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Roksana Amid/Herald

CASEY SABELLA, FAR right, an organizer with the group Courage for America, delivers petitions from constituents of the 3rd Congressional District to a staffer outside the Washington office of U.S. Rep. George Santos on Tuesday. Sabella and others called on Santos to resign during a trip to Capitol Hill ahead of President Biden's State of the Union address.

Traveling to D.C. by bus to protest Rep. George Santos

By **ROKSANA AMID**
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About 50 furious constituents of U.S. Rep. George Santos from the 3rd Congressional District, chanting, "Hey hey, ho ho, Santos has got to go," boarded a bus in Roslyn early on a frigid Tuesday morning bound for Washington.

Many clutched home-made signs with phrases against the embattled congressman like "Scantos" and "Keep NY3 Ponzi-Free."

Their goal? Bring their voices directly to

the Capitol Hill offices of not only Santos, but his boss, House Speaker Kevin McCarthy through copies of petitions demanding Santos's removal signed by more than 100,000 people.

The backdrop? President Biden's State of the Union address.

The four-hour, 250-mile trip comes after seven weeks of petitions, calls to the offices of various congressional members, and sent emails demanding Santos resign after just

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Interim rabbi has plans for North Country Reform Temple

By **LAURA LANE**
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Many synagogues are struggling to maintain, let alone increase, their membership, and those on the North Shore are no different. Michael Churgel, North Country Reform Temple's interim rabbi, is bringing his 20 years of experience to revitalize the Glen Cove synagogue.

Churgel will stay on at North Country until June 2024, during which time he will assist the committees in finding a permanent rabbi.

The number of Jews on Long Island is shrinking, he said, partially due to the cost of living, which is causing people to leave. And there has been a graying of the synagogue's membership. He is looking to the younger families to join and for its longstanding

members to return.

Since he arrived in July following Rabbi Janet Liss' retirement, Churgel has been sharing resources to create adult educational programs with rabbis Todd Chizner from Temple Judea in Manhasset and Rabbi

Randy Sheinberg from Temple Tikvah in New Hyde Park. The three have been friends for decades.

"It's a partnership," Churgel said. "This eases the burden on all three of us. And I prefer to build bridges rather than to create opportunity for competition. The more we help each other to grow that helps us."

Some of the new programs have been in person with others online. Churgel plans to bring in a scholar in residence in the spring to offer programs on the weekend at each of the syna-

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I want to bring people together to provide comfort and support.

MICHAEL CHURGEL, RABBI, NORTH COUNTRY REFORM TEMPLE

Science, arts, physical ed offerings expanded in fall

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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The Glen Cove City School District has seen a few changes this school year, from welcoming new members to the district's administration, to passing their bond vote on Dec. 6.

Next September the high school will offer eight new classes in the arts, physical education and science to give students more diversity in their academic careers. The announcement was made by Alexa Doeschner, assistant superintendent of curriculum, instruction, and technology, at the Jan. 11 Board of Education meeting.

These classes are pending dual enrollment with Five-Towns College, which will provide students with an opportunity to earn college credits while enrolled in the new classes. The dual credit program is offered through the Individual Arts Assessment Pathway, a graduation pathway option where students become eligible through completing a collection of creative works that meets the High School II Accomplished Performance Indicators in the New York State Learning Standards for the Arts.

"For the first time we are giving choices in our education, which is a nice way to differentiate for some of our learners," Doeschner said. "Not every student is inclined to participate in sports."

In the personal training and fitness program, students will learn basic anatomy and physiology, proper form, how to use gym equipment and what exercises will be most effective to help achieve their fitness goals. This course will allow students to gain skills to pursue a career in lifelong fitness.

Doeschner said the district is very excited about these courses because it not only will focus on the physical aspect of physical education, but it will also give students some ideas as to future careers in personal train-



Courtesy Metro Creative Graphics

THE GLEN COVE City School District will offer new classes in the fall including one in science.

ing and incorporate some more content regarding fitness concepts.

Their fine and performing arts department will offer courses such as foundations in dance, which will offer an introduction to dance and the fundamentals of movement. The focus will be on elementary techniques in ballet, modern and jazz dance.

For the sciences, students will have the opportunity to complete work on individual independent research proj-

ects. The final product of the research work will be an original scientific research paper. During the fall semester, students will submit their papers to science competitions such as Siemens-Westinghouse, Intel, New York Academy of Sciences and the Junior Science and Humanities Symposium. During the spring semester, students will present a research seminar and aid sophomore and junior research students.

Parents like Vincenza Leotta, who's 5-year-old-daughter loves to dance, is excited for the new academic paths.

"I think it's a great thing. As a past dancer in school myself, it's nice to know that they're going to be offering these additional programs to the students," she said. "It'll broaden and open up their future and look into possibly wanting to learn more about that specialty."

The president of the Glen Cove High School PTSA, Luigi Greco, is also happy to see more academic opportunities for his son, a junior at the high school. Greco said that his experience with schools in Italy were different. They offered similar courses, but they start in elementary school. He's happy Glen Cove is doing what he found beneficial while in elementary school in Italy, even if it is in the high school.

Carolyn Dilgard-Clark, who has children in seventh, eighth and 11th grades is glad her children will soon have academic credit for their love of theatre. Her children participate on stage and behind the scenes.

"I was very excited to see the expanded offerings. I think the physical education offerings are gonna give more opportunities to other students who are not interested in a traditional physical education sports-based class," Dilgard-Clark said. "But the theater program, I think, is going to grow so much more as a result of this to expose the students to the arts in that way. I think we're gonna see tremendous shifts in the district as well."

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City's chef competes in 'Tailgate Takedown'

By **ROKSANA AMID**
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Last September, a crowd of 40 people gathered at Downtown Café, eagerly watching "Tailgate Takedown," an hour-long collaboration between the NFL and Food Network. The national spotlight showcased Glen Cove's John Zozzaro and colleague Angelo Competiello from New Jersey, both of whom are avid food and sports enthusiasts. The duo was contracted to keep the episode's ending a secret, which kept their friends and family on the edge of their seats before the winners were announced.

Zozzoro and Competiello were selected as the episode's winners by a rotating panel of Food Network judges, after which they were rushed to the 50-yard line and received their own Yum-Bardi Trophy and grand prize of \$300.

Domenico Tolomeo, a longtime friend to Zozzaro and Competiello, said he isn't surprised by the results.

"Knowing their capabilities as chefs, I knew they'd be a challenge to whoever they went up against."

Their journey to fame began when the duo met at a pizza expo in Italy. From there, the two became instant friends. Although they have separate businesses, they have swapped recipes over the years. Presently, Zozzaro owns Pizza Company 7, a food truck with a 3,000-pound Neapolitan wood burning pavesi pizza oven. Competiello owns his own catering and consulting business.

Last year, Competiello was approached by Food Network and asked if he wanted to be part of the show. He knew immediately that Zozzaro was the best person to be his teammate.

"I thought of John because we have a similar work ethic," Competiello said. "We're good teammates, John has always got my back."

After a few Zoom interviews, the duo were selected to compete in one episode.

In each episode, Food Network's Sunny Anderson and New England Patriots Hall-of-Famer Vince Wilfork welcome two teams of talented tailgating duos outside a stadium on game day, one representing their home turf and the other fans of the visiting team.

The episode was taped at MetLife Stadium on the day the New York Giants faced the Dallas Cowboys for Monday Night Football. The show consisted of



Courtesy John Zozzaro

HOSTS VINCE WILFORK and Sunny Anderson joined John Zozzaro and Angelo Competiello to celebrate the duo's win. Competiello showed off the Yum-Bardi Trophy while standing alongside judges Ian Rapoport and Chef Eddie Jackson.

three rounds of different tailgate types of food.

In the first round, known as "The First Down," each team must create a platter of their best bite-sized snacks with a dip that represents their city's

flavors. Zozzaro and Competiello created fritto misto, a lightly battered and deep-fried medley of fresh seafood and vegetables.

As the winners of round one, they got an advantage and selected an ingredient significant to their hometown that both teams must use in round two. In round two's "Between the Uprights" battle, the duos took their best handheld tailgate treat and cooked meatball sliders.

