping people improve their relationships, enhance their lives and overcome procrastination and fear. Contact her at [DrSapadin@aol.com](mailto:DrSapadin@aol.com). Visit her website at [www.PsychWisdom.com](http://www.PsychWisdom.com).

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## OPINIONS

## The 2024 election: 1912 all over again?

“Is there anyone on stage — and can I see hands? — who is unwilling tonight to pledge your support to the eventual nominee of the Republican Party, and pledge to not run an independent campaign against that person?”

That was a question that Bret Baier, of Fox News, asked 10 presidentially hopeful



**MICHAEL MALASZCZYK**

Republicans at a debate in August 2015. On the stage, only one person raised his hand — Donald Trump. The rest is history. Trump won the 2016 primary, and we didn't have to endure an election in which Trump ran as a third-party candidate after losing. But we

could be approaching that scenario soon.

I imagine that if televised debates existed in 1912, then former President Theodore Roosevelt would have had a similar response to that question. Roosevelt was running against his successor, William Howard Taft — whom he had handpicked, but with whose results as president Roosevelt was disappointed.

What did Teddy Roosevelt and Donald Trump have in common? Ego. It's hard for anyone to get a word in edgewise with Trump, and historical accounts suggest a

similar phenomenon with Roosevelt. They also had something in common that's even more important for an election: a dedicated following that was loyal to them over any party. Both have been described as presidents who had “cults of personality.” Trump's is apparent every day. I have yet to see a truck drive by with 20 bumper stickers and two flags praising President Biden. Roosevelt's still manifests to this day in some ways. When talking politics, you can say “Teddy” and everyone knows who you're talking about.

Of course, Roosevelt and Trump are complete opposites on the political spectrum. Teddy was seen as a progressive leader for his time, while Trump is considered right wing. But as former presidents with ambitions of returning to the White House, the similarities between Roosevelt, in 1912, and Trump, in 2023, can't be ignored.

Trump's path to next year's nomination is questionable — many Republicans have made it clear that they want nothing more to do with him. Ever since the candidates he backed performed poorly in November's midterms, Trump's lead over Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis in polls has shrunk. Even more concerning for Trump is that these are multi-candidate

polls in which he holds a plurality. If other candidates drop out and throw their weight behind DeSantis, Trump is in trouble.

But given his apparent inability to concede fair elections, it's difficult to imagine Trump bowing out of the race and endorsing DeSantis against Biden. A more feasible scenario is Trump running as a third-party candidate.

That would be great news for Biden.

In 1912, Taft won the Republican nomination over Roosevelt, but refusing to concede, Roosevelt ran under the banner of the Bull Moose Party.

The result? The quiet, reserved Democratic nominee, Woodrow Wilson, swept the election. Despite winning only 41 percent of the popular vote, Wilson received 435 electoral votes and carried 40 states. Roosevelt finished second, with 88 electoral votes. Taft won only eight.

Taft's and Roosevelt's votes combined would have crushed Wilson. But the Republicans couldn't unite, and the Democrat pulled off a landslide.

The parallels with 2024 aren't all the same. There was a Republican incumbent in 1912; next year it will be a Democrat. And views on the issues were different then than they are now. Economically,

Wilson would be to the left of Bernie Sanders, but socially, he'd be to the right of Marjorie Taylor Greene.

But the parallels are too significant to ignore — most notably, the Roosevelt and Trump diehard voters. And Taft was a respected leader who had once been seen as the heir to Roosevelt's legacy. DeSantis is a well-known governor who is seen by many as a successor to Trump as the leader of his movement. Wilson may have been lacking in adoring fans, but he had the votes to win — like Biden may.

Republicans in 1912 couldn't rally around the winner of their primary because one candidate with an ego refused to lose. And if the vote for speaker of the House 111 years later showed us anything, it's that the divisions in today's Republican Party over Donald Trump consist of a lot more than personal disagreements. In a three-way, Biden-DeSantis-Trump scenario, only Biden, and a unified Democratic Party, stand to gain.

Republicans are not one party right now. No promises have been made on their end to ensure that Biden won't coast to victory. Those who don't learn from history are doomed to repeat it. Republicans had better get it together, and fast, or they'll be “Woodrow Wilsoned” by Biden in 2024.

