

GLEN COVE  
**HERALD**



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VOL. 32 NO. 33

AUGUST 10 - 16, 2023

\$1.00



Roksana Amid/Herald

## Ready, aim, let 'er rip!

Jack Fugazy prepared to hit the buzzer to dunk Glen Cove Police Officer Peter Grella into the water tank at National Night Out on Aug. 1. Story, more photos, Page 3.

# The View Grill's future looks very uncertain

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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For over 30 years, Chef Jeanine DiMenna has been feeding the Glen Cove community. Her restaurants have long been meeting places and gathering spots for special events, and people come because they know DiMenna will deliver.

She has owned The View Grill, at the Glen Cove Golf Course on Lattingtown Road, since 2013, after taking over a lapsed request for proposal during former Mayor Ralph Suozzi's administration. She closed her competing restaurant, Page One, to focus on the city-owned property.

But DiMenna's lease is set to expire next February, and an RFP for the property was issued on July 10. Proposals are due by Aug. 30.

The city is seeking plans from experienced restaurateurs for the operation of a restaurant at the golf course and park,

involving renovations of the existing restaurant that would facilitate catering for groups as large as 200 people, while simultaneously maintaining restaurant service. The RFP states that proposals should include plans for the renovations,

**E**ven if you told me we could make a million dollars doing it, we don't want to do that kind of business.

**FRED DiMENNA**

The View Grill,  
Glen Cove

including the potential addition of ground floor space and/or a second floor. The request also notes that a teardown of the facility is not discouraged.

Fred DiMenna, Jeanine's husband and the restaurant's event coordinator, said they believe the city's plan would not be beneficial for the property or the community, and that the city is looking to change the venue's identity.

"I don't think it's a good business plan," Fred DiMenna said. "It doesn't seem to me, as a taxpayer, that's a good way to use one of our resources. If you told me it was a profitable scenario, we still really couldn't do it, because I don't think we have

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

# Five North Shore libraries form consortium to enhance offerings

By **WILL SHEELINE**

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A handful of public libraries on the North Shore have banded together to offer library patrons a wider selection of virtual programs, forming the North Shore Programming Consortium.

Consisting of the Oyster Bay-East Norwich, Gold Coast, Bayville, Glen Cove and Locust Valley libraries, the consortium works together to promote virtual learning programs across the various municipalities that they serve.

The consortium originated in January of 2022 in the Glen Cove Public Library's genealogy

research programs.

Lydia Wen, an archivist and librarian at the Glen Cove Public Library, explained that she initially began reaching out to the other libraries to consider forming the Genealogy Collective, which served the dual purpose of promoting library programs during the pandemic while also spreading the word across a wider audience.

"We formed the Genealogy Collective so that the programming will be online and we'll be doing it once a month," Wen said. "So now we could really go out and offer topics of so many different interests."

Following the success of the Genealogy Col-

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**HERALD**  
Community Newspapers

# Hundreds pay respect to Robert Dillon

By DANIEL OFFNER

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Hundreds gathered at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre last week to pay their respects to Robert Dillon.

The late Nassau BOCES superintendent died July 28 after following complications from spinal surgery. He was 72.

Dillon — who lived in both Walden in Orange County, as well as Plainview here on Long Island — was appointed to lead the Nassau Board of Cooperative Educational Services in 2015.

During his time with BOCES, Dillon advocated and expanded access to career and technical programs, revitalized the Long Island High School for the Arts, and helped create a mental health consortium, serving all 56 Nassau County school districts, parts of Suffolk County, and the Diocese of Rockville Centre.

“After his first full year at BOCES, his passion and dedication for the students, staff and programs were part of every conversation I had,” his son, Chris Dillon, told the packed cathedral. He followed his father’s footsteps into education, now an assistant superintendent in the Plainview-Old Bethpage school district.

“He was honored to be part of such a great team.”

Dillon grew up in Bayside, Queens, and at one point almost became a Major League Baseball player. The Detroit Tigers drafted him out of Loyola High



Daniel Offner/Herald

Following a funeral Mass at St. Agnes Cathedral in Rockville Centre last week, the late Robert Dillon — superintendent of Nassau BOCES, and former superintendent of the East Meadow school district — was laid to rest at the Queen of Peace Cemetery.

School, a private Jesuit academy on Manhattan’s Upper East Side.

Instead, Dillon chose a different path, graduating from St. John’s University in Queens with a doctorate in education.

He began his career as a special education teacher in 1975, and for the next 45 years, would inspire and motivate hundreds of students, teachers, parents and faculty members across New York.

“To this day, he could not only name most of his students from his early years

of teaching or retell their success stories,” the younger Dillon said, “he had a steady belief in the potential of every single student he encountered. He was not just the teacher, director, principal or superintendent, He was a cheerleader. A mentor:

And a trusted confidant who loved to teach and coach other professionals — including myself — to be the best educator they could be.”

Throughout his career, Dillon served

as the superintendent of four school districts — including two on Long Island. He was at one time the superintendent of the former Sugar Loaf school district in Orange County, and the Abbott school district in Westchester County.

Between 1992 and 1999, he was superintendent of the Eastport-South Manor Central School District in Suffolk County, where he helped lead the effort to merge the two districts. He also led the East Meadow school district between 1999 and 2007.

“Whether navigating through the Covid-19 pandemic, pushing for increased mental health student support, or innovating numerous programs, he has revitalized, transformed and enhanced educational opportunities for all students,” BOCES representatives stated.

During the funeral Mass at St. Agnes, Dillon was remembered by family, friends, colleagues, supporters and countless others whose lives he touched.

“He taught by example, that there was never a problem, only your solution or plan on how to fix it,” Dillon’s son said. “He understood that failure was a part of life and would never allow that to define him. Instead, he taught us resilience, showing us that setbacks are sources of strength rather than defeat.

“Never letting them deter his spirit, he proved that true success is not measure by achievement, but by how one navigates through challenges.”

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# First responders connect with community

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

**G**len Cove's Bridge Street was filled with live music, hot dogs, popcorn, a bouncy ride for children, and smiles all around to celebrate the 40th anniversary of National Night Out.

The annual event, celebrated nationwide, is presented by the City of Glen Cove, Glen Cove Police Department, Police Benevolent Association, Youth Bureau, Fire Department, emergency medical services, Housing Authority, Downtown Business Improvement District, and local businesses and organizations.

"This is such a spectacular, fabulous event bringing together the entire community," Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said. "With our fabulous law enforcement officers led by Chief Bill we could not ask for better and because of my belief in Bill we have added six brand new officers in the last year and a half. We back the blue."

The event dates to a time when crime rates nationwide were far higher than in 2023. National Night Out started with a group founded in the Philadelphia suburbs in the 1970s. Matt Peskin, who worked with the Lower Merion Community Watch program and the Lower Merion Police Department, reached out to his community via newsletters but spreading the word was difficult. In 1981, he started the National Association of Town Watch to connect various neighborhood watch programs across the country. Three years later, National Night Out was born through law enforcement agencies, neighborhood watch groups and civic organizations. More than 2.5 million people in 400 communities in 23 states took part in the first event in 1984.

National Night Out, according to the initiative's website, is an annual community-building campaign that promotes police and community partnerships and neighborhood camaraderie. Millions of neighborhoods hold their own National Night Out events across the United States, U.S. territories and military bases every year.

Each year, the event acknowledges people who have made a difference in their communities. Individuals and groups that have made outstanding contributions to public safety well being at the community are recognized for their contributions.

For Glen Cove, this meant recognizing the efforts of Spiro Tsirkas, director of the city's Youth Services and Recreation Bureau, Glen Cove's 2023 National Night Out Against Crime Person of the Year.

