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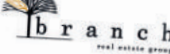



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**Joyful picnic  
 for seniors**  
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**Raising Pride flag  
 in the city**  
 Page 8



Courtesy Northwell Health

**RENOWNED SAXOPHONIST RICHIE** Cannata, a cancer survivor, played 'New York State of Mind' for attendees at Northwell's Cancer Survivors Day event. The Glen Cove resident shared his story for the first time.

# Celebrating special day for cancer survivors

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

When Richie Cannata picked up his first instrument at age 4, music became a fundamental part of his life. He often jokes that he's never had a job. Instead he has made a very good living thanks to his musical talents.

And he is a cancer survivor.

In 2015, the Grammy-winning artist, Billy Joel's original saxophonist, lost his ability to snap his fingers, tear open a packet of sugar, or pick up his beloved saxophone without feeling excruciating pain.

Cannata was diagnosed with Stage 4 non-Hodgkin's lymphoma, and spent

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# High school students turn stories of Holocaust into art

By **LAURA LANE**  
 llane@liherald.com

Fred Zeilberger was just 14 when he was ordered to stack the bodies of dead fellow prisoners like firewood at a makeshift concentration camp outside Riga, Latvia, during World War II. He was among 1,000 Jewish prisoners in the camp, only 27 of whom survived.

"I was working every day," Zeilberger recalled. "If you didn't work, you didn't survive."

Zeilberger's story was among those shared at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts in April when the United Jewish Appeal Federation of New York's Wit-

ness Project presented an art exhibit and a film, "The Ties that Bind Us." Students and Holocaust survivors explored the issues of loss, resilience, war and trauma during one of the darkest times in history.

The Witness Project, created five years ago, offers high school students an opportunity to collaborate with Holocaust survivors. Students met twice a month in groups of 10 or 11 with a Holocaust survivor at the Sid Jacobson JCC in Greenvale. The center served the survivors dinner every other Thursday night, and several of the teens involved in the project volunteered as servers, which helped them get

I want to find more survivors to tell their stories. Each one is unique. And I want to continue to spread their stories, so they live on.

**ROSS YABLANS**  
 Glen Head

to know their special guests.

The students chosen to participate in the program, which began last September, were

adept at visual art and storytelling. Some had heard about the project from their siblings, like Miles Morris, of Brookville. Morris, 17, who attends Friends Academy, said that his brother, Spencer, who took part in the project last year, said the experience was meaningful.

Ross Yablans, 15, of Glen Head, who also attends Friends, was introduced to a Polish Holo-

ocaust survivor by his older sister, Julia, who had also participated in the program. Ross talks to the survivor often, he said, and meets her for lunch and dinner. His sister's experience, and the relationship he has formed with the survivor, led him to get involved in the Witness Project.

"Being in the Witness Project was a great thing to do," Ross

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

# City's Moody rating rises from stable to positive

By **ROKSANA AMID**  
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Glen Cove's credit outlook improved from stable to positive, according to a report released in May by Moody's Investors Service, a credit rating agency. The last time the city earned a positive outlook was in 2017 and was maintained until 2018.

The improved outlook fiscally affects Glen Cove's bonds issued for its capital borrowing needs. The better the rating the lower the interest rate the city will receive in the bond market. A lower interest rate ultimately results in less interest to pay on the amount borrowed, so therefore, there is effectively less cost to residents.

Glen Cove's comptroller, Michael Piccirillo said that over the past two years, the city has tremendously reduced its fund balance deficit due to improved budgeting practices, fiscal discipline and aggressive oversight which has resulted in a fiscal 2022 operating surplus. This is the second consecutive year the city has realized an operating surplus. In just two years, the city's deficit has gone from \$5.4 million to just under \$1.9 million, and long-term liabilities have decreased signifi-

cantly compared to prior years.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck is pleased with the Moody's upgrade. She said it reflects the hard work she's put into changing the course of the city's financial condition.

"The city is continuing to conservatively budget revenues and expenses while stabilizing taxes for our residents and our debt position continues to be manageable," Panzenbeck said. "And, in fact, has decreased over the past two years as a result of paying down debt at a greater rate than the issuance of new debt."

Glen Cove's credit rating outlook was revised from a stable outlook to negative in 2020. But it changed from negative to stable in 2022. The report stated that the improved outlook was a partial reflection of the city benefiting from a growing tax base in Nas-

sau County, and an improvement in serial bonds. Moody's noted that management in the city was working to bring the budget into balance and a growth in reserves. It also indicated that long-term liabilities were manageable and fixed costs were declining.

"Due to the pandemic, the city's state and local aid revenue was reduced," Piccirillo said. "Therefore, when the 2021 budget was developed, it was done so conservatively, insofar as budgeting certain revenues, with the expectation that they would be lower than normal because of the impact of the pandemic on the city's finances."

According to Piccirillo, in 2021 the city's state and local aid was restored to normal pre-pandemic levels. The city's conservative budget practices aided in the city receiving more aid than was budgeted. Piccirillo added the

excess amount had no offsetting costs, and therefore fell in line for an operating surplus for the 2021 fiscal year.

"Managing the financial responsibility of the city takes time and patience," Piccirillo, said. "That success is achieved in small steps and the city is headed in the right direction."

The credit profile of the city has historically suffered from weak reserves and imbalanced budgets. The report states management has implemented various initiatives that have brought the budget into structural balance and started to replenish the accumulated deficit in the General Fund. The positive trends the city is experiencing is expected to continue through the end of 2023 and into 2024.

The improvement to positive, is primarily due to the city's significantly reduced fund balance deficit, which resulted from improved budgeting practices, fiscal discipline, and aggressive oversight. Fiscal year Dec. 31, 2022, ended with an operating surplus and helped to reduce the city's accumulated deficit by approximately \$3.5 million since its highpoint in 2020. Additionally, long-term liabilities have decreased considerably compared to prior years.

**T**he city is continuing to conservatively budget revenues and expenses while stabilizing taxes for our residents and our debt position continues to be manageable.

**PAM PANZENBECK**  
mayor, Glen Cove

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Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

**DEASY STUDENTS** JACOB Palazzo, far left, Dru Wilson and Tommy Scagliola started their school days practicing for the tournament in Albany. District Superintendent Maria Rianna, above, took Jacob Palazzo, left, Dru Wilson and Tommy Scagliola out for ice cream to celebrate their hard work and determination after the six-hour competition.

# Deasy students win third at Albany competition

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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**A**bout 150 elementary students from across the state journeyed to the University at Albany to show off their math skills.

These mathletes spent their day working in teams of three, crunching numbers as fast as they could to solve sets of complex problems, all without their calculators. While competing in the six-hour event, the students were required to explain their mathematical process step-by-step. Among the scholars were three-second graders from the Glen Cove City School District's Deasy Elementary School, Dru Wilson, Tommy Scagliola and Jacob Palazzo, who won third place in the statewide First in Math competition on May 20.

Before their six-hour car ride to Albany, these students competed in three online tournaments against other students across the state. The initial Statewide Elementary Mathematics Tournament was held online on March 30 for first- through fifth-grade students. The tournament helped finalize who would advance to compete in Albany and challenged students to solve complex math problems and puzzles appropriate for their grade levels, and allowed students to practice and improve their math skills in a fun and engaging way.

The tournament was divided into nine regions, one of which included Nassau, Putnam, Westchester and Rockland counties. The results were computed the same day, and triads of students per region with the highest average scores, who attend the same school, were selected to advance in the next round in Albany. There, they played an in-person board game in which students were given a randomized set of numbers that must equal 10 through addition and subtraction.

After the winners of the online tournament were announced, the Glen Cove district received \$1,000 from the state Department of Education to celebrate the second graders' accomplishments as the finalists



**DRU WILSON, LEFT**, Tommy Scagliola and Jacob Palazzo celebrated winning first place after competing for six hours.

for their region. From there, the three boys practiced for the competition at the beginning of each school day using randomized sets of 24, 30 and 36 cards to sequence numbers using addition and subtraction to equal 10. They were timed for 15 minutes per round to match the competition parameters in Albany.

Family, friends and school representatives weren't allowed to join the young mathematicians as they competed in Albany. Instead, they waited in a separate room to watch the competition while it was live streamed.