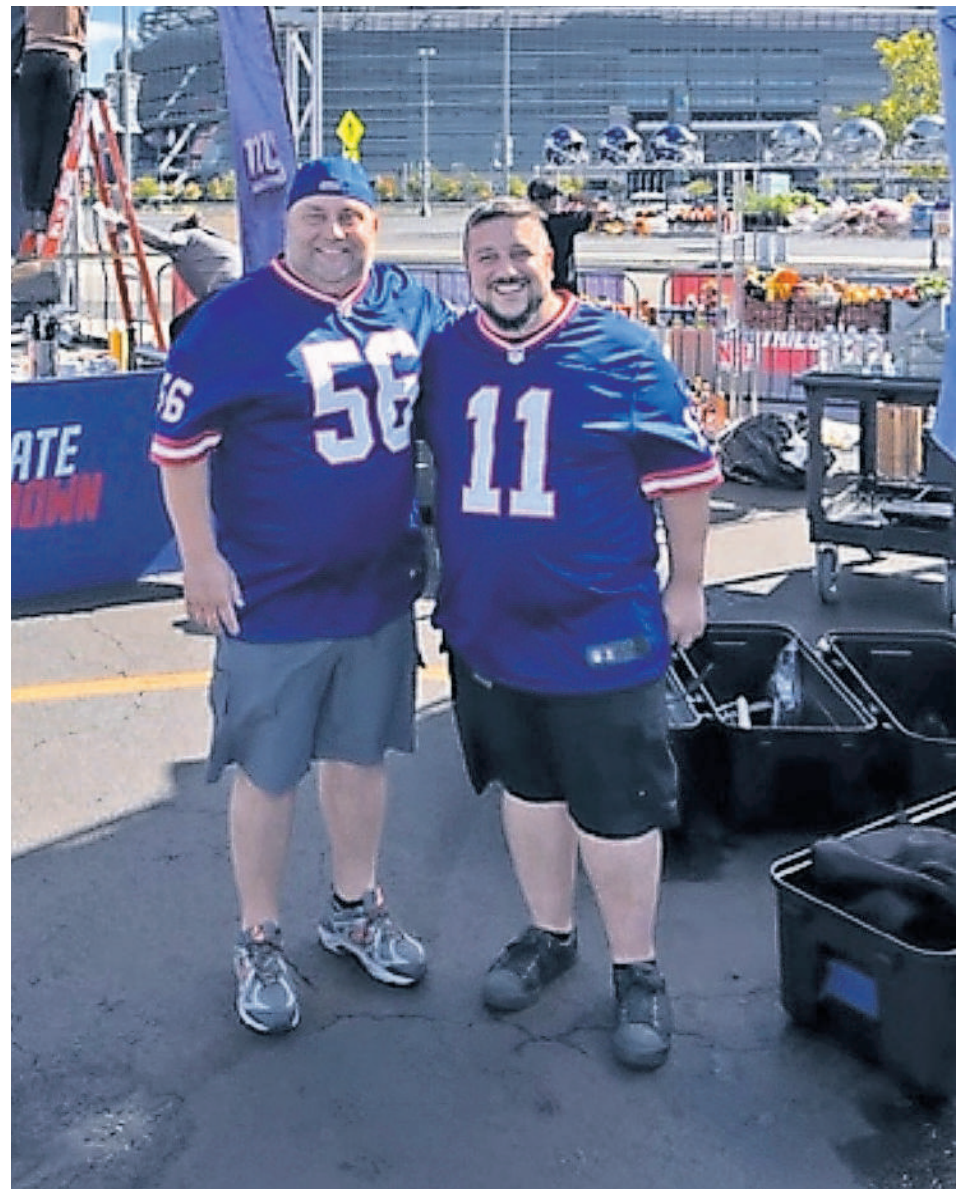
In the "Hail Mary" third round, each team must create a tailgate platter of a meat and two sides that would make their hometown proud. For this round, the

duo knew calzones would be a hit with the judges.

"We just made the most of it and had so much fun," Zozzaro said.



JOHN ZOZZARO WAS excited to be on the set of Food Network's 'Tailgate Takedown.' The avid football enthusiast and business owner said he had a lot of fun competing and being in the nationwide spotlight.



JOHN ZOZZARO AND Angelo Competiello competed together on the set of Food Network's 'Tailgate Takedown.' Zozzaro was approached by his teammate Angelo Competiello to compete on the show since the two have been friends for six years.

Enduring Love at Atria Glen Cove

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John and Carole met in grade school, were sweethearts in high school, engaged at 18, and married at 21—and that was 61 years ago! John studied agronomy at the University of Massachusetts and became the Golf Superintendent of Engineers Golf Club in Roslyn Harbor. As a golfer himself, he had a 6 handicap and swears that he once came with an inch of a hole-in-one. Carole became a Registered Nurse and worked at Glen Cove Hospital for many years. They retired to Florida where John developed a golf supply business.

When it was time for assisted living, their son studied many communities and determined that Atria Glen Cove was the best. Their beagle Betty loves that it's pet friendly and she often gives John a workout. John appreciates the convenience of the transportation service. Carole says they enjoy the many activities—live music, celebrations, movies, arts and crafts, and excursions, and she is delighted to let the friendly staff take care of the household chores.

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CRIME WATCH

Former Tex Mex worker arrested, accused of five city burglaries

Glen Cove resident Arlin Velasquez, 26, was arrested by Glen Cove Police Detectives Brian Glennon, Christopher Paolillo, Theodore Karousos and David Milanese on Jan. 24 for a string of break-ins. The crimes which occurred between Nov. 23 and Jan. 21, targeted Glen Cove businesses.

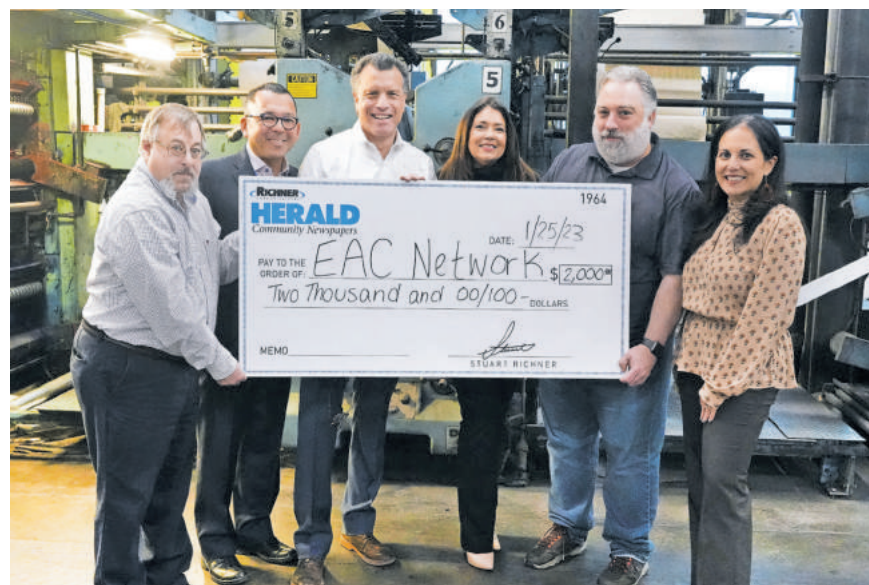
All of the burglaries occurred in the early morning hours. Police allege that Velasquez would kick in the front glass door of the business and then remove money from the cash registers.

Velasquez had been fired in June 2022 from one of the restaurants, Tex Mex, at

214 Glen Cove Ave., when he was caught stealing from the business. Tex Mex was burglarized on three different occasions.

Velasquez is charged with four counts of burglary, five counts of criminal mischief and criminal trespass. He was arraigned on Jan. 26 at the First District Court in Hempstead.

The following businesses were burglarized: Tex Mex Restaurant, 214 Glen Cove Ave. on Nov. 23, 30, Dec. 6; Villa Meci Pizzeria, 214D Glen Cove Ave., on Dec. 6; and Sids All American Burger and Ice Cream, 80 Glen Cove Ave. on Jan. 21.



Tim Baker/Herald

RichnerLive donates funds for a good cause

The EAC Network – a Garden City-based social service agency that empowers, assists and cares for people in need – receives a \$2,000 donation from RichnerLive. The money was from a portion of ticket sales from last year's Herald Excellence in Healthcare Awards Gala, which honored heroes and leaders within the health care industry. Neela Mukerjee Lockel, EAC's president and chief executive, along with Robert Stricoff – the group's chief development officer – accepted the donation from Herald Community Newspapers publisher Stuart Richner and RichnerLive executive director Amy Amato. From left, Herald Community Newspapers deputy editor Jeffrey Bessen, Stricoff, Richner, Amato, executive editor Michael Hinman, and Lockel. To find out more about EAC – and how to donate – visit EAC-Network.org.

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Spousal Refusal - Just Say No

Spousal refusal is a legally valid Medicaid planning option in New York. By way of background, certain income and assets are exempt from Medicaid if there is a spouse. Generally, the spouse at home, known as the "community spouse" may keep about \$3,700 per month of the couple's combined income and up to about \$150,000 of the assets or "resources". Not included in those figures are any other exempt assets, such as a home (up to about \$1,000,000 of the equity only) and one automobile. The spouse who is being cared for in a facility is known as the "institutionalized spouse".

Many a spouse has advised us that they simply cannot afford to live on the allowances that Medicaid provides. This is where spousal refusal comes in. We start by shifting excess assets into the name of the "community spouse". He or she then signs a document which the elder law attorney prepares and files with the county indicating that they refuse to contribute their income and assets to the care of the ill spouse since they need those income and assets for their own care and well-being. Note that you may not refuse your spouse's own income over the \$3,700 per month exemption as it is not coming to you.

Once the "community spouse" invokes their right to refuse, and all of the other myriad requirements of the Medicaid application are met, the state Medicaid program must pay for the care of the institutionalized spouse.

After Medicaid has been granted, the county may institute a lawsuit seeking to recover the cost of care from the refusing spouse. Nevertheless, there are a few reasons why spousal refusal makes sense, even in light of this risk. First, in many instances, the county never invokes this right. Secondly, these lawsuits are often settled for significantly less than the cost of care provided. Thirdly, the payment to the county can sometimes be deferred until the community spouse dies. As one county attorney told us when agreeing to such an arrangement, "the county is going to be around for a long time". Finally, even though the county may seek recovery, it is only for the Medicaid reimbursement rate and not the private pay rate. For example, if the private pay rate is \$18,000 per month, which is what you would have to pay, the amount Medicaid has to pay is generally a quarter to a third less. The county may only pursue you for the amount they actually paid.