"Everybody that knows Spiro knows he puts his heart and soul into everything he does for the youth of this community," Glen Cove Police Chief William Whitton said.

"As a leader, mentor and friend Spiro demonstrates clear vision and commitment to our community. This leadership drive and passion for all the youth of was to be admired for all, Spiro has truly made an impact on our lives."



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Local officials and members of the Youth Bureau gathered to celebrate Spiro Tsirkas, the event's person of the year.



Glen Cove has leverage in strengthening community ties since many of its officers live in the city and spend their free time volunteering with organizations like the Youth Bureau.

"We are all part of the same community," Assemblyman Charles Lavine said. "And it is a good thing because we need to trust law enforcement and law enforcement needs to trust our communities. That's the American way."

Mia Escobar, above left, is one of the evening's many curious kids who sat behind the wheel of the city's police cars.

Charles Drowns, left, showed Amelio and Pascqualina Giovanniello, far right, a close look at the FBI, above, right. Amelio said he wants to be an FBI agent when he is older.

Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck, left, an avid supporter of the city's police department with Officers Brian Miller and Selena Guastella, right.



## CRIME WATCH

### ARRESTS

- A 31-year-old Port Washington man was arrested on July 25 for circumventing an interlock device, suspended registration and other VTL violations on Jackson Street.
- A 61-year-old Locust Valley man was arrested on July 26, for circumventing an interlock device, speed violation and unlicensed driver on Forest Avenue.
- A 36-year-old Amityville man was arrested on July 29 for two counts of assault second criminal possession of a weapon, reckless driving and unlawful fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle on The Place.
- A 33-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on July 29 for two counts of assault, criminal mischief, criminal possession weapon, strangulation, and resisting arrest on Matthews Heights.
- A 70-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on July 30 for operating a motor vehicle impaired by drugs on La Marcus Avenue.
- A 25-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on July 30 for assault on St. Andrews Lane.
- A 37-year-old Levittown man was arrested on July 30 for DWI and driving while ability impaired by alcohol on Arterial Highway.
- A 31-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on Aug. 1 for two counts of endangering the welfare of a child on Carney Street.
- A 32-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Aug. 2 for criminal mischief on Miller Street.
- A 30-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Aug. 4 for aggravated unlicensed operation and unlicensed driver on Glen Cove Avenue.
- A 35-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Aug. 5 for aggravated unlicensed operation and aggravated DWI, DWI, and two open Nassau County warrants on Clement Street.
- A 56-year-old undomiciled man was arrested on Aug. 5 for trespass on Glen Cove Avenue.

People named in Crime Watch items as having been arrested and charged with violations or crimes are only suspected of committing those acts of which they are accused. They are all presumed to be innocent of those charges until and unless found guilty in a court of law.

## NEWS BRIEFS

### Hunting and trapping licenses now on sale

The state Department of Environmental Conservation Commissioner announced that hunting and trapping licenses and Deer Management Permits for the 2023-24 season are now on sale. New York's habitat serves a vital role in maintaining healthy and sustainable fish and wildlife resources. Purchasing a hunting, fishing, or trapping license helps support the DEC's conservation projects and ensures the future of natural resources for generations to come.

The DEC also encourages outdoor enthusiasts to consider purchasing a Habitat and Access Stamp each year. Funds from the \$5 Habitat & Access Stamp support projects to conserve habitat and improve public access for fish-and-wildlife-related activities. This year's Habitat and Access Stamp features an opossum.

Individuals should have the following items ready when buying a license:

- Complete contact information (e.g., name,

address, email address, telephone number).

- DEC customer ID number (if applicable).
- Proof of residency (e.g., driver's license or non-driver's ID with a valid New York State address).
- If purchasing by phone or internet, a valid credit card; and if not already entered in DEC's automated licensing system, individuals are required to provide proof of hunter or trapper education certification or a copy of a previous license for all hunting and trapping license purchases.

Licenses and permits can be purchased online at any of DEC's license-issuing agents, or by telephone at (866) 933-2257. Hunting and trapping licenses are valid from Sept. 1 through Aug. 31 each year, while annual fishing licenses are valid for 365 days from date of purchase.

### The Art of Grand Central Madison soon

Grand Central Madison is an extension of Grand Central Terminal that offers Long Island Railroad riders' direct access to the East Side. The project took 50 years and \$11.1 billion to construct. It is an impressive station, replete with the city's longest escalators and a cultural corridor full of original art. Join the library as Lauren Kaplan explores this project's history

as well as its series of digital commissions and delicate, nature-inspired mosaics.

The event will be held on Aug. 14, from 2 to 3:30 p.m. The zoom login information will be emailed one hour before the program. For more information contact The North Shore Programming Consortium at: [info@nspcli-brary.org](mailto:info@nspcli-brary.org).



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#### Book Review:

### “Die with Zero” by Bill Perkins

In “Die with Zero”, subtitled “Getting All That You Can from Your Money and Your Life”, retired engineer Bill Perkins takes an analytical view about making your life grow as opposed to making your money grow. Letting opportunities pass you by for fear of squandering money leads many to squander their lives instead.

Instead of just keeping on earning and earning to maximize wealth, too many of us don't give nearly as much thought as to maximizing what they can get out of that wealth — including what they can give to others while they are living, instead of waiting until they die.

As opposed to spending money on things, which excitement depreciates over time, the author advocates spending on experiences, which grow in value over time, due to the “memory dividend”. Perkins advocates a systematic approach for eliminating the fear of running out of money (the main reason people oversave and underenjoy) while maximizing your and your loved ones

enjoyment of that money.

Being that the main idea is that your life is the sum of your experiences, you should put some thought into planning the kind of experiences you want. If you die with significant wealth but a scarcity of experiences, you worked a lot of hours just to accumulate money that you either never used or were too old to use.

You can waste your life by underspending. Life is not only about “accumulating”, it is also about “decumulating” or using the money to maximize your life which, in the end, is nothing more than the memories you make.

In a similar vein, giving inheritances early maximizes the impact of those inheritance on the recipients' quality of life. The average age of heirs being about sixty, the money usually arrives too late to do the most good.

Your time is limited. The chief regrets of the dying are that they didn't live their dreams more and spent too much time working, missing out on relationships and life experiences.

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The Glen Cove Herald USPS 008886, is published every Thursday by Richner Communications, Inc., 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. Periodicals postage paid at Garden City, NY 11530 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to Glen Cove Herald, 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. **Subscriptions:** \$50 one-time payment within Nassau County or \$60 outside of Nassau County or by qualified request in zip codes 11542, 11545, 11547, 11548 or 11579 **Copyright © 2023** Richner Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.

# Texting 911 is now an option in the county

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Robert Saccente Jr., an American Sign Language specialist for the Mill Neck Manor School for the Deaf remembers when a defensive driving instructor collapsed in front of him. Although he was certified in cardiopulmonary resuscitation, his ability to help was limited because he is deaf.

“There was no way for me as a deaf person to call 911 at that time,” Saccente said in an interpreted call to the Herald. “Fortunately, there were other people that were taking the class that were able to call for me. Here I am the first person in the room, CPR certified, and I wasn’t able to make a call for him.”

When people call 911 for emergency life-threatening situations, they hope for the fastest response time. In Nassau County, that just became a reality.

The county’s 911 emergency system is getting an update and will accept text messages in addition to phone calls. On Aug. 7, the Rules Committee of the Nassau County Legislature voted unanimously to approve a \$106,417 purchase order with the Intergraph Corporation for a custom interface Text to 911 interface, which will automatically transfer text message 911-related information to the Nassau County Police Department’s current computer aided dispatch system. When asked about this new life-saving feature, Saccente said it was long overdue, and will help those in the deaf and hard of hearing community be more independent.