Danielle Fugazy Scagliola, Glen Cove councilwoman, said she knows her son Tommy and his teammates have a

"mathematical mind," and although the boys were nervous, they were very excited to compete. The results were announced 45 minutes after the third and final round of the competition.

"Everyone was kind of quiet and under the needle to hear what happened," Scagliola said. "But they made it this far; they were already winners. They worked hard, they were ready for it and they beat a lot of kids in a lot of teams."

School principal Melanie Arfman said the contest demonstrated the student's ability to work together, and the Deasy students were among the teams that collaborated the most during the

competition.

"It's a really complex puzzle that they had to put together," Arfman said. "My math brain doesn't quite work like theirs, so I'm grateful to have them as part of our Deasy community."

District Superintendent Maria Rianna said she was in awe of their collaborative and competitive spirits. She believes the students have the potential to be future engineers and mathematicians

"They were better than any adults I've seen working together," Rianna said. "As you saw the high fives after they checked their answers, and they double checked. They fist punched the air, they knew they had it."

# 4 Holocaust survivor stories inspire teens' film, artwork

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

said. "I wanted to do it this year because I wanted to be sure I had the maturity level and time to take this seriously. I was able to handle their stories with seriousness and respect. I want them to feel supported."

During the first few weeks of the project, survivors shared stories about what life was like before the war. As the weeks went on, they spoke of how their lives were shattered by the war, and finally, what happened after they were liberated.

"When I was hearing Martin (Bloch) tell his story before we worked on the film, I tried to imagine what it would be like to put myself in his shoes, and I couldn't imagine it," Morris said of one of the survivors. "What impressed me most was how strong he is and how easily he is able to tell his story."

Bloch, who moved to Oyster Bay in 1984, was one of roughly 3,000 Jewish partisans who fought the Nazis. Today he lectures on the Holocaust and space navigation, which he said are his favorite subjects.

"I feel that Holocaust education is imperative in order to make sure that the future generations don't make the same terrible mistakes as was done in the past," Bloch said. "They have to become active people in fighting antisemitism or any type of abuse that happens against the human race. I will do everything that I can for the rest of my life to support this."

Morris said that Bloch's story had an



Courtesy Ross Yablans

**ROSS YABLANS WEAVED** three photos together to create a piece representing Holocaust survivor Fred Zeilberger's story for the Witness Project, and the work was displayed at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts in April. It depicts Zeilberger's father, far left; his son; and Zeilberger, his wife and their granddaughter.

even greater impact than he expected. It has made him want to fight antisemitism in any way he can.

Yablans was equally impressed by his experience with Zeilberger. "When I first

met Fred, he seemed like a positive, cheerful guy," Yablans. "Then I heard the horrors of his experiences during the Holocaust. That he could survive and build a family gave me a deeper understanding of the Holocaust and World War II."

Zeilberger and his father survived the liberation of their camp by Russian forces, but his father died two days later. Zeilberger came to the United States in 1947, when he was 15.

"I've been alone since I was 15 years old, and that shouldn't happen to anyone else, gentile or Jew or any human being," Zeilberger said. "Holocaust education is very important, especially for young people. It's important to talk about it, because in time there will be no one alive anymore to speak about it."

Julie Assael, the Witness Project's program director, said that it becomes more difficult every year to find living Holocaust survivors to take part. She has made connections with some through the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center in Glen Cove, and with others by word of

mouth and networking, she said. Sometimes the survivors themselves recruit others.

Morris was one of the students who chose to appear in "The Ties That Bind Us," which was shown at the Tilles Center on April 24. The film highlighted the experiences of four Holocaust survivors who worked with the Witness Project. At the beginning of each segment, a survivor would tell part of his or her story, and then the students would continue telling it.

"Standing in front of the camera, saying the story that a thousand people would see, made me feel good about myself, because I got to spread Martin's story and teach other people what he went through," Morris said. "I'll always hold this experience close to my heart, and will teach my kids, friends and family about it."

Yablans created a piece of artwork to honor Zeilberger, who had shared a photo of his father before he was sent to a concentration camp.

On Zeilberger's 80th birthday, he went to Wurzburg, Germany, with his wife, son and granddaughter to see where his house had once been. A different house was there now. Regardless, Zeilberger posed for a photo with wife and granddaughter. Yablans used that photo, one of Zeilberger's son taken alone in front of the house and one of his father to create his artwork.

"It was a symbol of Fred's resilience," Yablans said. "The fact that he could go back to his house. Even people not a part of Fred's family — spectators — came up to me after and said it was their favorite piece of art. That made me feel like my hard work paid off. But I know Fred was proud of it, and that was enough for me."

Yablans said that what he learned from being a part of the Witness Project was the value of being an "upstander." It's valuable not to be afraid to be one, he said.

"These firsthand stories — it's different to hear them than learning about (the Holocaust) in school," he said. "We're the last generation who will hear these firsthand stories. I want to find more survivors to tell their stories. Each one is unique. And I want to continue to spread their stories, so they live on."

To view "The Ties That Bind Us" go to [Vimeo.com/820216587](https://vimeo.com/820216587).

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## Qualifying for Medicaid to Pay for Long-Term Care

Spend-down. Look-back. Penalty Period. Uncompensated Transfer. These are just some of the terms Medicaid uses to determine eligibility for long-term care coverage. Medicaid is a combined federal and state program that pays for long-term care at home (community Medicaid) or in a nursing facility (institutional Medicaid). Asset, income and gift rules vary for community Medicaid versus institutional Medicaid.

To qualify for community Medicaid, an individual cannot make more than about \$1,700 per month and cannot own more than about \$30,000 in assets. A married couple cannot make more than about \$2,300 per month and cannot own more than about \$40,000 in assets. Applicants can "spend down" excess income to the allowed amount by paying for medical expenses.

To qualify for institutional Medicaid, an individual can keep \$50 per month (the excess goes to the nursing home) and cannot own more than about \$30,000 in assets. For married couples, the spouse at home can keep about \$3,700 per month and can own between about

\$75,000 and \$130,000 in assets. If the spouse at home makes more than \$3,700 per month, she may have to contribute some of the excess to the spouse's cost of care. For married couples, the residence, up to value of about \$1,000,000 and one car are exempt (not counted as assets). Everyone can have a burial trust worth up to \$1,500 or any amount in an irrevocable pre-paid funeral trust.

Community Medicaid and institutional Medicaid also differ in "look-back" and gift rules. An institutional Medicaid application asks if you transferred (gifted) any assets in the last five years, hence the "five-year look-back period." If the answer is yes, the transfer creates a penalty period, which causes a period of ineligibility for Medicaid coverage.

Community Medicaid does not currently have a look-back period, so you may transfer assets out of your name this month and qualify for Medicaid next month. New York is considering imposing a new thirty month look-back for community care in 2024. Now is the time to act to protect your assets.

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**RAISE HEALTH**

# City's Senior Center provides 'fun, love and dignity'

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Spring is in the air, and warmer weather means more time for fun in the city's parks. The bright and sunny afternoon on May 24 offered a perfect opportunity for members of the Glen Cove Senior Center to put on their dancing shoes for their annual picnic at Morgan Memorial Park.

"We are always welcoming new members," Christine Rice, the center's executive director, said "We just want to be able to make sure that our seniors can enjoy their senior years with fun, love and dignity."

Socializing is one of the most important tools older adults can use to stay healthy and maintain 'fun, love, and dignity.' According to the Center for Disease Control, social isolation is associated with nearly a 50 percent increased risk of dementia for 60-year-olds. Those who visit friends almost daily were 12 percent less likely to develop dementia than those who only saw one or two friends every few months. The National Institute on Aging says research has linked social isolation and loneliness to higher risks of elevated blood pressure, heart disease, obesity, depression, cognitive decline, and Alzheimer's disease.

Rice explained that despite the many benefits of membership, senior centers have a stigma about being 'too old' to join. If members are ages 60 and older and reside in the county, all are welcome to enjoy the many benefits of free membership. Currently, the center has 2,400 members.

Members like 76-year-old Susanne Junge, a retired artist and homecare provider said the center's location in downtown is convenient for her to make new friends.

"They have lunch every day," Junge said. "I live alone and I don't like to stay home and eat by myself. I thought the center was basically a lot of really old people, but it's not."