*Michael Malaszczyk is a Herald reporter covering Wantagh and Seaford. Comments about this column? mmalaszczyk@liherald.com.*

## Will Donald Trump repeat Teddy Roosevelt's third-party misadventure?

# A.I. is sucking the life out of us

Who am I? Ask Siri. I don't know where she ends and I begin.

When my iPhone alarm went off at 6:30 this morning, it was to remind me I needed to hustle to my dentist appointment at 8 a.m. Getting dragged out of a deep sleep was especially painful because my wake-up music is “My Shot,”



**RANDI KREISS**

from “Hamilton.” Lin Manuel Miranda's repetitive assertion to thumping music is singularly irritating. But I clicked the wrong music alarm button three years ago, and inertia has kept it in place. So I shut off the phone and moved into my day.

A half-hour later, a “reminder” popped on my phone to take my thyroid meds and my vitamins. It was only 7 a.m., and I'd already been told what to do twice by my techno masters.

Slowly but inexorably, we are relinquishing free will and allowing technology to determine our decisions and our actions, our exercise habits, our purchas-

es and our tastes. I hear you saying, “But we were the ones who decided to buy the phone or the Fitbit or the Alexa,” and that is true. But I believe we humans have been naïve, vulnerable and unprepared for the seductive intrusion of technology into every moment of our waking hours.

Take me. The alarm was just the beginning. After I obediently took my meds, I saw a reminder pop up to take the chicken out of the freezer for dinner. I also had several “sticky notes” on my phone to call the dog groomer, prepare for a book group, set up a service call for the car and try calling JetBlue one more time to follow up on a refund. In pre-tech days, I would have these reminders on a piece of paper (remember when Post-its were so cool?), but responding to a pop-up feels like it's in control, not me. Old-school notes on paper are just quieter.

In the time I've been writing this, I got a notification from Open Table to confirm a reservation. It told me that I must press 1 to confirm. I obeyed. Then, from an entirely different source, a shocking head-

line popped up, which told me that to read more about a titillating news story, I needed to click the message.

Because I almost bought a sweater from Bloomingdale's a year ago, the store keeps telling me I “forgot” an item in my cart. It's a technological nudge that distracts me in the moment and makes me think about the sweater, thus hijacking my attention.

This happens all day. I don't wear a smartwatch or tracking device because I don't want another boss in my life. Nevertheless, my iPhone has started telling me how many steps I take. I don't care. I don't want to know, and I don't want to get locked into obsessively quantifying my

exercise.

At some point in my day, I will get a message from one or another of my apps, advising me that I need to change my password because somewhere in the Ethernet there has been a “breach.” It suggests that I add three security questions and a “rescue” email.

Then up pops a text advising me which books to purchase next, based on my Kin-

dle purchases, I suppose.

I downloaded the app Calm some time ago to learn meditation techniques for a more relaxing sleep experience. Now the word is out, and other apps are messaging me, offering bedtime stories read by boring narrators guaranteed to induce a good snooze. Every action on the phone or computer opens a door to thousands of other intrusions.

If I buy a pair of jeans online, I am hounded by competing clothing companies that want my business. Press here, click here, send us your email for a 10 percent discount. Send us your phone number for a freebie.

I was with a friend for a planned interlude of just sitting around and reading our books in my house. We would have companionable silence, sip our coffee and be at peace. Except that she has a thingie on her smartwatch that buzzes and tells her to get up and walk every 20 minutes. And she does. It's probably good for her circulation, but it's definitely bad for her sense of free will.

Slowly, we are giving ourselves over to technology and giving up personhood, frogs in water slowly coming to a boil.

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## My phone has started telling me how many steps I take. I don't care.



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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## Donating blood benefits others – and you

January is National Blood Donor Month, first established a half-century ago. And it's a good thing that declaration stuck, because blood is often in short supply, as it is today, even in our post-pandemic world.

And January is the worst month when it comes to blood shortages. That's probably because people are busy in November and December, preparing for, and then enjoying, the holidays, with little time to donate blood. Then, what follows those family gatherings and parties with friends are often colds and the flu — and Covid-19 — all of which keep people home, and far away from making much-needed blood donations.