Currently, the only way for Nassau residents to reach 911 is by a phone call. Under legislation proposed by Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, the county will develop and implement around-the-clock Text to 911 capabilities for the first time – a feature that could be utilized by people who have limited English proficiency; or need to



Herald file photo

**Glen Cove’s Police Department said increasing access to its services would be a great thing for the community.**

reach authorities discreetly, such as in an active shooter, hostage, or domestic violence crisis and for the deaf and hard of hearing community. Texting could also make communication easier, bypassing any issues with audio reception, which may lead to inaccurate information.

This isn’t the first time the county’s 911 structure needed an update. A lawsuit was filed in January 2017 by Disability Rights New York who alleged that the county’s 911 services violated the act as it failed to provide accessible options for individuals with hearing loss. Another county resident, who is part of the deaf and hard of hearing community, sued the county in 2019 after his application to be a 911 dispatcher was denied.

Prior to 1968, there was no standard emergency number. People called the numbers of the nearest police station or fire department when they had an emergency. As

far back as 1957, the National Association of Fire Chiefs recommended the use of a single number for reporting fires. Choosing 911 as the universal emergency number was not an arbitrary selection, but it wasn’t a difficult one either. In 1967, the Federal Communications Commission met with AT&T to establish such an emergency number. The commissioner of the Nassau County Police Department and the Nassau County Fire Marshal, with feedback, would oversee implementation of the text program and guidance from disability rights advocates including, but not limited to the Nassau County Disability Advisory Council.

Text to 911 is already live in numerous New York state counties, including Suffolk, Ulster, Niagara and Putnam counties. Nassau County must implement a program by Sept. 15 under the terms of a May 2023 settlement in the case alleging violations of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

“The implementation of Text to 911 capabilities is an important step toward modernizing our emergency response capabilities and providing life-saving resources anyone who needs to reach authorities discreetly, such as in an active shooter, hostage or domestic violence crisis,” DeRiggi-Whitton said. “Today’s action will also place us on a path toward compliance with a looming court mandate. I am hopeful that Nassau will ensure the service is equipped with robust language access capabilities so that every Nassau resident can reap the benefits of a worthwhile endeavor that can make all of us safer.”

Glen Cove’s Deputy Police Chief Chris Ortiz said any way the department can increase access to police services would be a great thing for the community. He noted that 911 is reserved for active emergency situations. Anyone who misuses Text to 911 would be subject to the same penalties as those who misuse 911 by phone.



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## NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy The Regency Assisted Living

Mei Fleischer proudly wore her tiara and sash as her daughter, Rona and her Safe Harbor friends celebrated her 100th birthday.

## Mei Fleischer celebrates 100th birthday

Last year Mei Fleischer proudly stated, "I'll see you all next year," when she celebrated her 99th birthday at The Regency Assisted Living. For her 100th birthday, she proudly wore her tiara and sash as her daughter, Rona and her Safe Harbor friends celebrated with her.

"Mei is a remarkable woman!" Erica Ferrara, Safe Harbor director said. "She is an elegant lady with a sparkle in her

eye!"

Fleischer entertained her friends and family with her ability to still play the castanets. The former ballerina moved to the United States at when she was 30 years old, and said she has loved her wonderful life. Fleischer thanked everyone for attending her party and once again, she said, "I'll see you next year!"

## Charlie, NCPD Mounted Unit Horse, dies

Mounted Unit Horse Charlie of the Nassau County Police Department died on August 5. Charlie suddenly fell ill and was immediately taken to the veterinarian for evaluation, where he was diagnosed with a tumor in his intestines and was euthanized to limit his suffering.

Charlie, a quarter horse of 19 years, joined the police department in 2016, after completing his training to become a police horse. Charlie's great temperament and demeanor helped train the last 10 Nassau County police officers who transferred into the unit.

Charlie exhibited great bravery over his years of service during presidential visits and hundreds of other large details and served his community proudly. When the Mounted Unit was called upon to visit the thousands of school children over the years, it was Charlie who answered the call because of his gentle disposition and versatility.

Charlie's name holds great significance as he represented a true Nassau County hero as he was named after Police Officer Charles D. Cole Jr. who passed from a 9/11 related illness, making the ultimate sacrifice on August 14, 2011.



Courtesy Nassau County Police Department

Mounted Unit Horse Charlie, pictured here with his rider Officer Robert Smith, served in the force for nine years.

# The View Grill may be replaced next spring

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

the money to put in what they're looking to do. You'd be talking about probably well over a million-dollar investment into the place to get it up to what they want. Even if you told me we could make a million dollars doing it, we don't want to do that kind of business. It's not what that place should be. It's just not consistent with what it used to be."

A committee of five anonymous local business owners and people familiar with the property will review the responses to the RFP, and will use a weighted scale to determine its recommendations to the city. It will be seeking respondents with the experience and financial ability to achieve the city's vision (scored a maximum 30 points), a redesign and renovation of the existing facility (20 points), an investment-recovery plan that will financially benefit the city (35 points) and a plan to accommodate patrons during construction as well as a reopening date (15 points). The committee and the City Council may consider other relevant factors when evaluating the proposals, and the final contract will be approved by the City Council.

"The city really has to do right by everyone and really have the best possible option," Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck said. "It's not that we don't like the opportunity that we have. She got her five-year extension," Panzenbeck added of DiMenna, "and she's more than welcome to

apply for this again. We don't want anybody to think we're pushing Jeanine out. It's the process that has to be followed, and we can't just give it to her."

Matt Nartowicz, president of the Chamber of Commerce, said The View has the chamber's support, and that he had had more than a half-dozen conversations with Jeanine to stay updated.

"It's important to note that the chamber doesn't have input over the city's decisions," Nartowicz said. "Nonetheless, we're hopeful that both parties can reach a resolution."

DiMenna said she intended to submit a proposal for her current business, and regardless of the city's decision, she will continue to give her patrons and the community the same level of service that she always has.

"I want people to know that I'm not giving up, and that I'm not ready to retire yet," DiMenna said. "I wanted to finish up my time here, but that doesn't look like it's going to happen."

As of press time, no proposals had been submitted. The committee is expected to review the submission in September, and a final decision by the City Council is expected this fall.

**Chef Jeanine DiMenna of The View Grill marked her 10-year anniversary as owner of the eatery in June.**



Roksana Amid/Herald



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# HERALD SPORTS

## High school football camps open Aug. 19

By TONY BELLISSIMO

tbellissimo@liherald.com

**O**n Saturday, Aug. 19, all 53 Nassau County public high school football programs will begin preparations for the upcoming season, scheduled to open Friday, Sept. 1 when MacArthur visits Manhasset as part of a handful of games that weekend in Conference II.

Nassau returned to the usual eight-game regular season in 2021 after all scrimmages, two regular-season games, one round of playoffs and the Long Island championships were eliminated the previous season due to Covid-19. This season, with Conference II fielding an odd number of teams (13), each team in that conference will get a bye over a nine-week campaign. Long Beach, Sewanhaka and Jericho will kick off their respective seasons in Week 2 (Sept. 8 and 9) with the rest of the county.

"We're not the first conference to have an odd number of teams and we just have to do the best we can to prepare," said MacArthur head coach Bobby Fehrenbach, whose seventh-seeded Generals play their first three games over a 13-day span including a trip to No. 2 Carey in Week 2 and their home opener Thursday, Sept. 14 against Rolsyn/Friends Academy. "The kids have been working hard during the offseason and we'll be as ready as we can be for Manhasset," he added.