Phyllis Maleszewski, a 75-year-old retired hairdresser was also initially hesitant to join the center because of the stigma. She was convinced to join by her neighbors, who grew into her close group of friends at the center. In her five years as a member, she has enjoyed trips to Manhattan to see plays and visits the Queens Botanical Garden.

One of the center's most cherished events is their monthly birthday celebrations, which encourages members to recognize their own memories and accomplishments and remember the circle of support that surrounds them as friends and family gather to celebrate.

The event was founded 16 years ago by Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton during her tenure with the Glen Cove City Council.

"I really look forward to it," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "What I love most about that is we go down the line and ask them what makes for a happy long life. A lot of them write something down that they're gonna say so it's really grown into a great, a great project."

The center doesn't just offer opportunities for members to socialize with one



Elisa Dragotto/ Herald photos

**MEMBERS OF THE** Glen Cove Senior Center gathered to make new friends and reconnect with longtime friends at Morgan Memorial Park.

another. Members have access to two social workers that will assist with critical needs like housing and general and mental health care.

They also offer specific programs to keep the bodies and minds of older adults sharp and fit. Their Walk with a Doc program with Dr. Barbara Keber, of Glen Cove Hospital, provides monthly presentations about a wide variety of interesting health topics. After Keber's presentations, members can walk with individual healthcare professionals to ask questions.

The center also provides medical transportation to doctors' so they can avoid paying for taxis or rely on family to travel to their medical appointments.

For members who need extra support, the center offers an Adult Day Program, which focuses on providing relief to family members caring for loved ones who have cognitive decline. Members of the Adult Day Program typically need support for dementia or Alzheimer's disease or have physical impairments. The program offers specialized structured social activities, education, recreation, and nutrition for those members in a safe environment that also encourages mental stimulation and socialization.



**LONGTIME FRIENDS** MARY Keogan, above left, and Sherry Levine danced to

the groovy sounds of the popular North Shore band Our Generation.

**OLDER ADULTS DANCED** the afternoon away on a bright and sunny day.

# Cancer is 'not a death sentence' anymore

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

six months at North Shore University Hospital receiving continuous chemotherapy, six days a week. One evening, when fellow musician Julio Fernandez came to visit Cannata at his home in Glen Cove, Fernandez suggested Cannata play saxophone on his porch while Fernandez played guitar. Although Cannata was well enough to finally leave the hospital, he was dependent on either a wheelchair or walker as he rehabilitated the muscles in his hands.

As Cannata pushed his walker around his house, scouting for a saxophone, he found he wasn't strong enough to undo the zipper on the instrument's case. He wanted to give up, but then Cannata found another saxophone case he could open. And when he did, he found his soprano saxophone. As Fernandez played guitar, Cannata was able to hold the brass body of his saxophone which he thought he would never be able to do again. Then he blew air through his lips and played.

At that moment he realized if he could go that far, he could go further on his journey to recovery.

"I was testing the waters of mechanics just making a sound," Cannata said. "I was like a young student for the first time putting a clarinet or saxophone to their mouth."

Every cancer survivor has a story—one filled with fear, hope and courage. But while survivors have many things in common, no two journeys are the same.

Many cancer survivors like Cannata shared their stories with one another at Northwell Health's annual Cancer Survivors Day on June 3. The event took place outside the Lake Success Medical Center where many survivors first received their life-changing diagnosis. More than 1,200 cancer survivors, their loved ones, and medical staff from various Northwell Health cancer centers gathered to show their support in the fight against the disease.

Cancer is the second-leading cause of death worldwide with about 10 million deaths per year. There are more than 200 types of cancer which can be classified according to where they start in the body, such as breast cancer or lung cancer.

Dr Matt Weiss, deputy physician-in-chief and director of the surgical oncology program at Northwell Cancer Institute, said he thinks it's important for patients to see success stories like Cannata's. He wants his patients to see that people have fought the disease and have lived their lives well.

Certain risk factors like smoking and heavy alcohol consumption are known to increase the likelihood of cancer. However, it can be difficult to pinpoint an exact cause. Although treatments have significantly improved in the last five years, there's still more to learn about treatment and risk factors.

"Some of its environmental and some of its genetic," Weiss said. "But my guess is that good old-fashioned bad luck is actually among environmental exposures



Roksana Amid/Herald

**GLEN COVE'S RICHIE** Cannata shared his story on Cancer Survivors Day at the Lake Success Medical Center.

and genetics that we just haven't figured out yet. I personally believe that all cancer is genetic, on some level, and I think there are environmental factors that can lead to a diagnosis."

Dr. Richard Barakat, physician-in-chief and director of the Northwell Health Cancer Institute, emphasized that Northwell focuses on genetic testing and precision medicine, but cancer doesn't just occur in a vacuum. He stressed that many cancer patients have comorbidities like diabetes, high blood pressure, or obesity.

Barakat said health care professionals must understand all factors involved in a patient's health outcome, such as socioeconomic status, whether they have food insecurity, whether they have difficulty getting transportation. He believes that personalizing health care to each patient's individual needs, whether it involves transportation or addressing food insecurity, is an essential part of treatment.

"We have to bring all of these social factors together, including their race and ethnicity," Barakat said. "That's what personal medicine is all about. Because having a mutation in a certain type of tumor in one individual may not be the same as having that mutation and someone who has socioeconomic issues and other hardships that they have to deal with."

Although Cannata said the road to recovery was difficult, he admitted that half the battle is paying attention to his body.

"It's not a death sentence," Cannata said. "It's something that can be cured through Northwell hospital and places that can administer the anecdote. Pay attention and you'll get better."

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12-18402

# 8 LGBT community works to 'make a change for the better'

June 8, 2023 - GLEN COVE HERALD

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

Despite the rain and heavy clouds, rainbow flags were waved throughout the streets of downtown Glen Cove to celebrate the beginning of Pride Month and the raising of the city's pride flag. For many, raising the flag stands as a symbol of how far the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community have come in their journey for equality for all people.

"This flag also stands as a reminder that we still have more work to do," Elle Woska, President of the Glen Cove High School's Genders and Sexual Alliance Club, said. "There will always be people out there who do not accept people for who they are, but we can work as a community to bring more light to the world and make change for the better."

Since 1999, June has been designated as Pride Month, in honor of the Stonewall riots in June 1969, a series of demonstrations in response to a police raid of Manhattan's Stonewall Inn, a gay bar.

In 2015, the Supreme Court declared same-sex marriage legal in all 50 states. In 2022, The House of Representatives gave final congressional approval to legislation that provides federal recognition of same-sex marriages. This measure was conceived out of concern that the Supreme Court could reverse its support for legal recognition of same-sex marriages.



Roksana Amid/Herald

**SUPPORTERS OF THE** LGBTQ community gathered in downtown Glen Cove to kick off pride month.

In support of the community and its journey toward equality, Councilwoman Marsha Silverman organized the fifth annual Pride flag-raising downtown on June 6. She began the initiative in 2019 to spread awareness of the discrimination the LGBTQ community continues to face across the country and worldwide.

"I truly wish from the bottom of my heart that everyone in the world was treated equally so that there was no need

to separately celebrate LGBT pride." Silverman said. "But unfortunately, with anti LGBTQ hate on the rise, for those members of our community who identify as gay, queer, trans, or questioning, or feel marginalized, support and acceptance is particularly important."

It wasn't until January 2019 that the State Legislature amended the state's Human Rights Law of 1945 to add gender identity and expression as a protected cat-

egory against discriminatory behavior in employment, housing, public places and non-religious schools.

This year, more than 500 anti-LGBTQ pieces of legislation have been introduced in 46 states, making it harder to get gender-affirming care, limited protections for transgender people, and censor discussion of sexual orientation and gender identity.

"I haven't seen this kind of vitriol and extremists against our community in decades," Sarah Kate Ellis, president and CEO of the Gay and Lesbian Alliance Against Defamation, said. "But I always say the damage is done as soon as they're introduced because they poison the well against who we are as a community."

A report from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention states that about 70 percent of LGBTQ youth reported feeling sad and helpless in 2021. That's a high increase compared to 35 percent among heterosexual youth.