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Churgel 'breathing new life' into North Country

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

gogues.

Rhonda Baum, the vice president at North Country and a 15-year member, said everyone loves Churgel. They are drawn to the energy he exudes and his many new ideas.

Churgel said one of his main goals is to increase the number of young families among his congregation, which was lacking when he arrived. His introduction of tot shabbat programs has become popular.

The program is offered on the last Friday of the month, when the service is designed for children 6 and younger and their families. Tot shabbat, offered afterwards, includes a kid-friendly dinner. Churgel joins children in singing, and he also offers explanations of the prayers. Then, the Torah is taken out and everyone marches around the sanctuary with it.

"It's the first time some of them have seen it," Churgel said. "This inspires them to want to bring families in and it gets some exposure for the synagogue."

Baum said she's impressed with how well Churgel relates to children and everyone else. "He sits on the floor with (the children) and reads them stories," she said. "And he's got a great sense of humor and is very easy to talk to. He's very warm and very caring. Rabbi Churgel is breathing new life into our temple."

During Hanukkah, the Friday service was early, making it easier for families with children to participate in the dinner that followed, which included a bake-off. People voted for the best latkes, which Churgel said was fun.

But something else happened that night that he didn't mention. A tree fell during the service knocking out the electricity. But the service continued, and later the dinner was held by candlelight, as was the contest.

"One of the great things about Rabbi Churgel is he wasn't fazed by it at all," said Jenny Deer-Charno, New Country's president. "He trusted us that we would handle it. He rolls with the punches."

According to Deer-Charno, there's much to like about Churgel. He's young, has teenagers of his own and is less political than his predecessor. Liss is one of the first lesbian rabbis in the Reformed Jewish Movement. In her 26 years at North Country, she was active in a variety of civil causes, whereas Churgel steers away from politics.

Deer-Charno joined the synagogue when Liss first came because she encour-



Courtesy North County Reform Temple

RABBI MICHAEL CHURGEL'S new offering of tot shabbat includes singing, which Drew and Ray Principe enjoyed.

aged young families to become members. But as she aged, that changed, Deer-Charno said, and the programs offered were primarily for the benefit of older people.

"When young families came to look at us, they were like where are the programs for young families?" Deer-Charno said. "Rabbi Churgel is wonderful with children and has taken on programs for them. He's fun and he goofs around with them."

A few young families have joined since Churgel's arrival. Deer-Charno is hoping more will follow.

"I will continue to try to promote a family-friendly atmosphere," Churgel said. "And North Country embraces all people and is welcoming to LGBTQ plus. It's actually the most friendly place I've ever worked in."

The leadership is committed to team building and being team players, he added. "I haven't seen any toxicity here. They say, 'Let's think outside the box.'"

The coronavirus pandemic affected North Country adversely. People stayed away. Churgel has been working to get everyone to come back, trying to convince

them it's safe.

"This place is very much a family. When separated it hurts," he said. "People isolated for so long because of Covid. I want to bring people together to provide comfort and support."

Churgel knows firsthand how hard isolation can be. Two years ago, his 80-year-old father died. Because it was during the height of the pandemic, sitting Shiva was held on Zoom.

"I like to give and receive hugs," he said. "That's what gives me comfort. When you have to do it through a computer screen there are emotions missing."

People can come back now even without hugging, he said. His hope is the community will heal and a communal atmosphere will return at North Country.

"A synagogue, it's a 'beit kenneset,' a house of assembly, a place for people to get together," Churgel said. "You can do so much at a synagogue. It's not just designed for worship."

And a synagogue isn't just a place for the people who are members, he said. It's for the entire community.

"Interfaith is important," Churgel said. "I want to meet different clergy so people can be brought together to learn about each other. I've already met the Presbyterian pastor and Baptist minister. And there are plans to do programming with Rabbi Huberman (of Congregation Tifereth Israel)."

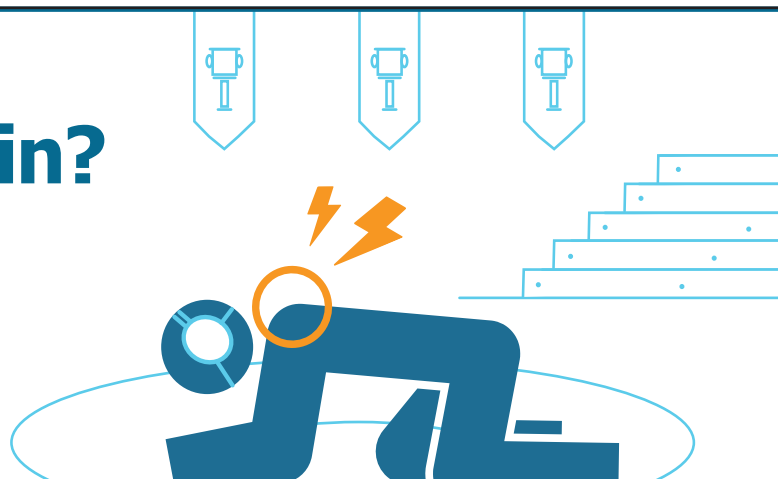
What Churgel said he loves most about North Country is the people. They are friendly, loving and accepting, he said, and most importantly, look forward to new experiences.

North Country is offering hybrid services. Twice a month, the service is on Zoom, which Churgel says has some positives. The snowbirds can view the service every Friday night from Florida. Someone even viewed it while on a Caribbean cruise.

"Judaism is so home centric. To give them more opportunity to do something in their homes is wonderful," Churgel said. "Light the candles, blessings over wine and challah bread, worship, it offers them more opportunity to do more Judaism in their homes."

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Nassau rolls dice on Coliseum casino plans

Las Vegas developer with international reach looks to beat odds

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

It could be one of the largest private endeavors in Nassau County's history — and already one of its most controversial.

The Las Vegas Sands resort company wants to develop the 80 acres of vacant land surrounding the Nassau Veterans Memorial Coliseum — an investment that could well exceed \$1 billion. While some have championed a new commercial center complete with a hotel, celebrity chef restaurants, a convention center and a live performance venue, it's the casino element some aren't sure is worth the gamble.

Like Hofstra University president Susan Poser:

“So many people in our community are expressing the idea that this is already a done deal, and therefore not understanding that we are at the beginning of a competitive and quite lengthy process,” Poser told the hundreds of people who packed her school's Monroe Lecture Hall on Saturday.

Poser has made her opposition to the casino project no secret, writing in one published opinion piece that it was a “very bad idea.”

The New York Gaming Facility Location Board opened the window last month for the bidding of three downstate casino licenses. Four licenses are already available upstate. To be successful, a bidder must win approval from a local community advisory committee made up of appointees by Gov. Kathy Hochul, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, state Sen. Kevin Thomas, Assemblyman Edward Ra and Hempstead town supervisor Don Clavin.

Joe Harrison, for one, hopes a casino project at the Hub moves forward.

“For economic growth, it's going to be a great thing for the area,” said Harrison, vice president for Local One Elevator Constructors. “We're looking for families to stay and earn living wages.”

The gaming location board explained to those attending the forum how the application process would work. Las Vegas Sands, for example, would have to demonstrate positives in several categories that include local impact, workforce enhancement, and how it will ensure diversity.

Most of the attention, however, will be on economic activity and development. Anyone developing through one of these licenses must work to provide as much tax revenue for state and local governments as possible, and must prove the benefits of the specific site they want to develop. They must also already have expertise in developing and operating a quality gaming facility, as well



Tim Baker/Herald photos

HUNDREDS ATTENDED A community forum at Hofstra University to discuss the fate of the Nassau Hub, and the potential for a casino to become part of the community there. It's a plan that has garnered mixed reactions from neighbors, including from Hofstra and nearby Nassau Community College.

as be able to have the project come to fruition in years, not decades.

Founded by the late Sheldon Adelson in the late 1980s, Las Vegas Sands is considered one of the largest casino companies in the world, although much of its holdings are now in Asia rather than the United States. It reports assets of well over \$20 billion.

Local impact examines how such a development will help — or hurt — businesses immediately surrounding the project, as well as those nearby. Workforce enhancement examines how a developer would utilize the existing labor force in Nassau County, providing an estimated number of construction jobs and developing training programs that serve the unemployed.

One of those training projects is expected to be based at Nassau Community College, with Las Vegas Sands providing, in turn, internships and potential jobs.

That, Sands officials have said, could also help develop its diversity framework, which requires the company in its application to examine workforce demographics of unemployed minorities, woman and service-disabled veterans.

But it's not neighbors Las Vegas Sands would have to convince, but Nassau's community advisory committee. Without a thumbs up from them, it will be a hard no from the gaming location board. Approval requires a two-thirds majority.

We need to make sure that everybody's listening, everybody's participating ... the larger community wants to see in their county, in their town, and their neighborhood.”

JOHN KAMAN
Suffolk County
deputy executive



GERALDINE HART, WHO leads public safety efforts at Hofstra University, shared with a community forum over the weekend what she says are risks communities face when casinos — like the one planned for the Nassau Hub — are built. Hart gave an overview of many instances of human trafficking and auto accidents — including some she personally witnessed — she says have direct ties with casinos.