Farmingdale (Conference I), Garden City (II), Plainedge (III) and North Shore (IV) won county titles in 2022 and are pre-season No. 1 seeds, making them favorites on paper to repeat. Farmingdale was awarded the Rutgers Cup, presented annually to the most outstanding team in Nassau. The Dalers open at home against Uniondale Sept. 8. An Oceanside-Freeport matchup kicks off the Conference I action that same evening.

Garden City, which has captured seven straight Conference II titles, opens the 2023 campaign at home against New Hyde Park. Longtime Conference II contender Carey moved to III last fall but is back to familiar territory. The Seahawks open Sept. 9 at Elmont.

"We have five September games and no scrimmage," Carey head coach Mike Stanley said. "Everyone in our conference is in the same boat, but it's tough from an evaluation standpoint to not scrimmage. That being said, we've been putting in the work all summer and the fortunate thing for us is we're bringing back a lot from last year's team."

Any teams outside of Conference II choosing to play a game scrimmage can do so once 10 practices are completed, Section VIII football coordinator Matt McLees said. Most scrimmages will take place Sept. 2 and 3. "Everyone needs 10 practices to conduct a scrimmage, but

### 10 Games To Watch

**Sept. 8:** Oceanside at Freeport

**Sept. 9:** Elmont at Mepham

**Sept. 22:** Freeport at Farmingdale

**Sept. 30:** Carey at Garden City

**Sept. 30:** Wantagh at Lynbrook

**Oct. 7:** Wantagh at South Side

**Oct. 7:** Malverne at North Shore

**Oct. 21:** Seaford at Malverne

**Oct. 21:** South Side at Plainedge

**Oct. 28:** Baldwin at Freeport

teams can practice together after five practices," he said. "If teams practice against one another, they can do drills but can't simulate anything that would happen in a scrimmage or a game."

### Six teams switch conferences

Along with Carey, five other teams have switched conferences for the upcoming season based on enrollment figures: South Side, Manhasset, Mineola, Clarke and Kennedy. In addition, Jericho has returned to Nassau County football following a 2022 campaign it teamed up with Plainview.

South Side is back in Conference III and seeded No. 2 behind Plainedge. The Cyclones open at home versus Hewlett. Kennedy is also in III from II. Clarke, along with Mineola, jumps to III from IV. The Rams are at Valley Stream North in Week 1.

### Thursday games Sept. 14

The second week of the season (third for many Conference II teams) will be played on Thursday, Sept. 14 due to Rosh Hashanah that Saturday. Games will kick off as early as 1:30 p.m. (Elmont at Sewanhaka) and as late as 7 p.m. on the 14th, with one game going on Friday, Sept. 15 (Roosevelt at Division) at 2 p.m.

### Local coaching changes

After 20 years, the legendary Jay Hegi will no longer serve as Elmont head coach. Former assistant Tom Innes takes over the helm of the Spartans and will make his debut against Carey.

A member of Lawrence's Long Island championship team in 2014, Melik Mavruk, who scored the game-winning touchdown that year against Sayville on an 82-yard fumble recovery late in the fourth quarter, takes over as the Golden Tornadoes' third head coach in as many seasons. Lawrence opens at home versus Valley Stream South.

Ernie Blount is the new sideline boss at Baldwin. He spent 23 years on the staff at LIU-Post. The Bruins are seeded fourth in Conference I and host Hempstead in the opener.



Photos by Eric Dunetz/Herald

**LYN'BROOK'S RAMON CALDERON**, top, hauled in a pass during 7 on 7 drills hosted by Oceanside every Wednesday throughout July.



**OCEANSIDE AND QUARTERBACK** Shane Harmon open the season at rival Freeport.



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## OBITUARY

# Owner of Hunt's Barber Shop dies at 88

## Layton Hunt was equally passionate about barbering, people and life

By LAURA LANE

llane@liherald.com

**L**ayton Hunt, 88, former proprietor of Hunt's Barber Shop for over six decades, died on July 17. Hunt was somewhat of a legend on the North Shore, known for his skill, congeniality, and kindness. The cause of death was lung cancer.

Originally from North Carolina, Hunt moved to Long Island in 1957 and lived in Locust Valley where he opened his barber shop in 1966. Forty years ago he moved to Westbury to live with his companion of 45 years, Mildred Anastasi.

Hunt and his six brothers and two sisters grew up on his family's farm. He had to drop out of school in the sixth grade to pick cotton and tobacco. Hunt's early life in Robeson County, where 27 percent of the population live below the poverty line, gave him the moxie to overcome a lack of education to start his own successful business in Locust Valley.

His passion for cutting hair began in 1953 when he served in the Army during the Korean War. During his three years of service, Hunt, after perfecting the buzz cut, decided he would become a barber. But first he joined the Foreign Service as a combat battalion engineer for 15 months.

When he came home to Locust Valley in 1958, he married Helen Jacobs. They had two children, Dennis and Donna. Hunt went to barber school part time on the GI Bill for six months while working for his brother Lacy Hunt, who designed boat interiors in Oyster Bay and driving a sanitation truck in Roslyn.

In 1961 he was hired as a barber in a Locust Valley shop where he worked for a year and a half. Then he bought the barber shop on the corner of Birch Hill and Buckram roads in Locust Valley that he named Hunt's Barber Shop. It became his life.

His daughter, Donna Lafreniere said her father loved Locust Valley. Although she was 4 years old when her parents divorced in 1968, she has fond memories of visiting her father in Locust Valley during the summer.

"I always thought Locust Valley was so pretty, green with all the trees," she said. "Locust Valley is a special community and I think that's why my Dad loved it there. From the very rich to the guy off the street with work boots on, they were Dad's customers who were all so eclectic. Dad felt welcome in Locust Valley, and he made people feel welcome in his barber shop."

Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, of Glen Cove, is also originally from Robeson County, North Carolina where he too picked tobacco in his youth. When Mathews went to meet Hunt in 2016, he said they had an immediate connection.

"My life as a voice and speech coach living on the North Shore of Long Island is very different from my life growing up in a very rural area of North Carolina where I

farmed tobacco, enjoyed many a plate of collard greens and cornbread, and spent countless nights on the front porch of my grandmother's home hearing stories of times gone by," he said. "My respect for Layton as a business owner, entrepreneur and veteran was greater because of his humble beginnings. He was the salt of the earth."

Hunt was part Cherokee and part Lumbee Indian. When Stevenson-Mathews learned of his new friend's heritage he contacted the Lumbee chief in Robeson County and asked if he could give Hunt a citation on behalf of the tribe to recognize him for his service as a veteran and barber on Long Island. Hunt treasured the citation, which was given to him in September of 2022, Stevenson-Mathews said.

Brian Basile, who owns Glen Cove's Strong Island Styles barbershop, met Hunt 15 years ago. Although Basile was an established barber, Hunt became his mentor.

"We had two different types of styles in barbering, but he taught me how important it is to be nice to the people who come to your location," Basile said. "He was a friendly person who had amazing energy. He'd never show it if he was in a bad mood."

Basile loved the look of Hunt's shop, which is over a century old. It had the traditional three red and cream-colored barber chairs, old sturdy cabinets and the striped barber pole outside the shop. On a whim, he asked Hunt if he could buy it when he was ready to retire.

"I told him I wanted to be the caretaker of the institution and would always honor his name and not change anything," Basile said. "I want to keep it exactly as it is so people can sit in 100 year old barber chairs. It has so much importance in this area. It's a landmark."

Hunt loved the idea and the two talked about it for years. When the coronavirus pandemic hit in 2020 Hunt decided it was time to sell his shop to Basile. Hunt never regretted it because he was happy the younger barber had an interest in barbering and the movement behind it.

But he wasn't ready to hang up his clippers.