"I think this Pride Month is especially important because it's both a time for us to celebrate and take a moment to be with each other and community," Ellis said. "It's also a time for us to look at the situation that we're in and the culture that we're living in and the cultural war that has been thrust upon us as a community and figure out how we're going to witness and how we're going to push back on this awful, awful narrative."

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# HERALD NEIGHBORS

June 8, 2023 — GLEN COVE HERALD



Adrienne Daley/Herald photos

**THE DRAGON FLYER** rollercoaster proved very popular with younger feast attendees.

## Fun at St. Boniface Martyr Feast by Shore

**S**t. Boniface Martyr Parish in Sea Cliff held another successful Feast by the Shore this year, despite poor weather forcing them to cancel the festivities on May 20. The event saw hundreds of children and their families enjoying carnival rides, food, and live music.

The Feast, which was held at Tappen Beach in Glen Head, ran from May 18 to

May 21. With dozens of carnival rides and fair games set up, the event offered more than a weekend of fun for local children.

Attending adults and parents were also able to enjoy live music every night from a wide range of Long Island bands. Each night a different band, and on May 21 two different bands, rocked the night away at the Feast by the Shore.



**MAE CHENG, 2**, rode the merry-go-round with the help of her father Dave, above.

**CORA HIMES, 3**, left, had fun at the carnival, and especially enjoyed the hot dogs.

**THE SAUSAGE AND pepper stand**, far left, provided delicious food to feasters throughout the four-day event.



# Berries

by the basketful



## Adventures await in local strawberry fields

By Karen Bloom

Get outside and get pickin'. Strawberry season has arrived, and those luscious berries beckon. So gather up your gang and venture out to one of the many "u-pick" growers for a day in the berry patch.

Strawberry season reaches its peak here with the transition from spring to summer, as the fruit grows and ripen throughout May and June. Of course, local is always best, so skip the California and Florida fruit from the supermarket and pick your own.

When you return with your bounty, settle in to whip up some yummy strawberry treats. These fresh gems are always terrific on their own, of course. But when used in a recipe? They'll jazz up any meal.



### Double Strawberry Cheesecake

A classic cheesecake takes on added flavor with the addition of some luscious berries.

#### Graham cracker crust

- 1-1/2 cups graham cracker crumbs (about 9-1/2 crackers)
- 1 tablespoon granulated sugar
- 5 tablespoons unsalted butter, melted

#### Filling and topping

- 16 ounces strawberries
- 4 packages (8 ounces each) cream cheese, room temperature
- 1-1/4 cups plus 2 tablespoons granulated sugar
- 1-1/2 teaspoons vanilla extract
- 4 large eggs
- 1 cup sour cream

#### Prepare graham cracker crust:

Preheat oven to 350° F. Stir graham cracker crumbs, melted butter and sugar together in a medium bowl. Press into bottom and at least 1-inch up sides of a 9-inch non-stick springform pan (if pan is not nonstick, brush first with melted butter). Bake until crust is golden brown, about 12 minutes. Let cool completely on a wire rack. Reduce oven to 300° F.

#### Then prepare filling and topping:

Hull 1/2 of the strawberries and puree in a blender or food processor. You should have about 3/4 cup puree. Beat cream cheese and 1-1/4 cups sugar in an electric mixer fitted with paddle attachment on low speed until smooth. Beat in vanilla until well combined. Add eggs, 1 at a time, on low speed, beating well after each addition, and scraping sides of bowl as needed. Beat

in strawberry puree until blended.

Pour batter into cooled pan. Bake cheesecake about 1 hour 20 minutes, or until edges are just set and center jiggles slightly. Remove from oven and let cool on wire rack 5 minutes.

Stir together sour cream and remaining 2 tablespoons sugar in a medium bowl. Spread sour cream mixture on top of cheesecake in an even layer. Return to oven and bake 5 minutes longer. Turn oven off and prop the door ajar with the handle of a wooden spoon. Let cool in oven 1 hour. Remove from oven and cool completely. Place in refrigerator and chill until cold throughout, 4 to 6 hours, or overnight.

Using the remaining strawberries, halve them and arrange in concentric circles on top of cheesecake to serve.



### Strawberry Rhubarb Crumble

- 1-3/4 cups all-purpose flour
- 1-1/2 cups sugar
- 1 teaspoon fine sea salt
- 16 tablespoons (2 sticks) cold unsalted butter, cut into 1-inch cubes
- 1 cup rolled oats
- 2 pounds rhubarb, strings removed, stalks cut diagonally into 1/2-inch-thick slices
- 4 pints strawberries, sliced

Preheat an oven to 375°F.

In a food processor, pulse together 1-1/2 cups of the flour, 3/4 cup of the sugar and the salt until combined. Add the butter and pulse until the mixture resembles coarse bread crumbs. Add the oats and pulse to combine. Transfer to a bowl.

In another bowl, stir together the rhubarb, strawberries, the remaining 1/4 cup flour, and the remaining 3/4 cup sugar.

Spread the fruit filling in a 9-by-13-inch baking dish.

Using your fingers, press the topping into large clumps and scatter it over the fruit. Bake until the fruit is bubbling and the topping is golden and crisp, about 1 hour. Alternatively, divide the fruit and topping among eight 1/2-cup ramekins and bake for 30 minutes. Serve warm or at room temperature. Serves 6 to 8.

### Strawberry Smoothie

- 1 cup coconut milk (or almond milk or your preferred milk)
- 1 cup strawberries (tops removed)
- 1 banana
- 1 cup frozen pineapple chunks

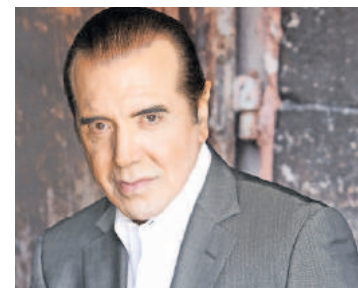
Combine all of your ingredients in your blender in the order that they are listed (liquid on the bottom and frozen on top). Blend until smooth.



### Iris DeMent

The Americana singer-songwriter Iris DeMent visits the Landmark stage with her timeless songs blending traditional folk, country and gospel influences. With an inimitable voice as John Prine described, 'like you've heard, but not really,' and unforgettable melodies rooted in hymns and old country music, Iris DeMent is considered one of the finest singer-songwriters in America today. Praised for her storytelling and songwriting abilities, her career has spanned more than three decades, seven studio albums, and collaborations with Prine, Emmylou Harris and Steve Earle, among others. On her new record, 'Workin' On A World,' DeMent faces the modern world — as it is right now — with its climate catastrophe, pandemic and epidemic of violence and social injustice — and implores us to love each other, despite our very different ways of seeing.

Friday, June 9, 8 p.m. \$43, \$38, \$33. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. (516) 767-6444, or [LandmarkOnMainStreet.org](http://LandmarkOnMainStreet.org).



### His 'Bronx Tale'

Chazz Palminteri is back on the Paramount stage with his solo version of 'A Bronx Tale.' The powerful one-man stage play depicts his bruising childhood, which included witnessing a gangland killing in the Bronx when he was 9. Palminteri plays 18 characters — friends, enemies and family all come alive on stage. 'A Bronx Tale' became a hit after he wrote it in 1989, and the most sought after property since 'Rocky.' This is the original show he wrote and performed that made him an in-demand character actor and served as the basis of the acclaimed movie and Broadway musical. In the tradition set forth in the 1970s by such icons as director Martin Scorsese and actors Robert DeNiro, Al Pacino and Joe Pesci, Palminteri has brought grit, muscle and an evocative realism to the sidewalks of his New York neighborhood, violent as they are and were.

Sunday, June 11, 7:30 p.m., \$99.50, \$89.50, \$79.50, \$59.50, \$49.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Visit [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or [ParamountNY.com](http://ParamountNY.com) for tickets/information.

# THE SCENE

June 23

## The Bacon Brothers

That 'Footloose' feeling comes alive when Kevin Bacon takes to the stage, Friday, **June 23**, 8 p.m., as one-half of the Bacon Brothers, at The Space at Westbury. Bound by blood and a mutual love of American roots music, Michael and Kevin Bacon have spent the past quarter-century in a creative whirl, funneling their shared DNA into a genre-bending sound. They call that sound "Forosoco" — a blend of folk, rock, soul, and country influences, delivered by two songwriters who were born to collaborate — and it's taken the siblings across the world, from shows in Japan to performances at American landmarks like Carnegie Hall and the Grand Ole Opry. The Bacon Brothers turn a new page with their 11th release, "Erato," whose five songs showcase the duo's dynamic contrasts: quiet moments and big payoffs, organic instrumentation and electronic textures, self-penned songs and high-profile collaborations. Ticket are \$45-\$80; available at TheSpaceAtWestbury.com. The Space, 250 Post Ave. Westbury.