There was an uptick in Covid infections at this time last year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It's too early to tell how this month will shake out, but because the current strain — kraken — is highly contagious, the CDC predicts that as people attend gatherings inside during the winter months, more people will get sick.

Recent months have also seen outbreaks of respiratory syncytial virus, or RSV. Although it's more serious among infants and older adults, anyone can get RSV, and doctors are finding that people

of all ages do.

Why is donating blood so important? Because every two seconds, someone in the United States needs blood or platelets, according to the American Red Cross. And roughly 29,000 units of red blood cells, 5,000 units of platelets and 6,500 units of plasma are needed every day.

Because blood and platelets cannot be manufactured, donors are needed. And often. Add to this the fact that red blood cells expire after 42 days, and platelets must be used within a week.

But don't get lost in the numbers. Donating even once produces a pint of blood, which the Red Cross counts as three units. That can help save three lives — or one life, of someone who is seriously injured. Car accident victims can require as much as 100 units of blood, and those fighting cancer and blood diseases need even more.

What peoples may not realize is that donating blood can benefit donors beyond just feeling good that they've made a difference. It offers a mini-physical, because part of the process includes the taking of vital signs, which might uncover conditions like high blood pressure or even a heart arrhythmia.

Doctors say that donating blood regu-

larly reduces cardiovascular risk factors and is linked to lower blood pressure and minimizing the chance of a heart attack. How? If the donor's hemoglobin is too high while blood is being drawn, doing so will help reduce the "viscosity" of the blood, which causes blood clots, heart attacks and strokes.

There aren't many requirements to join the fight to save lives, other than being healthy. According to the New York Blood Center, candidates must be at least 16 years old and not have donated blood within the past 56 days. Those younger than 18 must have a signed permission slip from a parent or guardian. People older than 75 can donate, too, with a letter confirming sound health from a doctor.

And those who have had Covid can donate if they have been symptom-free, and have not tested positive, for two weeks.

Find out how you can donate today by contacting the New York Blood Center, at NYBC.org. You can also schedule a donation at (800) 933-2566.

January is when we celebrate those who donate blood and platelets. But giving the gift of life is something all of us can do all year long.

## LETTERS

### If not Albany, who will deliver affordable housing?

To the Editor:

Re last week's editorial, "We don't need Albany's concrete fist in Nassau": Well, perhaps we do. We are told, "It's not that our local government officials don't want affordable housing." Yet is it not those very entities that established and maintain the conditions that have driven 300,000 people from New York in a single year, and have proposed nothing to slow the continuing daily average of 820 departures?

The thousands willing to move into Nassau would benefit from the application of some goad, prod, or spur of any kind to overcome Nassau County's inertia in dealing with our problem of too little middle/working class housing.

BRIAN KELLY  
Rockville Centre

### Where did you find this guy?

To the Editor:

Dear 3rd House District of New York: CNN reports, "Two New Jersey veterans say





## OPINIONS

## We must remember – and teach – the Holocaust

**W**hen I was growing up, it was hard not to notice the numbers tattooed on her wrist. Children are often very observant, and I was curious about what they meant.

My grandmother Judith Mandel grew up in a small town called Hatvan, a few miles outside Budapest, Hungary. She was



**DANIEL  
OFFNER**

an ordinary girl, but she learned quickly that her heritage made her different when her classmates began to taunt her for being Jewish.

Following German forces' annexation of Austria in 1938, they set their sights on Hungary, and they invaded in March 1944. A

few weeks later, my great-grandmother Ilona Kalman and my grandmother were forced into a ghetto at a sugar factory.

Judith was 16 when she and her mother were deported to the Auschwitz concentration camp, in occupied Poland, that June. When they arrived, Judith was separated from her mother and forced to work in the camp, while my great-grandmother was put to death in the gas chamber.

My grandmother would survive, but

not before being put to work at the Krakow-Plaszow, Seeshaupt and Dachau camps. When she was liberated by American troops from Dachau in May 1945, she weighed 45 pounds.

After the war, she married Ernest

Mandel, and in 1948 they emigrated to the United States. They settled in the Bronx and raised three daughters.