"Layton asked if he could continue to work one day a week but that turned into him coming every day of the week," said Basile, smiling. "He didn't want to retire. So I didn't hire other people."

Hunt continued to work at the shop until he could no longer tolerate the symptoms he was experiencing from cancer. Basile stopped by each day to give Hunt, who was bedridden, a shave or cut his hair. He would share stories about what their customers were saying which Hunt enjoyed hearing.

Stevenson-Mathews went to see Hunt four days before he died. Although he could not speak, Stevenson-Mathews said Hunt knew he was there.

"As I was leaving, I took his hand and said, 'Thanks you for your service,'" Stevenson-Mathews recalled. "With his free hand he saluted me."



Courtesy Brian Basile



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

Layton Hunt, right, and Brian Basile were more than fellow barbers. Basile said Hunt was his mentor.

Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, left, felt a connection with Hunt. They both grew up in North Carolina where they picked tobacco.

# STEPPING OUT

## Summer **AL FRESCO**

Entice your crowd with the late-season flavors

By Karen Bloom

**D**uring summer's waning weeks, get-togethers outside with family and friends take on even greater appeal.

"Summer means a sudden availability of all sorts of fresh vegetables — from familiar zucchini and eggplant, to more exotic mushrooms and chilies," says award-winning chef Rick Bayless. "Entertaining a summer crowd can be easy, delicious and inexpensive if you let the season's produce do most of the work."

Chef Bayless suggests simple recipes that highlight fresh summer fare. His summer entertaining advice is always worth following, some of which many of us practice already.

**Opt for organic:** Shop your farmers markets. Small local farms promote biodiversity by planting a wide range of produce, are more likely to operate using organic practices, and add to the fabric of their communities. With their homegrown approach to agriculture, these farmers ensure the highest quality of food. Other organic products besides fresh produce are popping up on grocery shelves.

**Know your way around the grill:** Whether using a charcoal or gas grill, heat the grill grate thoroughly before putting food on, and avoid moving the food until it is well-browned. This prevents food from sticking to the grill. Keep a spray bottle filled with water on hand to handle flare-ups that can arise from fat drippings.

**When in doubt, just chill:** Simple marinades can take meat and seafood to a new flavor level. Save time by marinating the main dish for a few hours prior to your guests' arrival. And keep it refrigerated. Then put it on the grill when it's time to eat. A little preparation can lead to big, bold taste.



### Skewered Shrimp with Black Bean-Lemon Rice

#### Marinade/dressing:

- 3/4 cup extra virgin olive oil
- 1/4 cup red wine vinegar
- 3 tablespoons lemon juice
- 2 medium garlic cloves, minced
- 1 1/2 teaspoons salt
- 3/4 teaspoon coarsely ground black pepper

#### Skewers:

- 24 large raw, headless, peeled shrimp, with tails on (about 1 pound)
- 24 whole green onions, trimmed to 6 inches in length
- 24 cherry tomatoes
- 2 poblano chili peppers, seeded and cut into 24 pieces
- 8 12-inch bamboo skewers, soaked in water

#### Rice:

- 3 cups hot cooked brown rice
- 15 ounces canned black beans, rinsed and drained
- 1/4 cup chopped cilantro
- 3 teaspoons grated lemon zest

Whisk marinade ingredients in small bowl. Reserve 1/2 cup mixture in separate bowl and set aside. Place shrimp in a resealable plastic bag, pour marinade over shrimp, seal tightly and coat well. Refrigerate 30 minutes, turning frequently.

Remove shrimp from marinade (reserving marinade). Place shrimp on skewers, alternating with tomatoes, chilies and onions (folded in half).

Preheat grill on high heat. Brush skewers with reserved marinade and cook 4 to 5 minutes on each side or until shrimp are opaque in center. Place remaining marinade in a small saucepan on the grill to heat slightly. Toss rice with black beans, cilantro and lemon zest.

To serve: Top rice with skewers and spoon remaining marinade over skewers.



### Grilled Vegetables with Ginger Citrus Mayonnaise

- 2 each crookneck or summer squash, baby zucchini, large whole carrots, large fennel or 3 medium fennel bulbs
- 5 to 6 shallots
- Kosher salt and freshly cracked black pepper
- Extra virgin olive oil

#### For the Ginger Citrus Mayonnaise:

- 3 juicy oranges, grapefruits, Meyer lemons, mineolas, tangerines, Mandarins, blood oranges, etc., cut in half (6 halves total)
- 3 tablespoons (or more for desired consistency) store bought preferred mayonnaise
- Kosher salt and freshly ground pepper
- 1/4 teaspoon cayenne pepper
- 1/2 teaspoon ground ginger
- Preheat grill for vegetables.

To make the mayonnaise, squeeze all the juice out from 5 of the 6 citrus halves into a saucepan and bring to a boil over high heat. When juice begins to boil, lower heat to medium-high and reduce juice until thick and syrupy, being careful not to let it burn.

Remove from heat, pour into a bowl, and allow to cool slightly. (At this point you can grill the vegetables). Whisk in mayonnaise, ginger, and cayenne pepper until smooth. Squeeze in juice from last remaining citrus half, and season to taste with salt and pepper.

Cut all veggies in half lengthwise, rub all sides sparingly with olive oil, and sprinkle with salt and black pepper. Grill, cut side down first, for 4 to 6 minutes if small, 5 to 8 minutes if large pieces. Flip so skin side is down, and grill all an additional 1 to 2 minutes, until all veggies are firm but easily sliced with a knife.

Serve on platter alongside bowl of ginger citrus mayonnaise or drizzled on top of vegetables.



### The Rocketman Show

Rus Anderson dons the famous boots, outfits and glasses, ready to demonstrate once again his talent and pizzazz for embodying the musical legend that is Sir Elton John. Anderson has built a reputation of seamlessly embodying Elton John's persona. He even caught the attention of the man himself, impressing him so much that Anderson was his official body double for his 'Farewell Yellow Brick Road' World Tour projects, re-creating highlights of Elton's career in virtual reality. Anderson has a natural ease at personifying John's flamboyancy, sequins and songs, but also does it with genuine authenticity — always singing the vocals and playing the instruments live. Whether it be Elton John's more upbeat tempos, such as 'I'm Still Standing' or 'Saturday Night's Alright,' or his heartfelt ballads, Anderson will have you on your feet joining in. He painstakingly recreates those memorable concerts with the colorful and flamboyant costumes — including Elton's iconic boots, glasses and jumpsuits.

Friday, Aug. 11, 8 p.m. \$65, \$45, \$35, \$30. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or [ParamountNY.com](https://www.ParamountNY.com).



### Half Step

Whether or not you're a Deadhead, Half Step will have everyone feeling the vibe, when the band rocks out Eisenhower Park. The band, themselves a group of dedicated fans and 'students' of the Grateful Dead, capture the spirit, improvisation, sound and complexity of the Dead's music. Since 2004, these Long Island-based musicians have been mastering their craft while winning over crowds of veteran Deadheads, newcomers and non-Dead fans alike. Like the Grateful Dead themselves, the band is constantly pushing the envelope, growing together as musicians and performers. Their attention to detail is clearly evident in their effort to put on a viable Grateful Dead experience. They stay true to the traditional show format and play sets of tunes in a sequence that could likely have been performed by the Dead themselves years ago.

Saturday, Aug. 12, 8 p.m. Free admission. Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow. For information, visit [NassauCountyNY.gov](https://www.NassauCountyNY.gov).