June 8



## On exhibit

Nassau County Museum of Art's exhibition, "Eye And Mind: The Shin Collection," highlights the extraordinary collection masterworks assembled by 31-year-old connoisseur Hong Gyu Shin, an internationally recognized figure in the global art world. He shares his treasures, including works by Whistler, Lautrec, Boucher, Daumier, Delacroix, Klimt, Schiele, Balthus, Warhol, de Kooning, Gorky and many other important names from art history provocatively juxtaposed with the painting and sculpture of our own time from both Asia and the West. On view **through July 9**. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

## Planting Pride Festival

June 24

Stop by Planting Fields Arboretum, located at 1395 Planting Fields Road

in Oyster Bay, for the second annual Planting Pride Festival taking place on Saturday, **June 24** from noon to 4 p.m. Planting Pride features a high-energy extravaganza filled with performances, local vendor support, tours of special exhibitions, behind the scenes access to historic spaces, and much more. Visit [PlantingFields.org](http://PlantingFields.org) for information or contact (516) 922-8680.

## Women's Club of Glen Cove

The Women's Club of Glen Cove meets, Tuesday, **June 20**, at 11:30 a.m., at The View Grill. Come participate in this important philanthropic organization. 111 Lattingtown Road, Glen Cove.

## Dirk Quinn Band

The Dirk Quinn Band performs at Still Partners, Thursday, **June 15**, starting at 8 p.m. Enjoy a mix of funk, jam and jazz from this Philadelphia band, 225 Sea Cliff Ave., in Sea Cliff. For more information, call (516) 200-9229.

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### Library Walking Club

Participate in Glen Cove Public Library's at-your-own-pace hour walk, **every Thursday**, at 10 a.m. All fitness levels are welcome and attendees are encouraged to walk at their own pace, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. Register at [GlencoveLibrary.org](http://GlencoveLibrary.org) or call (516) 676-2130 for more information.

### On stage

Families will enjoy another musical adventure, ripped from the pages of Mo Willems' beloved children's books, on the Long Island Children's Museum stage, Friday, **June 9**, 10:15 a.m. and noon; Wednesday through Friday, June 14-16, 10:15 a.m. and noon. Willems' beloved character The Pigeon is eager to try anything and everything. The audience is part of the action, in this innovative mix of songs, silliness and feathers. \$9 with museum admission (\$7 members), \$12 theater only. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.

### 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.

### Launch the Season fundraiser

**June 29** Friends of the Bay holds its annual Launch the Season fundraiser to celebrate the beauty and continued conservation of local waterways, Thursday, **June 29**, 6 to 8:30 p.m., at The Clam Bar at Bridge Marine. 40 Ludlam Avenue in Bayville. (Rain date is Thursday, July 13). Tickets available at [FriendsOfTheBay.org](http://FriendsOfTheBay.org). For more information, call (516) 922-6666.

### Passion for Pride

Support PFY, a division of Long Island Crisis Center, at a 30th Anniversary Benefit celebration, Tuesday, **June 13**, 6-10 p.m. With drag bingo and performances by Ivy Stalls and Syn; also special guest honoree actor-author-activist Maulik Pancholy. The event, honoring PFY's 30 years serving Long Island/Queens' LGBTQ+ communities, is at Westbury Manor, 1100 Jericho Turnpike, Westbury. For more information and tickets, go to [tinyurl.com/pfyevent2023](http://tinyurl.com/pfyevent2023).

### Whale of a Drink fundraiser

Support The Whaling Museum by participating in Sandbar restaurant's Whale of a Drink, Whale of a Cause fundraising effort, now **through June 21**. Enjoy the Sandbar's iconic cocktail, the Whalebone, and a portion of the purchase will be donated to the museum. A "mocktail" version is also available. To help promote the fundraiser, mixologist Dan Leopold will offer a mixology demonstration and Whalebone tasting at the Museum's Whales & Ales event on June 3, 2:30-3 p.m. Funds will support the Whaling Museum's community education programs during its 2023 summer season. 55 Main St, Cold Spring Harbor. For information, visit [SandbarColdSpringHarbor.com](http://SandbarColdSpringHarbor.com).



### Celebrate Israel

Salute Israel and celebrate the nation's 75 years of independence, while welcoming Eisenhower Park's summer concert season, when Sid Jacobson JCC joins the Jewish Community Relations Council of Long Island for IsraelFest, Sunday, **June 11**. Enjoy family activities, 4-6 p.m., followed by concert with Israeli pop singer-songwriter Harel Skatt, 6-8 p.m. The Long Island Cantors Ensemble also performs. Bring seating. Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. For more information, visit [SJCC.org/israelfest](http://SJCC.org/israelfest).

### 'The Beautiful and Damned'

**June 9** Enjoy a musical interpretation of the classic novel at Westbury House, Friday, **June 9**, 7-10 p.m. Before there was Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald wrote "The Beautiful and Damned": a story that delves into the psychological tribulations of, at first, having everything you've ever wanted. What first presents itself as a beautiful love story quickly turns harrowing as the characters struggle to keep themselves afloat. As New York City tumbles into the Jazz Age, Fitzgerald's characters tumble down a financial and psychological spiral they may never recover from. This adaptation by Long Island native Brooke Di Spirito combines Fitzgerald's meticulously detailed novel with the elements of a stage musical: a brand new script, score, choreography. Reservations required. \$40. 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information contact (516) 333-0048 or visit [OldWestburyGardens.org](http://OldWestburyGardens.org).

### 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](mailto:thescene@liherald.com).

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# Santos must reveal who posted his bond

## STAFF REPORT

U.S. Rep. George Santos must reveal who helped him post a \$500,000 surety bond to stay out of jail in his fraud and money laundering case. But the judge hearing his criminal case on Long Island has held off enforcing that order for now, so that Santos can appeal.

Magistrate Judge Anne Shields issued the order Tuesday, according to court documents, with a deadline of noon Friday to file an appeal in an attempt to ultimately block her order.

Media outlets have petitioned the court asking for the names of the people who helped Santos meet the requirements for the surety bond. Santos himself was opposed to the release of those names, with his lawyer arguing the congressman would rather go to jail than have the names

revealed, according to the Associated Press.

Joseph Murray, who represents Santos in the criminal case, told the judge yesterday he feared for the safety of those who signed for the congressman's surety bond. The \$500,000 amount was set May 10 when Santos pleaded not guilty to charges of fraud, money laundering, theft of public funds, and making false statements, related to his two campaigns for Congress in 2020 and 2022.

Murray also asked the judge if she was planning to release the names, if they could be given time to have any of the suretors withdraw before their identities were revealed. Besides safety concerns, Murray also expressed reservations those who backed Santos financially with the court could face retaliation in the workplace.

Santos has continued to serve in

Congress since his indictment, and vows not only to serve out his term, but even to run for re-election. Republicans blocked Democratic efforts shortly after his indictment to expel Santos from the House, instead referring the matter to the House Ethics Committee, which had already been investigating the congressman.

Santos has denied the charges, calling the prosecution a political "witch hunt."

**U.S. REP. GEORGE** Santos, who represents the 3rd Congressional District, has been directed to reveal the identity of who helped him post a bond that has kept him out of jail. The judge, however, is waiting to enforce the order giving Santos time to appeal.



Herald file photo

## HERALD PUBLIC NOTICES

6. Glen Cove City Code §280-65(G)(13)(g) to allow a side yard setback on the east side of the property of 0 feet and a side yard setback on the west side of the property of 6 feet where a fifteen (15) foot side yard setback is required, and no required landscaping provided in the west side yard of the property.

7. Glen Cove City Code §280-65(G)(13)(h) to provide only 1,500 sf square feet of open space where 8,150 square feet is required.