John Kaman, Suffolk County's deputy executive, said residents and institutions within the town and surrounding areas should understand one another's needs, and the impact they have on one another.

“We need to make sure that everybody's listening, everybody's participating,” Kaman said. “If something like this was going to go forward or not depends upon what the larger community wants to see in their county, in their town, and their neighborhood.”

Geraldine Hart, who leads public safety efforts at Hofstra, worried about the potential increase in crime.

“There's a number of criminal activities that are associated with human trafficking,” she said. “They include illegal drug sales, kidnapping, extortion, money

laundering, prostitution, racketeering and gang related crime.”

Hart also cautioned that the Hempstead Turnpike — one of the most popular roadways traveled in Nassau — was also designated the fourth-most dangerous road in the state last year based on average number of fatalities. Hart cited a Journal of Health Economics study claiming a link between casino expansion and alcohol-related fatal traffic accidents.

Neyrely Munoz, a sophomore majoring in television and film at Hofstra, says she's also concerned about safety, but much closer to home.

“Near a campus with college students, it doesn't sound like the best idea,” she said. “I feel as though that the women on campus will feel a lot less safe.”

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STEPPING OUT

Creative advocacy

Art as activism

By Karen Bloom

Can art change the world? It's a question that's been at the focus of our collective culture for centuries. Now as society navigates the complexities of modern life, art as a path for social change is at the forefront of artistic expression.

"When We All Stand," Hofstra University Museum of Art's new exhibition, examines the collective power of the arts in society.

Curated by Alexandra Giordano — the museum's assistant director of exhibition and collection — the exhibit underscores artists' civic responsibility and influence.

"It highlights the vital role that artists have in activating democratic values that promise equality and freedom, encouraging civic engagement, and cultivating unity," Giordano says. "Artists often lead the charge and expose truths that may otherwise be ignored. The artists in this exhibition take a stand and call out injustices through their art and activism on issues such as immigration, gender, reproductive rights, mass incarceration, voting rights, racial bias, gun violence, and promises unfulfilled. They all combine the making of art with public service that has a grassroots approach in the hope of mobilizing their communities and the nation to ignite movement, create awareness, and inspire others to stand with them."

This exhibit, which runs through July 28, is in conjunction with Hofstra's 13th presidential conference on the Barack Obama presidency coming up in April.

"We were interested in the idea that the artist has a civic responsibility," says museum director Karen Albert. "The initial idea for this exhibition was inspired by an Obama Administration White House briefing that took place on May 12, 2009, where more than 60 artists and creative organizers met with administration officials to discuss the collective power of the arts to build community, create change, and chart a pathway for national recovery in the areas of social justice, civic participation and activism."

To that end, unlike other recent exhibits that showcased the museum's permanent collection, Giordano reached out to contemporary artists who loaned the museum their selected works. Some 36 pieces are on view — representing all media — from Emma Amos, Molly Crabapple and the Equal Justice Initiative, For Freedoms, Miguel Luciano, Michele Pred, Hank Willis Thomas, and Sophia Victor.

"The way our climate is now, this exhibit could not be more timely than at this moment," Albert adds.

Among the highlights, she points to the series of prints from the collective For Freedoms. Their four large scale photos are based on Norman Rockwell's 1943 oil paintings inspired by President Franklin D. Roosevelt's 1941 State of the Union address that outlined what he considered the essential four democratic values freedom of speech, freedom of worship, freedom from want, and freedom from fear. For Freedoms has interpreted these iconic works for our era.

"It's the same composition," Albert says. "From 1940s America, these (works) show what America is today, our diversity and what we look like now."

As always the museum offers additional programming to enhance the exhibit experience. Upcoming events include an artist panel on Feb. 23, which examines the role of the artist as activist, and a gallery tour with Alexandra Giordano, March 16.

Courtesy Hofstra University Museum of Art

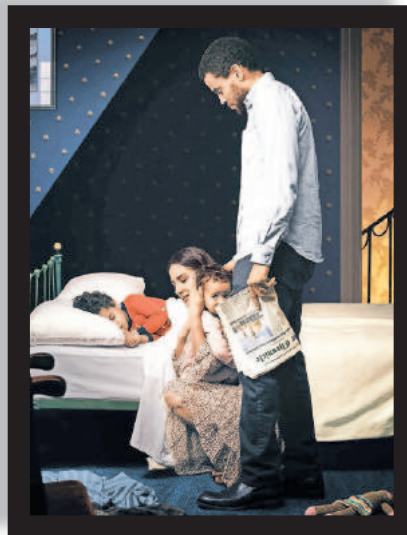
Photos: Norman Rockwell's celebrated 'Four Freedoms' are reinterpreted as photos by Hank Willis Thomas and Emily Shur in collaboration with Eric Gottesman and the Wyatt Gallery.

Courtesy of the artist and Jack Shainman Gallery, New York.

Sculpture: Hank Willis Thomas, 'Lives of Others,' 2014, made from black urethane resin and standing 57 inches tall.

WHERE & WHEN

- Saturday and Sunday, noon-4 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday, 11 a.m.-4 p.m.
- Emily Lowe Hall Gallery, South Campus, Hempstead. For information and to RSVP, call (516) 463-5672, or visit Hofstra.edu/museum



Pat McGann

Pat McGann is quickly rising as one of the sharpest stand-ups on the comedy scene. A relative latecomer to comedy, he began doing stand-up at 31 after realizing he was not very good at selling packaging. He hustled his way to become the house emcee at Zanies Chicago, where he distinguished himself as especially adept at working the crowd. A husband and father of three young children, McGann's appeal stems from his quick wit and relatable take on family life and marriage. In 2017, McGann began touring as the opening act for Sebastian Maniscalco, moving with him from clubs to theater, to arenas, including four sold-out shows at Madison Square Garden. McGann's relatively short, but impressive resume, includes Montreal's famed Just For Laughs Festival, Gilda's LaughFest, The Great American Comedy Festival, and more. McGann still calls Chicago home.

Saturday, Feb. 11, 8 p.m. \$40, \$35, \$30, \$25. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.



Yarn/Wire

Now in its 18th year, Adelphi University's 'new music' series welcomes Yarn/Wire. The intrepid New York-based piano-percussion quartet has forged a singular path with endlessly inventive collaborations, commissions and performances that have made a significant contribution to the canon of experimental works. The quartet features founding member Laura Barger and Julia Den Boer on piano and Russell Greenberg, also a founding member, and Sae Hashimoto playing percussion. Barger is a frequent guest with many top American contemporary ensembles. French-American Den Boer performs internationally as a soloist and chamber musician. Greenberg is in demand with varied ensembles. Hashimoto, the newest member, contributes a unique approach to performance cultivated by her intensive classical training.

Friday, Feb. 17, 7:30 p.m. \$30 with discounts available to seniors, students, alumni and employees. Adelphi University Performing Arts Center, 1 South Ave., Garden City. (516) 877-4000 or Adelphi.edu/pac.

THE SCENE



Feb. 25

Alan Doyle

The prolific Canadian singer-songwriter visits the Landmark stage, Saturday, **Feb. 25**, 8 p.m. From the moment he burst onto the scene in the early 1990s with his band Great Big Sea, Canadians fell in love with the pride of Petty Harbour, Newfoundland, whose boundless charisma and sense of humor was eclipsed only by his magnetic stage presence. His influence is now being heard in a new generation of artists as his solo work continues to endear him to roots music fans everywhere. That's clearly evident on Alan's latest EP "Rough Side Out," which finds him collaborating with Canadian country music superstars Dean Brody and Jess Moskaluke, while at the same time offering his own distinctive interpretation of contemporary country. \$41, \$37, \$29. 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.

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.



Platanos Y Collard Greens

See the romantic comedy about what happens when an African American and a Latina college student fall in love, presented by Nassau Community College Theater and Dance Department and the Africana Studies Department, Thursday through Saturday, **Feb. 9-11**, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 12, 2 p.m. Also Feb. 16-19, with talkback session with playwright David Lamb, immediately following final performance. Threaded by the culture of hip-hop, the lovers defend their relationship, as friends and family learn that this "food fight" calls for fusion instead of feud. Nassau Community College's Mainstage Theatre, Garden City. Tickets \$10; NCC students free with valid ID; \$8 veterans, alumni, seniors 60+, students and NCC employees. For tickets/information, visit NCC.edu or call (516) 572-7676.

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Author talk

Mary Calvi, an Emmy award-winning journalist and national anchor for WCBS-TV and weekend anchor of Inside Edition, visits Molloy University to discuss her book, "If a Poem Could Live and Breathe: A Novel of Teddy Roosevelt's First Love," Wednesday, **Feb. 15**, 7-8:30 p.m. Her novel is an indelible portrait of the authenticity of first love, the heartache of loss, and how overcoming the worst of life's obstacles can push one to greatness never imagined. \$35, includes signed copy of the book. 1000 Hempstead Ave., Larini Room, 2nd Floor of Public Square Building, Rockville Centre. For tickets and information visit MadisonTheatre.org or call (516) 323-4444.