Having witnessed the atrocities of the Holocaust, my grandmother had a difficult time adjusting to her new life. For many years she was afraid to plug things into electrical sockets because of her experience with electrified fences, and would overfeed her first-born daughter, my mother, so she wouldn't starve. She struggled to learn English.

Her story had a profound impact on me. When I was a child, she often told me about her experiences. She took me to the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum in Washington. I learned that being Jewish was part of my identity, and that while we lived in a country that was founded on the principal of freedom from religious persecution, this wasn't the case in other parts of the world.

That's why it is so important to remember the Holocaust, as we will this Friday,

which is International Holocaust Remembrance Day. It is important never to forget the 6 million lives lost simply because of their religious, ethnic, gender or genetic differences, because history has a wicked way of repeating itself.

Over the past year alone, there has been so much hateful rhetoric on Long Island. The pamphlets of antisemitic literature being circulated across our communities, and the reports of those harmed for their beliefs, are enough to make many of us sick.

While I'm thankful that I live in a nation where, for the most part, we embrace one another's differences, it is important to remember, and understand, why the Holocaust happened, in order to prevent anything like it from ever happening again. That is why it is so important to teach children about it — so we, and they, never forget what took place. Books like "Number the Stars," by Lois Lowry, and "Daniel's Story," by Carol Matas, shouldn't be deemed too "controversial," because their subject matter is the human condition.

Banning literature — as the Nazis did generations ago — will only open a path to more of the kind of prejudice that can poison our society.

This has already happened in one

Texas school district, where, in 2021, teachers were advised to include reading that offered "opposing" views on controversial topics. What makes this so despicable isn't just the fact that when it comes to the Holocaust, there are no reasonable opposing views, because any literature that denies that it happened is itself hate speech — but also that people have become so sensitive that they believe there has to be an alternative to accounts of violence and death to educate others about real events in history.

That is why it is so important to teach children about the Holocaust. We must never forget the lessons the world learned. Yes, the Holocaust showed us the worst of humanity, but banning its honest examination in the classroom will only perpetuate the type of ignorance that allowed such horror to happen in the first place.

We must continue to encourage this chapter of history to be a part of our children's education. They deserve to know the unfiltered truth, so they will never be taken in by the false rhetoric that has been perpetuated by Holocaust deniers.

My grandmother's struggle, and that of so many others who came here seeking refuge from persecution, cannot have been for nothing.

*Daniel Offner is the senior editor of the Rockville Centre Herald. Comments? doffner@liherald.com.*

**O**n Friday the world will reflect on the horror, and I'll honor my grandmother.

## LETTERS

now-Congressman George Santos promised to raise funds for lifesaving surgery for one of their dogs in 2016, then became elusive and took off with the money." *This* is what you elected to Congress? Really? The guy steals money from a homeless veteran's dog, which has a *tumor*?

I think this, above all else, tells us about the values of the wealthy. No humanity. No compassion. No concern for anything beyond their own income and comfort.

I would strongly recommend that you voters in the 3rd District get yourselves a copy of "A Tale of Two Cities" and read it cover to cover. *And* I would strongly recommend you recall this clown. He has no business being in D.C. Or anywhere else, for that matter.

PATRICK NORTHWAY  
Traverse City, Michigan

Heat pumps?  
No, thanks.

To the Editor:

Re "Long Island's energy

future: vision vs. mirage" (Jan. 12-18): I have to vehemently disagree with the authors' statement that "heat pumps and Long Island are a match made in heaven." I purchased heating pumps at the recommendation of Green Team Long Island, and took part in the state loan program. I seriously regret my decision, because the heating pumps don't work as promised.

Basically, they blow cool air throughout my living room, creating a draft that I never had before. They are so ineffective that I dress in layers and need a blanket to cover my legs when I sit at my dining room table. I have to look for a corner of the living room where these ridiculous pumps aren't blowing. If I don't want them to blow cool air, then I have to turn them down so low that it's like having no heat at all.

Combating climate change should be our number one priority, but the products that are being promoted and sold need to work before they are put on the market.

LISA GOLDBERG  
Oceanside

## FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



Taking flight from Veterans Memorial Park over Reynolds Channel — Long Beach





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