8. Glen Cove City Code §280-65(G)(13)(f) to allow a lot coverage of 83.13% where 65% is the maximum coverage for residential structures. Dated: BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS May 31, 2023 OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE TERI MOSCHETTA, CHAIRPERSON 140048

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
Notice of Public Meeting  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the City of Glen Cove will hold a meeting of the Comprehensive Planning Committee ("CPC") for the City of Glen Cove Smart Growth Comprehensive Plan with Sustainability Elements ("Comprehensive Plan") from 12:00 to 1:30 p.m. on June 22 in the Main Chambers at Glen Cove City Hall (9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542). The Comprehensive Plan will guide the City's investment, development, and growth over the next decade. It will update the Master Plan for the City of Glen Cove that was adopted in 2009.

Residents and stakeholders are invited to participate in the introductory public workshop for the

Comprehensive Plan, which is scheduled from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. on June 29 in the Main Chambers at City Hall. At the public workshop, members of the public will have the opportunity to ask questions and provide comments regarding the Comprehensive Plan. 140049

**LEGAL NOTICE**  
New York State Department of Environmental Conservation  
Notice of Complete Application  
Date: 05/22/2023  
Applicant: GLEN HEAD COUNTRY CLUB  
GLEN LOCHRIDGE  
240 GLEN COVE RD  
GLEN HEAD, NY 11545-2207  
Facility: GLEN HEAD COUNTRY CLUB INC  
240 CEDAR SWAMP RD|NCTM # sec 21, blk S, lot 6F  
GLEN HEAD, NY 11545  
Application ID: 1-2824-00894/00005  
Permit(s) Applied for: 1 - Article 24 Freshwater Wetlands  
Project is located: in OYSTER BAY in NASSAU COUNTY  
Project Description: Applicant proposes to install a trash trap in a channel of Cedar Swamp Creek. The trash trap is comprised of two 18 ft long concrete headwalls and two 36 inch diameter ADS pipes with vertical steel bars (4 inches on center) to collect floatable trash and debris from stormwater runoff from Glen Cove Road and other roadways. The trash trap will require 20 cubic yards of clean fill between the two concrete headwalls and 30 cubic yards of rip-rap located immediately upstream and downstream of the trash trap. In addition,

the 6' wide, asphalt golf paths will be removed and replaced with 8' wide paths. Project is located at 240 Glen Cove Road, Glen Head, NCTM # 21/S/6, Town of Oyster Bay, Nassau County, FWW # HV-1. Availability of Application Documents: Field application documents, and Department draft permits where applicable, are available for inspection during normal business hours at the address of the contact person. To ensure timely service at the time of inspection, it is recommended that an appointment be made with the contact person. State Environmental Quality Review (SEQR) Determination Project is an Unlisted Action and will not have a significant impact on the environment. A Negative Declaration is on file. A coordinated review was not performed. SEQR Lead Agency None Designated State Historic Preservation Act (SHPA) Determination The proposed activity is not subject to review in accordance with SHPA. The application type is exempt and/or the project involves the continuation of an existing operational activity. Availability For Public Comment Comments on this project must be submitted in writing to the Contact Person no later than 06/22/2023 or 15 days after the publication date of this notice, whichever is late  
Contact Person  
MARY A MACKINNON  
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**LEGAL NOTICE**  
CITY OF GLEN COVE  
BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS  
NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held by the Glen Cove Board of Zoning Appeals on Wednesday, June 14, 2023, at 7:30 p.m. at the Council Chambers, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY. The hearing will be on the application of 145 Landing Road LLC for interior alterations to an existing non-conforming multifamily building at 145 Landing Road, Glen Cove, NY, located in the Glen Cove R-4 One & Two-Family Residential District and designated on the Nassau County Land and Tax Map as Section 31, Block 2, Lot 484. The Applicant is requesting a variance of the following section of the Glen Cove City Code: 1. Glen Cove City Code §280-59 A - Applicant is proposing to construct kitchenettes within the five (5) single room occupancies (SRO); and the conversion of four (4) SRO units on the third floor into a single three (3) bedroom apartment. The proposed conversion results in a modified use not permitted under City of Glen Cove Code §280-59 code. DATED: BY ORDER OF THE BOARD OF ZONING APPEALS March 29, 2023 OF THE CITY OF GLEN COVE TERI MOSCHETTA, CHAIRPERSON 140047

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Street naming ceremony for Tuskegee Airman

Join the city of Glen Cove for a street naming ceremony honoring the Tuskegee airmen and airman William J. Johnson. The Tuskegee Airmen were a group of African American military pilots and airmen who fought in World War II.

They formed the 332nd Fighter Group and the 477th Bombardment Group of the United States Army Air Forces.

The event will take place on June 10 at 10 a.m. on the corner of Cottage Row and Brewster Street.

### Amputee softball team to visit Glen Cove

The National Wounded Warrior Amputee softball team, also known as the USA Patriots Amputee softball team, will visit Glen Cove this summer. The team is comprised of competitive, athletic veterans who have lost limbs in combat and non-combat related injuries. While some are still in the service, others are attending college because of the Post-9/11 GI Bill, while others have moved on to new careers.

The softball game will be held on July 16 at John Maccarone Memorial Stadium on Morris Avenue at 11 a.m. Admission is free.

Donations and sponsorships are greatly appreciated.

Send checks payable to: Wounded Warrior Amputee Softball Team-USA Patriots c/o Mayor's Office, Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542.

### New scholarship with Fordham University

The FCAA and the Glen Cove Neighborhood Association have announced the availability of a new \$5,000 award, funded by the GCNA, to be presented to a current student of Fordham University who has demonstrated a substantial contribution to the community and lives in Glen Cove or one of its neighboring towns: Bayville, Glen Head, Locust Valley, Matinecock, Sea Cliff.

Applicants for the award will be judged on volunteer/community service performed, showing both membership in a community/non-profit organization and time spent helping that organization achieve its mission. (Community can be Fordham and/or the student's local area of residence.)

Requirements:

■ A cover letter describing aforementioned community involvement.

■ A resume supporting the first requirement.

■ Proof of residency in Glen Cove, Bayville, Glen Head, Locust Valley, Matinecock, Sea Cliff. (Copy of driver's license or passport.)

■ Proof of Fordham enrollment (Copy of student id or letter confirming enrollment.)

Submit questions or material to Debra Caruso Marrone, president, Fordham College Alumni Association, [dcaruso@fordhamcollegealumni.org](mailto:dcaruso@fordhamcollegealumni.org).

A committee made up of board members from the FCAA will judge the applications and vote on them.

The deadline for the applications for the \$5,000 award is due no later than Sept. 1, 2023.

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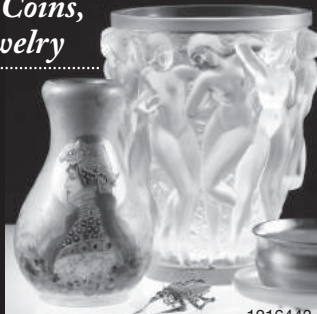
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## OPINIONS

# Now pitching, after five weeks on the injury list ...

Last week I had the opportunity to throw out the first pitch before a Long Island Ducks game against the Southern Maryland Blue Crabs. The game was played at the Ducks' home field, the Fairfield Properties Ballpark in Central Islip. The Ducks played well, and won 9-2.



**PETER KING**

A normal person reading this might say, that's nice, but no big deal. Real baseball fans, however, don't fit the definition of normal. For one thing, they never really grow up, and being on a professional baseball field, even just to throw one pitch before the game has even begun, is

for many a childhood dream.

But living this dream includes living through and overcoming incredible tension and fear of failure. This is especially true if you happen to be a politician who knows that no matter how beloved you think you might be, there are thousands of fans just waiting to see you suffer the ignominious fate of bouncing the

pitch before it crosses home plate and settles into the catcher's mitt. I know of several otherwise courageous politicians who will never accept the offer (or challenge) to throw out the first pitch. Or if they do develop some nerve, they throw the ball from well in front of the rubber, which, of course, is atop the pitcher's mound, 60 feet, 6 inches from home plate.

To me, that shortened version doesn't count as a real first pitch, so I always summoned the courage — more than I ever needed to deliver a major speech on the floor of Congress — to pitch from the rubber, and always succeeded, except for the one time, which I will never forget and always regret, when the ball faded away at the last instant and drifted off at the front of the batter's box, forcing the catcher to make what looked like a hockey goalie's acrobatic save.