Meet the presidents

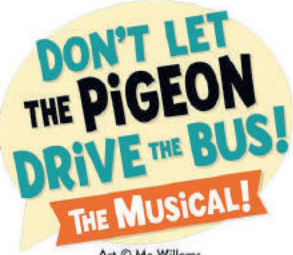
Join Glen Cove Public Library for a Zoom presentation on the evolution of the presidency and executive branch, Thursday, **Feb. 16**, 2-3 p.m. Learn about how presidents have interpreted and fulfilled their leadership role. For more information contact adultprograms@glencovelibrary.org or call (516) 676-2130.

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.

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.



On stage

Mo Willems' popular Pigeon comes alive on the Long Island Children's Museum stage, Saturday, **Feb. 11**, 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Sunday, Feb. 12, 2 p.m.; Wednesday through Friday, Feb. 15-17, noon. LICM, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.

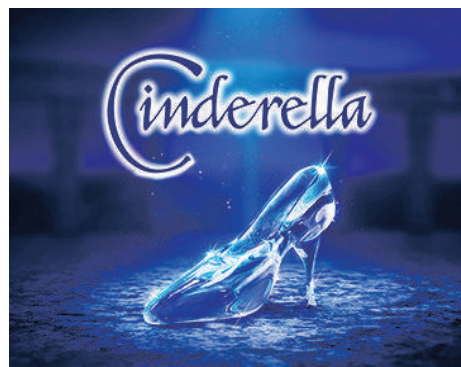


Deep Roots Indoor Winter Market

Shop for all sorts of enticing items, Saturday, **Feb. 11**, 10 a.m.-2 p.m. The market, at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, 28 Highland Road, Glen Cove, offers locally grown vegetables, eggs, meat and dairy, as well as fresh baked goods, artisan cheeses, honey and more. For more information contact Amy Peters at amy@deeprootsfarmersmarket.com or call (516) 318-5487.

Watercolor Workshop

Head to Planting Fields Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay, for a watercolor painting workshop, Saturday, **Feb. 11**, noon to 2:30 p.m. Artist Victoria Beckett teaches the basic techniques of watercolor painting and guides attendees through painting a landscape photograph of Planting Fields on their own. For more information contact info@plantingfields.org or (516) 922-9210.



Family theater

The beloved fairy tale springs to life in a delightful musical romp, presented Plaza Theatrical Productions, Monday, **Feb. 20**, 11 a.m.; Friday, Feb. 24, 11 a.m.; Sunday, Feb. 26, noon. All the ingredients that have made this story a perennial favorite are here, including Cinderella, a zany Godmother, a trip to the royal ball, and a glass slipper. Tickets are \$16. Visit the Plaza stage at The Showplace at Bellmore Movies, 222 Pettit Ave., Bellmore. For information/tickets, go to PlazaTheatrical.com or call (516) 599-6870.



Tot Shabbat

Visit North Country Reform Temple for an interactive musical experience for young children up to age 7, Friday, **Feb. 10**. There will also be a family-friendly Shabbat dinner, at 86 Crescent Beach Road in Glen Cove. For more information, contact (516) 671-4760 or office@ncrt.org.



Fundraiser luncheon

The View Grill, at 111 Lattingtown Road in Glen Cove, hosts a fundraiser for the Holy Resurrection Expansion Project, Saturday, **Feb. 11**, 2-5 p.m. Includes buffet luncheon, dessert, wine, beer and soda. All proceeds will go to the Church of the Holy Resurrection Expansion Project, created by founding member Peter Antonopoulos in memory of his son Billy Antonopoulos. For more information call (516) 972-0814.

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Vandalism, sexual harassment claim, Romney scolding

It's been a busy week for George Santos

By **ROKSANA AMID**
ramid@liherald.com

One month into his tenure in the U.S. House, more anecdotes from the life of George Santos as a private citizen come to light, some of his time as a congressman now faces scrutiny — including an accusation of sexual harassment by a former staffer.

Derek Myers, a one-time journalist who spent a week volunteering in Santos' congressional office in Washington, has claimed to the House Ethics Committee and U.S. Capitol Police that Santos not only asked him to work without pay, but also touched him inappropriately.

Santos denies the incident, but Myers says it happened Jan. 25 when the two were sitting together reviewing mail correspondence. Santos asked Myers if he had a profile on the popular gay dating app Grindr, according to the former staffer, while sharing he had a profile there.

Myers claimed Santos then groped his groin, and then invited Myers to his home, stating his husband was out of town. Myers claims that interaction happened when he was alone with the congressman in his personal office.

“While in his personal office reviewing

the mail, he called me ‘buddy’ and insisted I sit next to him on a small sofa,” Myers wrote to the ethics committee. “I proceeded to move forward with the discussion about the mail, but the congressman stopped me by placing his hand on my left leg, near my knee, and saying, ‘Hey buddy, we’re going to karaoke tonight. Would you like to go?’”

Myers says he pushed the congressman's hand away, grabbed the mail from the table, and tried to return the discussion back to correspondence.

House Speaker Kevin McCarthy on Monday confirmed at least one investigation into Santos was underway by the House Ethics Committee, but didn't provide any other details. Previous complaints had specifically tackled fundraising by Santos during the 2022 campaign, including hundreds of thousands of dollars with no clear indication of its source.

Closer to home, NBC New York and

other news outlets reported Santos' congressional office in Queens was vandalized after someone spraypainted his office windows with “scata,” “lash” and “meep-pa.” It's unclear to police what the graffiti meant.

Law enforcement believes at least one of the words was misspelled, and the paint had been cleaned off the window by Friday afternoon. Santos released a statement condemning the vandalism.

Santos attended President Joe Biden's State of the Union address Tuesday night at the Capitol, inviting former firefighter Michael Weinstock — a first responder who worked at the World Trade Center site after 9/11. The invitation drew some fire at Santos, who said his mother's death was tied to the Sept. 11 attacks. Further investigation by media outlets revealed his mother was in Brazil between 1998 and 2003, and that her presence in New York City in late 2001 was highly unlikely.



Tim Baker/Herald

U.S. REP. GEORGE Santos

Weinstock was diagnosed with neuropathy, a nerve disorder, after his work on the Ground Zero rescue operations were complete. Weinstock told reporters he accepted Santos' invitation because he wanted to raise awareness for the health care needs of 9/11 emergency workers.

But that wasn't the only controversy surrounding Santos at the State of the Union. The congressman reportedly bumped into U.S. Sen. Mitt Romney of Utah ahead of the speech on the House Floor, who reportedly told Santos “you don't belong here.”

The congressman responded to Romney with “tell that to the 142,000 who voted for me,” before exchanging some name-calling.

Later Romney criticized Santos, who is under an ethics investigation, for positioning himself where he could shake Biden and senators' hands.

“He should be sitting in the back row and staying quiet instead of parading in front of the president and people coming into the room,” Romney told CNN.

Santos responded on Twitter, telling Romney “just a reminder that you will never be president,” referring to Romney's failed bid for the White House as the GOP nominee in 2012.

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COUNTY LEGISLATOR JOSH Lafazan has held nearly a dozen news conferences focusing on U.S. Rep. George Santos's disputed claims about his resume and how he financed his congressional campaign. Lafazan, who talked with Herald Senior Editor Laura Lane, above, says he is doing what his Republican constituents would want him to do: expose Santos's lies.

Lafazan: It's important to lose gracefully and move on

By **LAURA LANE**

llane@liherald.com

Josh Lafazan's winning streak began in the first grade when he was elected student representative at Walt Whitman Elementary School.

He was senior class president at Syosset High School the same year he secured a seat on the district's school board. Then, at 23, he became the youngest-ever elected member of the Nassau County Legislature, where he still sits today, now serving his third term representing parts of the North Shore.

"I fell in love with public service when on the student council," Lafazan said. "I love representative government. From my very first day on the school board, I loved public service, making a difference for others. Never did it cross my mind that I would pursue anything else."

But Lafazan's winning streak came to an end last August when Robert Zimmerman defeated him in the Democratic primary for congress — a seat ultimately won by Republican George Santos. That loss was surreal for Lafazan. And it hurt.

Losing the primary was tough. But seeing George Santos ultimately victorious was even harder.

"I was outraged when I heard he won," Lafazan said. "When I ran as a teenager, I had to have every 'I' dotted. There was such level of scrutiny. He's the long lost brother of Anna Delvey," referring to the Russian-born German con artist who posed as a wealthy heiress.

Election aftermath

When it was clear he would lose the primary, Lafazan's first order of business was to contact his more than 200 teenaged interns. Likening them to "lit-

tle brothers and sisters," Lafazan wanted them to know they did a remarkable job working on his campaign, and how proud he was of them.

But most of all, he wanted to teach them how to lose.

"They needed to see how we handle loss gracefully," Lafazan said. "I taught them that when you lose, you hold your head up high. You show grace in defeat, and concede. I think that was the most important lesson these kids learned that night."

As for how he felt, Lafazan said the evening remains a blur. He does remember going to a diner with his campaign workers at midnight to commiserate. No one could understand how he lost since they were up in their internal polling the day before the election.

The next morning, Lafazan awoke early, calling everyone who contributed to his campaign — from those who donated, to the people who put out lawn signs. There were hundreds of calls to make, he said, ultimately taking a week to complete.