# THE SCENE



**Aug. 18**

## Disco fever

Boogie along with Disco Unlimited, Friday, **Aug. 18**, at 8 p.m., at Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park. When Disco Unlimited hits the stage, you are instantly transported to a time when Saturday nights meant white suits, platform shoes and your very best dance moves. And dance you will — when you experience the magic created when the boogie begins. Capturing a time in music that to this day has not been matched, this lively band will exhilarate you with their powerful vocals, tight harmonies and dance grooves — all coupled with a synchronized stage and light show. Close your eyes and you will truly believe you are listening to the original artists. Hear the best of Tavares, France Jolie, The Trammps, Harold Melvin's Blue Notes, Yvonne Elliman, Anita Ward, Denny Terrio, George McCrae, Bonnie Pointer, Melba Moore, Maxine Nightingale, Carol Douglas, and so much more. Joe Cool, Sista Soul, Funky Sista, Strat Cat, Wild Jerry and The MacDaddy comprise this group of unique and experienced musicians who love and live this era of music. As always, bring seating. For information, visit [NassauCountyNY.gov/parks](http://NassauCountyNY.gov/parks).



**Aug. 19**

On stage  
Plaza  
Theatricals  
presents a

tribute to the one and only Barbra Streisand, Saturday, **Aug. 19**, 7:30 p.m. Sharon Owens performs her acclaimed interpretations of Streisand's songbook. It's performed at the Elmont Library Theatre, 700 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont. \$33, \$35. Elmont. For tickets, call (516) 599-6870 or visit [PlazaTheatrical.com](http://PlazaTheatrical.com).

## On exhibit

View the landmark exhibition "Modigliani and the Modern Portrait," at Nassau County Museum of Art. Devoted to the way that Modigliani powerfully re-defined the art of portraiture, the show includes his masterworks along with paintings and drawings by his Parisian contemporaries (Picasso, van Dongen, Laurencin). Modigliani's enduring influence on artists even in our own time is shown in a selection of Contemporary paintings by such important figures as David Hockney, Eric Fischl, Elizabeth Peyton and others. The exhibition is being curated by Dr. Kenneth Wayne, founder of The Modigliani Project, which authenticates paintings and drawings (two of the works in the show have been recently approved by the committee). Through Nov. 5. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or [NassauMuseum.org](http://NassauMuseum.org).

## Dramatic Play

Theatre Playground returns to Long Island Children's Museum with "Dramatic Play!," Monday, **Aug. 14**, 1 p.m., taught by Lisa Rudin, Director of Theatre Playground (who visitors may already know from her role as "Piggie"!)." In this interactive, theater-inspired workshop kids will act out an original story and help choose how it unfolds. Music, props, and sound effects create a theatrical world where participants are immersed in the story. Children are encouraged to express themselves as they create characters, explore different worlds, stretch their imaginations and build self-confidence. This week's theme: The Amazing World of Bugs and Butterflies. Costumes encouraged. Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or [LICM.org](http://LICM.org).



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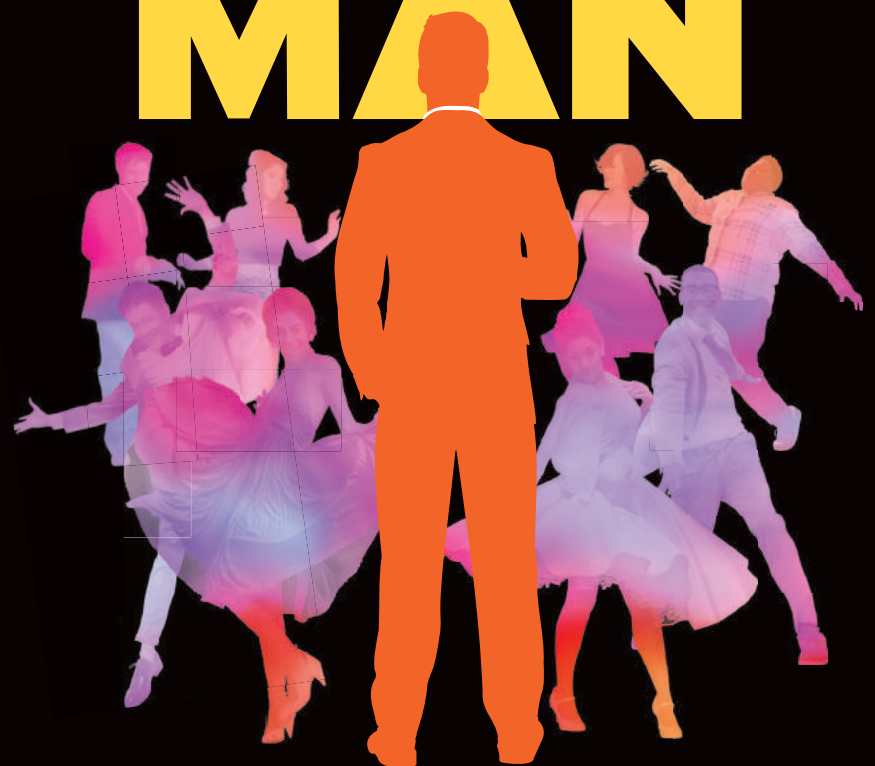
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Aug. 17



### Write on: College essay workshop

Not sure how to get started on your college essay? The Hofstra University Admission Office is offering a virtual workshop to help high school students learn the skills to tell their story in a way that helps them stand out. The final workshop, Thursday, **Aug. 17**, 4-5 p.m., is free and open to the public, but advance registration is required. Hear from Hofstra Admission counselors about how to brainstorm topics, and compose a thoughtful essay that shows your personality, talents and interests. For more information about Hofstra Admission's other virtual summer workshops, go to [Admission.Hofstra.edu/portal/virtual\\_admission\\_webinars](https://Admission.Hofstra.edu/portal/virtual_admission_webinars). To schedule a summer in-person visit go to: [Hofstra.edu/visit](https://Hofstra.edu/visit).

### Art of Grand Central Madison

North Shore Programming Consortium, consisting of the Bayville Free, Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public, Glen Cove Public, Gold Coast Public and Locust Valley Public Libraries, offers virtual program on the art of Grand Central Madison, Monday, **Aug. 14**, starting at 2 p.m. Join presenter Lauren Kaplan as she explores the station's history as well as its series of digital commissions and nature-inspired mosaics. To learn more or register about this program, visit any of the libraries' websites for more details.

### Dancing in the Street

Dancing in the Street, an annual series of free dance evenings in the streets of Oyster Bay, has returned every to the hamlet, continuing **the first two Fridays in August**, from 7 to 9 p.m. Organized by the Oyster Bay Main Street Association, music and dance instruction will be provided by DJ and dancer Louis Del Prete. For more information, call (516) 313-1683 or contact [diane.writes4@gmail.com](mailto:diane.writes4@gmail.com).

### 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).

Aug. 19



### Bug Safari

Bring the kids to Old Westbury Gardens for a buggy adventure, Saturday, **Aug. 19**, 11 a.m. Hunt elusive grasshoppers, butterflies, predatory insects and other crawly creatures in the gardens. Bring a butterfly net and collecting jars. All ages. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information visit [OldWestburyGardens.org](https://OldWestburyGardens.org) or contact (516) 333-0048.

### Westbury House Tour

For many years visitors to Westbury House at Old Westbury Gardens asked what was beyond the first floor corridor. Now go beyond the door and discover "secrets of the service wing," during a 60-minute guided tour, Sunday, **Aug. 13**, 1:30 p.m.; also Sunday, **Aug. 20**, 1:30 p.m. Be introduced to the intensive labor required to create the lifestyle experienced by the Phipps family and their guests; tour the many rooms that were "behind the scenes" to create the formal dining experiences of early 20th century. Go along the corridors to the butler's pantry and silver cleaning room then descend the 17 steps to the kitchen, scullery, and wine storage rooms located on the ground floor. Reservations required. 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information contact (516) 333-0048 or visit [OldWestburyGardens.org](https://OldWestburyGardens.org).