Last week's first pitch was particularly stressful. I had been successfully operated on for stomach cancer less than five weeks before, during which part of my stomach was removed and I was left with a 9-inch-long incision that

had to heal. The surgeon, who probably considered referring me to a psychiatrist, consented to my first-pitch antics if I threw it "softly" from in front of the mound. Reluctantly I agreed to those terms and conditions. Walking to the

mound, I felt more tension than when I was being wheeled into the operating room.

But both times, my prayers were answered. The surgery had been successful, the pitch was over the plate, and the incision didn't reopen.

Separate from my baseball delusions, I can't tell you how much I appreciate being able to associate with the Ducks organization. The team and its owner, Frank Boulton, have been a Long Island institution for a quarter century. Playing in the Atlantic League, the Ducks bring a solid, high level of baseball to Long Island.

Their roster invariably includes future and past major leaguers, the most current and prominent being their designated hitter, former Mets great Daniel Murphy. Also notable is their manager, Wally Backman, the star second base-

man on the Mets' 1986 World Series champion team. No one, though, has been more beloved in Ducks history than Bud Harrelson, the Mets' All-Star shortstop when they won the 1969 Series, who was a Ducks coach and team vice president for so many years until he had to step aside because of Alzheimer's.

The Ducks are an integral part of the Long Island community, being active in charitable and veterans events and making their home games family-friendly and affordable. Being at a Ducks game is like viewing a Norman Rockwell painting depicting real America: kids, parents and grandparents enjoying an afternoon or evening of baseball; members of local organizations singing the pre-game national anthem; veterans, police officers and firefighters being honored on the field. All this and so much more makes me appreciate the Ducks and what they mean to Long Island.

Boulton initially invited me to throw out a first pitch at a game back in 2002, and it has been an honor to be invited back over the years. I'm proud to call Frank my friend and proud to be a loyal Ducks fan. Play ball!

*Peter King is a former congressman, and a former chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security.*

# No, I don't have time to answer your survey

You don't have a moment, and neither do I, but what does that matter? Ubiquitous, intrusive and endless surveys are a good idea gone rogue.

Suddenly, all of life's experiences are followed up with an emailed questionnaire asking you to rate your doctor, car rental, pet groomer, colorist, breakfast



**RANDI KREISS**

cereal, political candidate, wine, motel, coffee or underpants. Have a moment? Have a moment? Have a moment?

The basic idea of soliciting people's opinions about service and products and experiences is sound. But, as

with many decent ideas today, folks are beating it to death with overuse. You can't make simple purchases without the inevitable survey landing in your inbox.

Let's agree that there are surveys you will consider answering and some you delete immediately for very good reason.

Example: I hurt my wrist last week and went to a local urgent care. The sur-

vey popped up on my phone before I even left the premises. It was pages long and asked my input on everything from the hygiene of the location to the friendliness of staff at all levels and my thoughts about ever returning to that center or recommending it to others.

I was impressed with the place, the efficiency and the kindness of the staff and the thoroughness of the doctor. I was not so happy with one of the medical support people who poked around my wrist with some indifference to my pain level, and there was a place on the form to say so. I gladly filled out the online survey and happily signed my name. I will probably not go back there again, because I have my own doctor. That's why I felt safe to relinquish anonymity.

A few days later, I had a follow-up appointment with my physician to check my wrist. I see him twice a year. I chose him as my doctor because I like him and the way he works with patients. By the time I got into my car, swish, the survey popped up.

In the most suspicious part of my

brain, I believe my doctor somehow can access the surveys and find out who threw him under the bus. I can imagine him in the evenings, poring over the surveys, tracking the patients who mentioned how freezing the examining

rooms are or how frustrating the office phone system can be. He's the guy with the needles and potions and sharp instruments at his disposal; I would never put anything online that wasn't in the order of high praise. No. No surveys for me at my doctor's office.

Open Table, the restaurant reservation website, sends surveys all the time, soliciting consumers' opinions about everything from food to service to ambiance. In one happy exchange, I wrote a seriously negative review of a restaurant we frequent, explaining that our experience seemed to be an anomaly but it was awful, and I wanted the owner to know. I signed my name.

The owner called me and invited us back for a free dinner. We went. It was great. I said so in a follow-up survey. Good. Good.

Now, if I had nothing to do in my life

**T**his time I had no choice but to throw from in front of the mound.

**B**ut we got a free meal when I complained about an eatery we frequent.

but fill out surveys, I would be giving feedback to Chukar Cherries, my food gift outlet of choice; Optum RX, my mail order drug company; Amazon; The Washington Post; BridgeBase, my online game site; UPS; Marriott Hotels; Chewy, my go-to store for pet supplies; American Airlines; and every magazine to which I ever subscribed.

But I have a busy life, and in order to discover how well I'm doing in my own arena, I developed a small survey for my son and daughter to complete. Just five easy-to-answer questions, which I emailed to them last week:

1. Did you have a happy childhood?
2. Do you have any memories of the time I flipped out, took the car and ran away from home when you were 5 and 2?
3. Why don't you call more often?
4. Have you ever told a therapist any family secrets?
5. What are your feelings about adult children taking in their parents?

No surprise: There has been a complete communication blackout. I guess answering anonymously wasn't an option.

*Copyright 2023 Randi Kreiss. Randi can be reached at randik3@aol.com.*

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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## Our armed forces need your help

There were more than a dozen of them — some wearing caps denoting their military service, others in full uniform. They were veterans of various conflicts over the past several decades, many of them members of Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 2736 in East Meadow. They paid a visit to East Meadow High School ahead of Memorial Day to ensure that the true meaning of the annual observance of those who gave the ultimate sacrifice for freedom was not forgotten.

“We wanted to come here and tell the high school students what it was like to serve,” one veteran, Frank Belardo, said. “We wanted to do this before Memorial Day to teach the students, and honor those who did not come home.”

But that wasn’t the only thing on the minds of the veterans as they met with social studies classes that day.

“It seems like less kids are going down that route of joining the military,” Navy veteran Tom Kelly said. “So you just have to keep reminding them about the commitment to America, and how proud we are. It’s something that should be carried on. It seems like it’s a dying art these days, but I hope not.”

Kelly wasn’t exaggerating. America’s military forces are struggling to recruit new members. The Army, for example, missed its recruiting goal by 25 percent last year, according to the military industry news outlet War on the Rocks. In fact, the Army believes its overall forces will be reduced by 20,000 soldiers by September — part of an overall downward trend across the branches.

Young people just don’t see the military in the same light that previous generations did. They are bombarded by images of war, death and gruesome injuries, as well as many soldiers returning home and dealing with post-traumatic stress disorder.

Yet that’s not the only factor causing a drain of personnel in the armed forces. The nation’s low unemployment rate means there’s less incentive for many to seek out the military. And the sheer number of people eligible to serve is lower than ever.

A Pentagon study last year determined that 77 percent of America’s 17- to 24-year-old population wouldn’t qualify without some kind of waiver. Many are overweight. Others abuse drugs and alcohol. And then there’s the growing number of young people who wouldn’t qualify because of mental and physical health issues, especially in the wake of the coronavirus pandemic.

More than 44 percent, the study concluded, would be disqualified for more than one reason.

U.S. Sen. Thom Tillis, of North Carolina, a ranking Republican member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, shared during a hearing last year that “every single metric tracking the military recruiting environment is going in the wrong direction.”

“To put it bluntly, I am worried we are now in the early days of a long-term threat to the all-volunteer force,” Tillis said, according to Military.com. There is “a small and declining number of Americans who are eligible — and interested — in military service.”

So, what can be done? Many military leaders and lawmakers are trying to figure that out. The branches already offer a number of incentives to new recruits — from signing bonuses to education funding, solid (and free) medical care, room and board allowances, and a month of vacation every year, among other things.

But we must do more — and maybe we can, right here, closer to home. The Junior Reserve Officer Training Corps has been a fixture in thousands of high schools — and even some middle schools — across the country since 1916. It gives young people a taste of what it’s like to serve, without leaving home. And it has been instrumental in not only providing stability for many young people over the decades, but recruiting for military service as well, since nearly half of them eventually do that.