In between, Lafazan had to answer calls from media, his friends and family. It was great to have the support, he said, but telling the same story over and over again — and expressing the same gratitude — was emotionally taxing.

"I was personally exhausted by Labor Day," he said. "That's when I realized it was over. It was like going from 100 mph to zero."

The day after the election, Lafazan went back to work in Mineola, showing his constituents that although he lost one office, it didn't mean he wasn't grateful for the other one he already had.

One of the best kept secrets in running for office is what has to be done when the campaign is over, and the candidate has lost. The following week,

Lafazan spent his time preparing to move out of his Plainview campaign office. His staff had all either gone back to college or left for other jobs.

He only had his campaign manager, Chase Serota, to help move everything out.

"There were so many volunteers, so there were so many tables, desks, posters, beanbag chairs," Lafazan said. "Chase and I put all of it in a massive U-Haul. Then, as we were driving down Jericho Turnpike, the door came

open."

He also contacted Zimmerman, committing to host a fundraiser on his behalf.

Lafazan prefers to be busy. Hecticness and the business of the day is a distraction for him. So, he set his mind to doing all of the things he was unable to do while campaigning.

He read historical literature — one of his passions. He went running and exercised every day. And he learned transcendental meditation.

People have asked Lafazan if he's ever considered getting out of politics.

His answer? No.

Learning about Santos winning the congressional seat he had campaigned for was a mixture of frustration and anger for Lafazan. But he wasn't surprised.

Democrats across the island didn't effectively message on public safety, crime and the economy. As a Democrat in a district populated mainly with Republicans, Lafazan heard often that his constituents wanted a plan. And Democrats weren't providing one, or for the most part even acknowledging the problems existed.

Although he did not know much about Santos, Lafazan knew he did not like him.

"This was someone who, on the record, had likened abortion to slavery," Lafazan said. "Who had bragged about being at the Capitol on Jan. 6. Who had made incredibly inflammatory statements about multiple groups."

"That this person with this background was our congressman-elect, it didn't sit well with me."

His anger at his party's loss turned to outrage when he read The New York Times story claiming Santos had fabricated many aspects of his life — from his education, to his work history, even his family. Lafazan hosted his first news conference about Santos the next day, and has had 10 more since — his most recent one on Tuesday.

"I never thought I'd be still having them, but this has gotten so morally depraved," Lafazan said. "My constituents keep calling my office and they are Republicans. They want me to speak up. They want him held accountable. The Republicans who voted for him are angry, and really hurt by what he's done."



Courtesy Pete Prudente

PETE PRUDENTE IS an advocate for organ and tissue donation. He often donates platelets, which help save the lives of leukemia patients.

Forget about the chocolate on Feb. 14: Give the gift of life

By **ROKSANA AMID**
ramid@iherald.com

National Donor Day is observed every year on Valentine's Day. Additionally, it's a day those who have given and received the gift of life through organ, eye and tissue donations are recognized, as are people currently waiting for a lifesaving transplant and those who died before receiving one.

A donor family looked past their grief of losing their son to give me, a stranger, life.

JAN SCHICHEL, ORGAN RECIPIENT

ment for 20 months, receiving 43 pints of blood to keep her alive before she received a kidney donation.

"There were many times that I was extremely weak and couldn't function too well," Schichtel said. "I was able to keep going in part due to the 43 anonymous blood donors. Without them I wouldn't have made it."

The kidney became available in October of 1983. It would change her life forever.

"A donor family looked past their grief of losing their son to give me, a stranger, life," Schichtel marveled.

That generosity enabled her to live to see her grandchildren and help support her husband, while he battled cancer for 11 years.

The first human organ to be transplanted successfully was a kidney in 1954. Liver, heart and pancreas

currently waiting for a lifesaving transplant and those who died before receiving one.

In 1983, Jan Schichtel's family celebrated two precious milestones. Her son Bob had just started first grade and her husband entered the Nassau County Police Academy.

However, Schichtel, who was a Glen Cove resident at the time, was waiting for her own milestone — to continue the life she led before starting hemodialysis. She was on the lifesaving treatment

Lives affected by organ shortages

- Number of men, women, children on national transplant waiting list: 105,800.
- Deaths per day waiting for an organ transplant: 17.
- Transplants performed in 2021: 40,000.
- Organ in greatest need: Kidney.
- The rarest blood type: AB negative.

Become an organ donor by visiting: donatelifen.y.gov/register

— Roksana Amid

transplants were successfully performed by the late 1960s, while lung and intestinal organ transplant procedures began in the 1980s.

The Saturn Corporation and its partner, the United Auto Workers, started National Donor Day in 1998.

Joy Oppedisano, president of Transplant Recipients International Organization, said she's thrilled that Feb. 14 is recognized as Donor Awareness Day.

"It's really wonderfully amazing how, in a short period of time, science and transplants has advanced where they're not experimental any longer," Oppedisano said.

But although Medical advancements have improved the amount and shelf life of donated organs, there are still hurdles to the lifesaving process.

The wait list for a kidney from a deceased donor is up to 10 years. According to the nonprofit Long Island TRIO, many patients who are on dialysis to treat kidney failure know the odds of surviving the wait are slim because the median survival time for patients on dialysis is five years.

There are approximately 105,000 people waiting nationally for an organ transplant and there are currently 8,184 in New York state on the National Organ Transplant waitlist. Each year, thousands of people die while waiting for a transplant because a suitable donor cannot be found. Seventeen people die each day waiting for a transplant.

Through the generosity of people like Glen Cove's Pete Prudente, many lives like Schichtel's are being saved. Prudente, a member of the Local Union 15, is a living donor.

Prudente is known around the city as a man who gives his all for others. Whether distributing flowers on Mother's Day, cooking meals for veterans or holding his regular blood drives, he has become the face of altruism in Glen Cove, an identity that was cemented when he donated a kidney to a stranger in 2019. Prudente was notified that the stranger's daughter was so moved by his donation that she donated a kidney as well.

Prudente recently celebrated his own milestone with the New York Blood center. He has donated platelets 75 times. Prudente said he plans to keep going and donate as much as he can.

"If I can get part of myself to save someone's life and it doesn't affect my health that much, I'm willing and glad to do it," he said.

In September, Prudente was called by the blood center and asked to help a 13-year-old leukemia patient who needed white blood cells, a four-hour process that requires needles in both arms. He was asked to do the same for a 14-year-old boy in December.

One of the biggest myths surrounding organ donation is about life after transplant for both the donor and receiver. Misconceptions like the need to survive on medicines post-surgery, loss of strength to support their family and sexual problems are why many people are hesitant to become living organ donors.

"I try to advocate and let people know that it wasn't painful. It didn't affect my health at all. I'm going in the bathroom fine and I'm doing everything normally," Prudente said.

Raising their voices to demand that Santos step down

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

about everything in his biography has been called into question — from school, to work, and even claims of Jewish heritage familial ties as well as his mother being a victim of the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attack.

And that's not to mention a number of investigations into not only how Santos spent campaign money during his successful House run last year, but where those funds came from.

"I'm hoping that we can put some pressure on the rest of his coworkers to expel him from Congress," said one of the travelers making the journey this week, Glen Head resident Diana Mueller.

The protesters were barely halfway to Washington when Casey Sabella, a Glen Cove resident and community organizer with Courage for America, announced some breaking news that was met with cheers: Santos was officially facing a House Ethics Committee probe, confirmed by McCarthy himself.

"We're making a difference, and we're not even off the bus," Sabella joked.



Roksana Amid/Herald

PROTESTERS WHO LIVE and work in Rep. George Santos's congressional district traveled to the nation's capital on Tuesday ahead of President Biden's State of the Union address to express their frustration with the embattled congressman.

Later on, not far from the Capitol building, Jody Kassfinkel called Santos a grifter, reaping the benefits of a con-

gressional salary he doesn't deserve.

"Nobody trusts him and as a result," said Kassfinkel, a Great Neck resident and organizer of Concerned Citizens of NY-03, "he is impotent as a member of Congress in his ability to represent us."

U.S. Rep. Dan Goldman, who represents Lower Manhattan and parts of Brooklyn, said he was one of the House members who initially filed a complaint against Santos with the Ethics Committee. McCarthy rebuked the complaints, Goldman added, stating that Santos's fate should be up to the constituents who voted for him last November.

"We saw the unbelievable and unprecedented amounts of fraud, deception and lies that a single person has brought to what should be the hallowed halls of the Capitol," Goldman said.

However, the congressman did credit the Speaker's announcement that day that there would indeed be an ethics probe of Santos.

Once the gathering concluded, Sabella and Kassfinkel led the 50 travelers inside to visit the offices of both Santos and McCarthy.

When they reached Santos's office, the door opened before Sabella even knocked. The staffer looked shocked and alarmed at the crowd, quickly closing the door again. Moments after, a more senior staffer appeared.

Sabella handed him the petitions, saying voters there and back home were "not OK with Santos' lies and deceptions."

The staffer accepted the petitions without comment, closing the door again. The small crowd there chanted "where is George?" which echoed through the hallways outside the congressman's office.

Sabella didn't expect Santos to

directly engage with the protesters, but she didn't expect such a cold reception at his office.

"He won't acknowledge our existence — even if we're here," Sabella said.

When the crowd approached McCarthy's office, Capitol police were already standing outside the door.