Sept. 7

### Art talk

Grab your lunch and join Nassau County Museum of Art Docent Riva Ettus for her popular "Brown Bag Lecture," now back on-site at Nassau County Museum of Art, Thursday, **Sept. 7**, 1 p.m. Enjoy an in-depth presentation on the current exhibition "Modigliani and the Modern Portrait." Participants are invited to ask questions at the end of the program and to join the 2 p.m. public tour of the exhibit. Also Oct. 19. 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or [NassauMuseum.org](https://NassauMuseum.org).

### 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](https://GlenCoveLibrary.org) or call (516) 676-2130 for more information.

### Morgan Park Summer Music Festival

Enjoy the Allmost Brothers Band, part of the Morgan Park Summer Music Festival, with their tribute to the Allman Brothers, Sunday, **Aug. 13**, beginning at 7 p.m., at Morgan Memorial Park. Germaine St., Glen Cove. For information, visit [MorganParkMusic.org](https://MorganParkMusic.org).

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# Conway will use his playbook to lead Nassau villages

By LAURA LANE

llane@iherald.com

Upper Brookville Mayor Elliot Conway is adding another feather to his cap by taking on the presidency of the Nassau County Village Officials Association, which represents the county's 64 villages. He will also continue to serve Upper Brookville, where he has been the mayor since 2016.

The association focuses on quality of life issues, such as zoning, roads, public safety, and fire and police protection. There is no partisanship in the association, which reflects the lack of sectarianism in every village on Long Island.

Conway has been a popular mayor perhaps in part because he is the only mayor among the 550 villages in New York state to have lowered taxes for seven consecutive years.

"Our tax liability is where it was in 2008," he said. "And at the same time the roads were repaved, we have two full-time staffers, purchased 5 ½ acres on Wolver Hollow Road that will become a park and built a new village hall."

Conway went to his first association meeting with Centre Island Mayor Larry Schmidlapp in 2016. The two have known each other for 40 years.

When Schmidlapp was asked if Conway would be an effective leader at the association he didn't hesitate to reply. "He's a doer," Schmidlapp said. "He's always thinking about grants and how he can do better. Elliot's totally focused on everything around him."

And Conway is thorough. His first order of business as the association's president, he said, will be to conduct a

bottoms-up analysis of the need and capacity for affordable housing. He will consider zoning, the availability of commercial space, infrastructure and the scarcity of water.

The reason why he is gathering the data, Conway said, is to slow down the imposition of Gov. Kathy Hochul's New York Housing Compact plan. Hochul is determined to address the housing shortage by building 800,000 new homes over the next 10 years utilizing a plan to remove the barriers to housing production, while incentivizing new construction.

"Hochul's is a top-down approach where one size fits all. We will do a more customized bottoms-up analysis," Conway explained. "By gathering this crucial data, we will be equipped to make more informed decisions and develop strategies to address actual — not imagined — housing needs."

Conway believes every village is unique. His analysis, he said, will identify the specific needs and opportunities of each village.

"We may find areas with affordable housing potential, but it should not compromise the integrity of existing neighborhoods," he said. "For example, by reviewing existing commercial space, there may be novel solutions that integrate housing and economic development."

One of Conway's concerns is that upgrading infrastructure for housing will become an unfunded mandate from Albany, which would mean higher taxes or reduction of services for current residents.

But Conway isn't taking this on



ELLIOT CONWAY

alone. He is collaborating with the Suffolk County Village Officials and representatives from town supervisors and the county executive. The survey, which should be complete by Thanksgiving, will be brought to Albany, Conway said.

Another goal is for the association to continue to be a forum for best practices among villages. Some of the best ideas Conway's come across, he said, were from networking with the mayors at the association's meetings. He can still remember how valuable his first meeting was when he spoke to the mayor of Farmingdale about the Clean Energy Grant. Conway applied for it and secured \$100,000 in grant funding.

"I called other mayors, and they didn't know about it either and applied for it," Conway said. "I'm hoping the

association can be a clearinghouse for best practices."

He also supports reforming the discovery laws to lift the burden prosecutors face. Public safety is Conway's number one priority. Without it, residents and businesses will continue to leave Long Island, he said. As leaders in their villages, mayors play an invaluable role and can make a difference, Conway said.

"By coming together, pooling our knowledge, and making our collective voices heard, we can make our 64 villages truly valuable," he said. "Our efforts to address the need for affordable housing and advocate for the amendment of discovery laws will not only uplift our communities but enhance the lives of our residents."

Ed Lieberman, a former association president and former mayor of Sea Cliff, said Conway is a civic-minded individual who will be an effective leader.

"He's got a quick wit and can read people," Lieberman said. "Elliot really gets down to business and is quite knowledgeable in the financial world. He makes sound fiscal policy, and we can use that in the Nassau County Village Officials Association."

Conway earned a bachelor's in economics from Cornell University and an MBA from Harvard Business School. He was the managing director and senior credit officer at Citigroup, responsible for structural finance operations and transactions primarily in the United States for 34 years. Conway is married with two grown children and one grandchild.

## Consortium was created at the beginning of June

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

lective, the directors and adult program organizers of the various libraries came together to expand their cooperation, forming the consortium. The five libraries agreed to have each choose and organize three virtual presentations on a variety of subjects.

Officially launching in June, the consortium has been a huge success, according to organizers. Clare Trollo, adult program coordinator at the Gold Coast Public Library, said that through their mutual coordination the libraries have been able to field a much wider range of presentations on a more consistent basis.

"It's been fantastic, it really has," Trollo said.

"It just gives us the opportunity to bring more of a variety of programs to all of our patrons in a real cost-effective way for the libraries."

Thanks to the teamwork between the libraries, all have seen attendance for these presentations skyrocket, some more than doubling from an average of 15 attendees to as many as 50. The response from the public has also been positive.

By pooling their efforts and expenses together, the libraries have also been able to keep their costs down. Each library chooses three programs spending no more than \$300 for each virtual program, a cap that was decided at their initial meeting, which means that each one is spending at most \$900 for a total of 15 presentations.

"So far we've had four programs that we've done, and they've all had great attendance," Marion Dodson, the adult programs coordinator for the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library. "We're all adhering to the \$300 and under rule to stay within cost, since each library has a different budget and we want to make it doable for all of us."

So far, the consortium has organized four virtual programs, and have planned for 11 more over the next four months ranging in topic from "The Art of Grand Central Madison" to "Cats and Dogs Archaeology." Each are held

roughly twice a month.

The consortium launched its own website, which is currently in the early stages of development.

Currently the website offers a basic explanation of what the consortium is along with some of the upcoming programs.

As the consortium grows, the group plans to develop the site more thoroughly.

One North Shore library that is not yet a part of the consortium is the Sea Cliff Village Library.

Kristy Fumante, librarian and adult program coordinator for the Bayville Free Library, emphasized that because Sea Cliff's library wasn't a part of the Genealogy Collective there was no initial contact between them and the other five libraries.

"We're not necessarily excluding Sea Cliff, we just went with it that way because we were sort of used to working with each other on this Genealogy

**S**o now we could really go out and offer topics of so many different interests.

LYDIA WEN

archivist and librarian, Locust Valley Library

Collective," Fumante explained. "There's a possibility that Sea Cliff may be joining us in December-January, once we finish our six-month test period."

All of the consortium's organizers and library directors added that the experience has been a tremendous pleasure for them, and a great opportunity to deepen their connections with their fellow librarians from the different villages.

Jenny Bloom, the director for the Locust Valley Library, added that by working with other libraries, each one has not only provided more cost-effective quality programming for their patrons, but also strengthened each individual library.