The problem? There aren’t enough JROTC programs, especially in New York. Especially on Long Island. The vast majority are concentrated in the Southeast, according to the Rand Corp. South Caroli-

na and Georgia, for example, boast JROTC programs in far more than half their schools. New York? It’s less than 10 percent.

JROTC has been great at addressing demographic representation by being in many schools with larger ethnic diversity, Rand says. But geographic representation is severely lacking. Just 16 percent of young people live in states with high numbers of JROTC programs, while more than half of the total population of teenagers are in 28 states like New York where such programs are lacking.

More schools need to offer JROTC, but they can’t do it alone. Congress needs to expand JROTC overall — and pay for that expansion, retired U.S. Army Lt. Gen. David Barno and Johns Hopkins professor Nora Bensahel say. At the same time, members of Congress — on both sides of the aisle — need to stop using the military as a political football.

“Painting the entire U.S. military as either woke or extremist undermines public support for the institution and the people in uniform, and often deflects examination of concrete problems that are affecting military capabilities and readiness,” Barno and Bensahel told War on the Rocks. “Elected officials should stop making broad assertions about the entire force, and instead focus their legitimate oversight role on the senior officials who testify in front of Congress.”

The brave men and women — like those who visited East Meadow High School — should forever be honored by all of us. But let’s not let their service and sacrifice become part of a dying breed.



## OPINIONS

## Why I voted for a casino at the Coliseum

Since 2014 I have had the privilege of representing the residents of the 2nd District at the Nassau County Legislature. Throughout that time, I have contemplated and made decisions on a full spectrum of controversial and consequential issues. Deciding whether or not to execute a lease transfer agreement between the county and Las Vegas Sands was one of the most difficult decisions I have been confronted with to date.



**SIELA A. BYNOE**

What made it so challenging is the fact that I don't have the luxury of analyzing this or any other issue that comes before me as a

lawmaker through a one-dimensional lens.

Because I am entrusted with overseeing and safeguarding Nassau County's fiscal future, I had to carefully consider the tax revenue, economic development and job creation opportunities presented by the resort and casino Las Vegas Sands has proposed building at the

Nassau Hub. The last two factors are especially vital for the economically disadvantaged communities that I serve as a legislator.

As a policy maker, I must always be aware of the legislative atmosphere in which I am operating — and in New York state, legal gambling is a growing reality. Online sports betting became legal in January 2022, and in a 2013 state-wide referendum, 67 percent of Nassau voters cast ballots in favor of the siting of seven new casinos throughout the Empire State.

As a community advocate, I researched, vetted and deliberated on the heartfelt concerns my constituents expressed about potential impacts of the Hub development on public safety, traffic and behavioral health. One especially important element of advocacy is robust community engagement.

To get the pulse of the communities I represent, I took part in numerous events in Hempstead, Uniondale and Westbury. In Uniondale — the host community for any development at the Hub — I met with leaders of the public

library, the Fire Department, the Nassau County Land Bank and other key stakeholders to ascertain the community's concerns and needs. I listened intently to public commentary presented through various media, and read dozens of

emails we received from across the county to gain a fuller understanding of public sentiment.

During the Legislature's May 8 Rules Committee hearing, it became abundantly clear to me that the lease transfer agreement would pass on May 22 with or without my vote. Given that fact, my charge was to ensure that the communities that would be most directly impacted by development at the Hub would not have to wait until its completion to receive the public benefits they were promised.

Following extensive and fruitful negotiations, I was pleased that Las Vegas Sands agreed to enhance its community benefits package by \$25 million — \$10 million for Uniondale, \$10 million for East Meadow and \$5 million for Hempstead Village. At least half of these funds would have to be disseminated during the construction of the proposed inte-

grated casino resort. Throughout that process, the collaboration with my legislative colleague Tom McKeivitt, who represents East Meadow, which directly abuts the Hub, was invaluable in navigating the issues related to securing this funding for our respective constituents.

After balancing the array of public comments, completing a painstaking review of the more laudable elements of the Las Vegas Sands proposal, and factoring in the company's agreement to invest tens of millions of dollars in bolstering crucial services and activities in the most directly impacted communities, I decided to vote in favor of the lease transfer agreement.

While the Legislature's action on May 22 represents an important benchmark, there are many steps that must be completed before any construction begins. As this process continues to unfold, make no mistake: I will remain vigilant and focused on the series of actions to follow, and I will hold the entities associated with this project accountable for meeting their contractual obligations and fulfilling the commitments they made to the residents of Nassau County.

*Siela A. Bynoe, of Westbury, has represented the 2nd District in the County Legislature since 2014.*

I wanted to ensure that the communities most impacted would receive promised benefits.

## LETTERS

## Give neighbors a chance to manage L.I.'s electricity

To the Editor:

Re Jerry Kremer's column last week, "The PSEG love affair is over": Mr. Kremer opposes "giving a group of local neighbors the power to dictate to professionals" operating a Long Island power company.

"Dictate" may be hyperbole, but it identifies the general problem: unaccountable power. The history provided — LILCO, LIPA, PSEG — demonstrates consistently inadequate infrastructure, a focus on shareholders over ratepayers, the interference of friends in high places, and the general disdain for customer concerns characteristic of near-monopolies. We can agree that "John Q. Citizen" ought not "dictate" to professional operators, but Mr. Citizen is also a ratepayer, dissatisfied by the "professionals'" history of mismanagement, and now seeks greater transparency, accountability and responsiveness.

Dictatorship by professionals is well known, and is what must be curbed. So long as the primary interests remain short-term corporate goals, the future delivery of Long Island's electrons will replicate its past. Municipalization may not be the answer, but our history of failures suggests we try a new arrangement.

BRIAN KELLY  
Rockville Centre

## Clearing the air about marijuana

To the Editor:

Since the Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act was enacted in New York in March 2021, confusion remains about marijuana's legal and medical realities. As part of the North Shore Coalition Against Substance Abuse efforts to reduce the use and abuse of substances by our youth, we offer below some information on marijuana so you can inform yourself and your family.

The law allows those 21 and older to use cannabis wherever smoking tobacco is permitted, except in a motor vehicle or where the Clean Air Act is in effect. Specifically, it allows for adult possession of up to 3 ounces of cannabis and up to 24 grams of cannabis concentrate. An adult may grow up to three marijuana plants at home, and homes with more than one adult may grow up to six plants (three mature, three immature).

So, does that mean that adults can purchase adult-use marijuana locally now? The answer may surprise you: no. Most Nassau County municipalities have opted out of permitting retail sales of marijuana in their jurisdictions. For a complete review of what is legal and illegal, go to government sites including NewYorkStateCannabis.org.

As important as legality is to the conversation about marijuana, equally critical is the discussion of its impact on teen health. Marijuana potency has steadily

## FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



Rocco, Myles and Lily Pad hanging out at the Memorial Day Parade — Wantagh

increased in the past decades, up from about 4 percent THC levels in the 1980s to an average of 15 percent today. More disconcerting is that marijuana extracts, used in dabbing and edibles, contain, on average, 50 percent THC, and can go as high as 90 percent.

Research suggests that kids who use cannabis may face greater mental health risks, such as worsened depression and anxiety, poor attention and memory problems. Specifically, using a cannabis product with a THC potency of over 15 percent

is linked to a three-fold increase in the likelihood of experiencing mental health and other problems. Studies also suggest that 17 percent of those who start using marijuana in their teens will become dependent on it.

Given these risks, it's important that parents know the facts and talk to their kids. For more info, go to NSCASA.org.

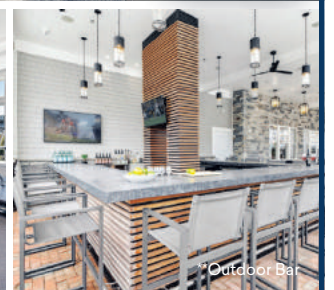
ALISON CAMARDELLA  
KEVIN MCGILLOWAY  
President and vice president, NS-CASA

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PLAINVIEW

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\*Prices, taxes and availability subject to change without notice. The complete terms are in offering plans available from the Sponsors. File No. CD16-0218, CD16-0219, CD16-0342, CD16-0343, CD16-0348 and CD17-0106. \*\*Actual onsite photos. Equal housing opportunity.