This time, Kassfinkel was tasked with delivering the petitions. She held them tightly as she spoke her mind to the senior staffer about the lack of proper representation in Santos' district.

Finally, Kassfinkel handed them over — an exchange she described as brief and one-sided.

"He was desperate for me to hand over the petition so he can close the door and leave," she said. "But I wouldn't hand it over until I was done speaking."

Not long after, the weary travelers loaded the bus for the long trip back to New York, hoping to make good time before nightfall. It was a long day, but Kassfinkel believes the group met their goal of getting the Speaker's attention, even if there was no face-to-face encounter.

Sabella, too, reflected on many positive experiences. Still, she was frustrated with the lack of communication from Santos.

"I'm proud of the people who came on this trip, and proud of them for speaking their voices and standing up to something so wrong," Sabella said. "I'm disappointed in George Santos. I'm disappointed that he said he is doing his job and engaging with constituents, and he rejected 50 requests to meet with him today."

That won't slow down Sabella. In fact, it energizes her, making it clear she will continue to organize events and plans of action until Santos finally vacates his office.

HERALD LGL3 0209 **PUBLIC NOTICES**

Continued from previous page

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MID-ISLAND TIMES
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NEWSDAY

Dist 3024

GLEN COVE HERALD GAZETTE
GLEN COVE RECORD PILOT
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Dated: February 08, 2023

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NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing shall be held on Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY to discuss Local Law 02-2023, adding Sec. 280-65.1. CBD Overlay Commercial District, K. Vacant Store Front Registry. All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard.
Tina Pemberton
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LEGAL NOTICE
SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF NASSAU
NEW PENN FINANCIAL, LLC, DBA SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING, V. HERNAN MARTINEZ, ET AL.
NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated December 16, 2022, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Nassau, wherein NEW PENN FINANCIAL, LLC, DBA SHELLPOINT MORTGAGE SERVICING is the Plaintiff and HERNAN MARTINEZ, ET AL. are the

Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public RAIN OR SHINE at the NASSAU COUNTY SUPREME COURT, NORTH SIDE STEPS, 100 SUPREME COURT DRIVE, MINEOLA, NY 11501, on March 14, 2023 at 2:30PM, premises known as 71 CLEMENT STREET, GLEN COVE, NY 11542: Section 31, Block 2, Lot 148 & 351: ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF GLEN COVE, COUNTY OF NASSAU AND STATE OF NEW YORK
Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index #

006507/2013. Scott Farrell Guardino, Esq. - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. *LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES. 137279

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OPINIONS

Those horrific videos, and what they show

“I couldn’t bear the thought of people being horrified by the sight of my son,” Mamie Bradley, the mother of 14-year-old Emmett Till, a Black kid from Chicago who was tortured and murdered by white racists in Mississippi in 1955, told the press at the time.



**JAMES
BERNSTEIN**

“But on the other hand, I felt the alternative was even worse,” Bradley continued. “After all, we had averted our eyes for far too long, running away from the ugly reality facing us as a nation. Let the world see what I’ve seen.” Bradley had refused to close the lid of

her son’s coffin.

What Bradley had to say then has echoed through the decades, and helped inspire America’s civil rights movement.

Her words are still relevant today.

I’ve heard many people say they “can’t look” at the televised footage of the Memphis police beating of Tyre Nichols, a 29-year-old who died a few

days after he was brutally assaulted by five police officers, who have been charged in his death. The footage has been shown and re-shown. And you could say that seeing it once is enough.

And I agree. But I know of others who refuse to look at all. Many are the same people who refused to look at the images of the police as they suffocated George Floyd in 2020. They also didn’t want to look at the flag-draped coffins of American service members who had been killed in Afghanistan or Iraq. The first Bush administration banned photos or video of the caskets of dead returning veterans. That decree wasn’t overturned until the Obama administration.

Some ask why we should look at any of it. What good does it do? To some, it’s similar to the almost unavoidable glances at an auto accident that attracts rubbernecks. Common decency should overcome the morbid desire to slow down to a crawl.

But it’s unacceptable to refuse to look at the images of Floyd as he lay gasping for breath, or of Eric Garner, who died in a prohibited police choke-

hold in 2014, or of Nichols as he was beaten.

In 1955, what Bradley saw was the horribly battered body and the crushed face of her son, who had traveled to the small town of Money, Mississippi, to spend a summer with his sharecropper great-uncle Moses Wright.

After work one night, young Emmett and some friends stopped at a grocery store. Accounts vary, but some say that Till whistled at the store’s white cashier, Carolyn Bryant. In the early-morning hours of Aug. 28, Roy Bryant, Carolyn’s husband, and J.W. Milam, Bryant’s half-brother, broke into Wright’s home and dragged Till out.

He was severely beaten. One of his eyes was gouged out. His nose was so bent out of shape, his mother said, that it resembled an S. Then he was taken to the Tallahatchie River, where he was shot in the head. His body was dumped into the river.

Wright reported the kidnapping to the police the following day, and Bryant and Milam were arrested. The only way police were able to identify Till was by

a monogrammed ring he wore that had belonged to his father.

At the funeral, relatives asked Bradley to close the casket, but she refused. Photos of her son’s body appeared in Jet magazine and the Chicago Defender, two of the most important Black publications in the United States.

Bryant and Milam were acquitted by an all-white jury that deliberated for only four hours. Years later, the FBI extracted a deathbed confession from Milam’s brother, Leslie, who admitted his own involvement. By that time, however, Bryant and J.W. Milam were long dead.

Till’s mother’s decision to let the public see what had been done to her son still resonates today.

Those who ask why we should look at any of these disturbing images say, what good does it do? The footage of Floyd, Garner and, now, Nichols, is more than painful to watch, I agree. But the cameras don’t lie. They force us to see things we don’t want to see, but *must* see. When we turn away, we are lying to ourselves about the reality of what happens so often to members of minorities in this, our America.

James Bernstein is editor of the Long Beach Herald. Comments? jbernstein@liherald.com.

We don’t want to see the images of Floyd, Garner and, now, Nichols. But we must.

Hot love, cold love, new love, old love

These days, when my husband and I share affairs of the heart, there is usually anesthesia and a same-day procedure involved.

For us, Valentine’s Day, the fire sale of romantic love, doesn’t speak to a 55-year relationship. Heart-shaped cakes, red roses, pink balloons and chocolates have become cheap (although not inexpensive) symbols of love. We subscribe to a more expansive view of love that includes authentic moments, nourishing memories and new experiences in the world. We learned during the pandemic that a brilliant TV movie or a sighting of a



**RANDI
KREISS**

comet in a dark sky can trigger the same endorphins as “love.” It all counts.

One of the unintended consequences of living in the time of Covid-19 is an impatience with posturing and a desire for genuine emotion. Let’s sift through the dross of recent weeks for the gold nuggets. Think for a moment of the intense super-joys that give value to your days — the gifts that Hallmark and

Godiva cannot confer.

These past few weeks, I have been leading a book discussion group. I do this all the time, but suddenly this year the group is intensely wonderful. The people in our circle jelled. The talk is fast, funny and wicked smart. Maybe it seems odd to think of this meet-up in terms of love, but we need all the love we can gather, and we each get to define our own experiences.

Other random love bombs:

Last week I caught a glimpse of the green-hued comet that last visited earth in prehistoric times. It was a momentary sighting, but I thought to myself, “Be still my heart” when I spotted the ball of dust and ice that won’t swing by this way again for 55,000 years. What a show.

Two weeks ago, I saw “Shades of Spring,” a new ballet choreographed by Jessica Lang. During a fairly dull week of subpar weather, a week I would give a C+, the evening of dance was a breakout moment. The performance captivated every sense and held our attention until the last bow. It was love.

Then there is Rachel Maddow. She

makes my Mondays, which are the only days she’s on the air at MSNBC with commentary about the dreaded news. An investigative pit bull with a smile on her face and a crisp sense of humor, Maddow helps mitigate the despair I feel

after an intemperate eruption from Marjorie Taylor Greene. Maddow’s wit is dead on, and she is rigorous in her craft. I would not want to be in her sights, but I love being in her audience.

My life would be different, and less joyful, without Lillybee, our 5-year-old Coton. I don’t need to explain this to dog lovers. And I can’t explain it to non-dog-lovers. We celebrated her birthday Feb. 1 with a heavy spoonful of shredded pork in her kibble. I heard her whisper, “Be still my heart.”

I love our expanding daylight, which translates to elevated moods, for me and everyone else. There is just no boogying to the 4:30 p.m. Sunset Blues. The happy dance must wait for the sun to travel closer, and it is, by the minute, and I love it.

Another love bomb in my life is pasta al dente, still the most delicious, cheap-

Even a comet in a dark sky can trigger the same magical endorphins.

est meal in America. When I’m ready to take on some carbs, a half-box of pasta with olive oil, parsley and garlic is sublime. Anytime we lust for linguine, we have this, right here in all our lives, and it is an affair of the heart as much as the belly.

Great books are the red roses that never fade. Consider the books I talked about this month: “The All of It,” by Jeannette Haien; “The Glass Hotel,” by Emily St. John Mandel; “Lila,” by Marilynne Robinson; and “Drag your Plover Over the Bones of the Dead,” by Olga Tokarczuk. The joy of disappearing into a book, giving up one’s grounding in time and space, is a gift. Then to talk about it with like-minded readers? Enchanting.

Wordle and Spelling Bee, my twin obsessions, have the best words. For the uninitiated, these are New York Times daily word games. And they’re like crack. You can’t stop. When you figure out the puzzle, the rush is unmistakable and familiar: love.

From the ridiculous to the sublime: I embrace my friends on Valentine’s Day and every day, don’t you? They can love anybody, and they choose you, and me.

Hold them close, every precious one.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Getting what you pay for in the classroom

When we think of the most influential people in our lives growing up, we're likely to point out our parents, some members of our extended family, maybe even a religious leader or two.

But no list is complete without teachers. It's a role so important in our development that we spend nearly 13,000 hours of our childhood in front of teachers — whether we're learning long division, the Civil War, natural selection, Newton's laws of motion, or even where, exactly, New York is on the planet.

Education is vital, and we depend on teachers more than anyone else to deliver it. Yet when it comes time for us to show our gratitude for their extraordinary contribution to our lives, we instead focus on debates on whether teachers are overpaid, underworked and demanding just too much.

It's not that exploring whether teachers are appropriately compensated isn't important — in the public sphere, at least, it's taxpayers' hard-earned dollars that pay their salaries. However, such discussions must be done in a way that not only provides an accurate and complete look at educator salaries, but also still respects the essential role teachers fill.

A recent analysis conducted by Newsday found that more than half of all teachers on Long Island — 31,000 of them — are making at least \$100,000 a year. A handful of them earned even more — upward of \$300,000 and even \$400,000. Numbers, we assume, we should be outraged about.

But those specific large amounts were anomalies, not the norm. Three teachers — two with more than four decades in the classroom — retired from the Central Islip school district with a mountain of sick days for which they were due compensation. These are teachers who were in the classroom nearly every day, providing consistency for their students and saving their district the need to hire substitutes.

Making this more atypical is that Central Islip has a rather unique — and far more generous — benefits package compared with other districts on Long Island.

On average, however, teachers on Long Island made a little more than \$110,000 per year. That's what the Empire Center for Public Policy told Newsweek, pointing out that that average is higher than any other region in the state, and higher than average salaries in other states. Three of the 11 school districts with the highest wage earners were in Nassau County — Jericho, Great Neck and Syosset.

Teachers have built-in holiday breaks — including the entire summer. They are done teaching by early afternoon. Their jobs aren't physical. Who hasn't heard these cries about teachers whenever discussions about compensation crop up?

But we also cannot forget that teachers take work home with them. They are there after school, many times giving an extra hand to our kids, helping them get the most out of their educational experience through sports or other extracurricular activities.

And while some might argue that

teachers make up for lower pay than their private-sector counterparts with better benefits, even that can be a tricky mound to stand on. A 2021 report from the Center for Retirement Research at Boston College concluded that while teachers might earn the same as those with similar educational backgrounds in the private sector, ongoing across-the-board benefits cuts through pension reform means that new teachers have a far bleaker economic outlook than their more experienced colleagues.

That's bad. "Uncompetitive compensation may make it harder to recruit high-quality individuals into the teaching profession," the report stated. Low-quality teachers — or worse, simply not enough teachers — means potentially low-quality education.

For a country struggling to keep up with many of our international competitors, an educational system in decline will only make the situation worse.

The United States already falls below the global average in math test scores, according to the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development. That put us well behind Singapore, Macao, Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan. And while our children's science scores are higher than the global average, the United States remains behind Singapore, Macao, Estonia, Japan and Finland.

We must keep our public schools costs under control — absolutely. But just like anything else, we get what we pay for. And if we pay for high-quality teachers here on Long Island, we'll continue to get them.

LETTERS

Why 'Santos, for better or worse'?

To the Editor:

Assemblyman Chuck LaVine's letter, "It's Santos, for better or worse," which appeared in last week's issue, has me perplexed. The black cloud that U.S. Rep. George Santos finds himself under is clearly his doing, and his alone. If I were a constituent of his, I would welcome a call or email from another representative who understands our Long Island issues.

While Lavine said he appreciated Rep. Andrew Garbarino reaching out, the tone in his reply was less than respectful. It seems that Lavine is up to his old tricks by attempting to cast shade on an otherwise respected member of Long Island's congressional delegation, as well as the Nassau Republican Party. Here's a concept you might not be familiar with, Chuck: Instead of bickering, try working together, *for the people*.

MIKE SCHNEIDER
Seaford



OPINIONS

A useful way to enshrine a name we'd sooner forget

“Make lemonade out of lemons” is a saying ingrained from an early age in students across the country to teach perseverance in the face of adversity. In essence, when we're faced with a bad situation, we navigate the circumstances to imagine a positive outcome.



**JOSH
LAFAZAN**

When it comes to U.S. Rep. George Santos, it's far easier to imagine a steady stream of lemon juice squirted directly into our eyes than successfully following this elementary maxim. Each new day seems to bring a new Santos lie with it, one

more outrageous than the next. From a fake resume to a fake address to a fake religion and more, Santos remains as defiant as ever in the midst of his fictional masterpiece: the most sophisticated web of lies ever created in the history of American politics.

The good news is that people of good conscience all across New York state's 3rd Congressional District, regardless of political affiliation, are exasperated by the Talented Mr. Santos, and have had enough. Calls for him to resign ring out from the headquarters of both the Nassau Republicans and county Democrats. But being outraged isn't a solution to our Santos problem.

Santos is an issue for the nation, but let's not forget that he is a problem of our local creation. Therefore, the burden lies with us here in the 3rd District not just to destroy Frankenstein's monster, but also to ensure that the next George Santos is barred from ever getting his, or her, name on the ballot.

In the meantime, what Santos — the long-lost brother of fake German heiress Anna Delvey? — has shown us is that guardrails to prevent charlatans and liars from running for office simply don't exist in the 21st century.

That's why I've proposed the

GEORGE Package here in Nassau County, a series of laws named for Mr. Santos: Get Egregious Officials Removed from Government Elections. It features several proposals to keep people like Santos from ever getting elected in the first place. They include:

- Mandatory background checks for all candidates, just like any employee of any company is subjected to.
- Barring anyone with an open foreign arrest warrant from holding office.
- Making it a misdemeanor for a candidate to lie about his or her education, employment history, address or income sources.

The GEORGE Package would not be a guarantor against politicians lying to get elected. It would, however, offer voters more peace of mind that they have an honest choice between two candidates, and assurance for those voters that if candidates don't play by the rules, they, like us, will be held

accountable.

When James Madison created the framework for the Constitution, never in the wildest dreams of our founders did they envision needing laws like the GEORGE Package on the books. But just as the Constitution is a living document, our governments also must continue to evolve with the times.

And in the age of George Santos, when many politicians take an ends-justify-the-means approach to elevate lies over the truth and perpetrate fraud against the voters in order to win elections, these safeguards are needed now more than ever to protect our democracy.

My hope is that versions of the GEORGE Package pass in Mineola, in Albany and in Washington. If they do, voters across the state will be able to breathe a collective sigh of relief that no matter which candidate wins, no one who is as morally reprehensible as George Santos will be representing them.

Santos may be the lemons, but the GEORGE Package would be our lemonade. Let's drink up.

Josh Lafazan is a Nassau County legislator representing the 18th District.

We must ensure that the next George Santos is barred from getting his, or her, name on the ballot.

LETTERS

My grandparents never talked about the Holocaust

To the Editor:

Great op-ed by Daniel Offner, “We must remember — and teach — the Holocaust (Jan. 26-Feb. 1), about his childhood memories of his grandmother, her history and what she went through.

I can really relate to it, but on my side, my grandparents would never, ever talk about what they lived through in Europe, while they raised their five children (my mom and her four siblings). The only piece of information I know is that all five of them were born in different countries while the family kept running from country to country to try and avoid Hitler. I know my grandparents were in camps, because they both had numbers on their arms, but they never, ever talked about it.

MICHAEL GILLER
West Hempstead

Honor Damar Hamlin by learning CPR

To the Editor:

Last month on “Monday Night Football,” we all witnessed a horrific event when Damar Hamlin suffered a cardiac

arrest on the field. Cardiac arrest is a leading cause of death in the world. Each year, more than 350,000 out-of-hospital cardiac arrests occur in the United States. Almost three out of four of them happen at home.

If you're called on to do cardiopulmonary resuscitation, you will likely be saving the life of someone you love. The members of our community need us. Our children need us. Our neighbors need us. Our co-workers need us.

The American Heart Association recognizes this need, and has a plan to help. You can be the difference, by learning CPR to save a life. The American Heart Association is committed to being the leader in resuscitation science, education and training.

This month — American Heart Month — the American Heart Association is specifically focused on helping people learn the life-saving skill of CPR, and we want every family and home to have someone who knows it. With the help of local supporters, we can help more of our community be prepared when called on in an emergency.

I encourage you to Be the Beat by learning CPR to be the difference and save a life. To find a class near you, visit cpr.heart.org.

DR. LAWRENCE KANNER
Chief of cardiology, and director of electrophysiology/arrhythmia Services Mount Sinai South Nassau

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



Celebrating the Lunar New Year at Town Hall — Oyster Bay

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