"Being a part of a library system is a real asset, and it lets each little library be a little bigger and have more resources than it would on its own," Bloom said. "The more areas we do it in, the better, stronger, more efficient and more responsible with our resources."

To learn more about the consortium and the programs they offer, visit NSP-CLibrary.org.

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## OPINIONS

## Two very hot political subjects

**D**uring my lifetime, the summer months have been a time to just soak up the sun and try to get only as much work done as is necessary. But these days there are more things going on in the political world that I find myself struggling to keep up with, and two of them are worth exploring. One is climate change, and the other is Hunter Biden.



**JERRY  
KREMER**

A dear friend of mine volunteered his thinking about the horrendous weather the world has been experiencing, stating, "There's no such thing as climate change. It's all cyclical."

There are a lot of things that are cyclical. The major

one is the economy. I've lived long enough to have seen major ups and downs in the stock market, and experienced both inflation and recession.

But at no time in my life have I seen virtually the entire world experiencing oppressive heat waves and violent storms. If you travel to Europe in the summer, there's always the chance that you'll run

into brutal heat waves. But recently the temperature of the ocean off south Florida exceeded 100 degrees. That is not a cyclical experience.

I feel a touch of sadness when I see photos of polar bears in the Arctic, stuck on land because ice floes have melted. Many of the western states now have deserts where there were once overflowing streams and lakes. The lack of available drinking water has stirred fights among some of those states, and there is no way to create any new water sources. This past winter, many communities were buried in as much as eight feet of snow with no past history of such accumulations.

Almost every day, there's a report about flash floods killing people. Last month, Westchester, Orange and Rockland counties were hit with torrential rains that caused at least two deaths. Elected officials in those areas likened the rainstorms to waterfalls, and they caused millions of dollars in damage. Government officials attested to the fact that the flooding they caused had no historical precedents.

My second issue is the Republican fixation with President Biden's son, Hunter:

Because the economy is good and the president is championing so many positive things that have happened during his time in office, the opposition party is spending night and day talking about his son.

Which, to be fair, raises the legitimate issue of relatives of presidents capitalizing on their name or contacts.

When Jimmy Carter was president, his brother, Billy, spent all his waking hours promoting the Carter name. He started out with Billy Beer and created many other promotions using the family name. President George H.W. Bush's brothers snagged lucrative business deals. It didn't hurt to have the name Bush.

Then there's Jared Kushner, former President Donald Trump's son-in-law. I have met Jared on a number of occasions, and find him to be a very likable person. But Jared is no Warren Buffett. The Saudi government gave Jared \$2 billion for his investment fund, against the wishes of the government's own finance minister. According to U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission filings as of March 31, Kushner's fund had \$2.5 billion on hand, almost all of it having come from overseas inves-

tors.

It's fair to assume that Jared didn't get his Saudi windfall based on his looks or charm, so being a son-in-law of a president hasn't hurt his brief career as an investor. Has Hunter Biden made thousands, or millions, based on the fact that his last name is Biden? I think that's a fair assumption. Did he break any laws? That's up to prosecutors to determine — not Fox News or Ohio Congressman Jim Jordan, the chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

I could fill volumes of Herald columns with stories about presidential family members benefiting from their last names. I wasn't around during the days of President William Howard Taft, but there are a few stories of lucky relatives dating back even to those times. From now at least until November 2024, many Republican politicians will be spending many of their waking hours pursuing the dirt, real or imagined, on Hunter Biden. I think there are more issues of importance to America than one man's son.

*Jerry Kremer was an Assemblyman for 23 years, and chaired the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee for 12 years. He now heads Empire Government Strategies, a business development and legislative strategy firm. Comments about this column? jkremer@liherald.com.*

**C**limate change is not cyclical, and Republicans are way too focused on Hunter Biden.

## Now, only memories of the Big Top animals

**T**he sweep of history has ushered in the first woman ringmaster for the Ringling Bros. and Barnum & Bailey Circus, and, at the same time, swept out the entire circus, which will close in May. After 146 years in business, the circus decided to put a woman in the center ring, which might have been a step forward if the circus had a future, which it does not.



**RANDI  
KREISS**

Progress cuts in myriad directions. Naturally, I'm delighted that a woman, Kristen Michelle Wilson, was chosen to be in the spotlight. But I'm also delighted that her tenure will be brief. The circus's tent will come

down forever this spring, due to rising expenses, declining audiences and protests by animal rights activists.

Ringling Brothers' elephants were retired to a Florida sanctuary some time ago, presumably due to pressure from animal advocates and the cost of upkeep.

When the circus closes, the clowns will also take their final bow, and not a moment too soon. If you grew up when I did, the circus was a must-see, go-to event every year. It was a big deal when the elephants paraded through New York City,

covered by media and hailed as an entertainment that carried a rich history and promised thrilling, freakish sideshows.

As a kid, though, I hated the circus. I never told my parents, because they seemed so invested in my "big day" at Madison Square Garden, but the whole scene felt skeevey. In the vernacular of the time, the bearded lady, the giant, the midgets and the skinniest man on earth scared the stuffing out of me. I couldn't have articulated it then, but there was something awfully creepy, and just awful, about paying to stare at these people, who we now know suffered from various endocrine imbalances.

There was nothing fun or amusing about the tigers tormented by men with whips, or the elephants prodded into kneeling and dancing and running in a circle, end to end. There was always the sense at the circus, just as there is even today at carnivals, of some malignant force lurking beneath the face paint.

Clowns, for obvious reasons, have become a common source of anxiety among kids today. It's about the fake face, the false smile and the unknowable person behind the mask. I know there's a rich history of great clowns, and I've vacationed in Sarasota, Florida, a town

that had a highly respected Clown College, a place where the Ringling Brothers circus wintered since 1927. Still, I just can't appreciate the appeal of the greasepaint and the big shoes.

Once upon a time, when the circus

came to town in the boondocks, it was a thrill and an opportunity to see something one might never see again. But today, kids raised on videos and iPhones have neither the interest nor the attention span for a circus act. The immense skill of many of the performers eludes them. They want quick. I read that Ringling Brothers, in an effort to survive, kept shortening the acts. But the entertainment value of the circus has lost

relevance for today's children.

If you read "Water for Elephants," by Sara Gruen, you got a good story along with a history of the circus in America over the past 100 years. It wasn't all about sparkly young women and men flying through the air; trapeze to trapeze. The dark side of the circus during the Great Depression was this: When some traveling circuses couldn't afford to pay their workers, they threw them off a bridge before pulling in to the last stop. Animal abuse was rife; living conditions for both humans and animals were often appalling.

In modern times, conditions improved,

**T**he tigers and elephants won't miss the circus. Will we miss the creepy clowns?

**Randi is on a brief leave.  
This column was originally  
published Feb. 2-8, 2017.**

but the basic concept of subjecting wild animals to a lifetime of captivity and forced performance has become disturbing and unacceptable. In "Water for Elephants," Rosie the elephant is prodded with gaffs and burned with cigarettes. When she goes berserk at the end and runs a spear through her trainer's head, we root for Rosie.

There is a theory that culture and society evolve as time goes on, that we get better and more considerate of one another and increasingly sensitized to the needs of other inhabitants of our earth and even those of the earth itself. Still, this is a theory.

Many aspects of life in 2017 challenge the concept of an evolving society. In many ways, especially politically, we seem to be falling back.

But the end of the circus is a good thing, a progressive thing. Millions are left with great memories of the Big Top and the times the circus came to town. We can hold on to the good memories and also embrace modern sensibilities that are offended by the exploitation of animals.

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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## Moving MLK's dream forward

America will soon mark 60 years since the March on Washington. On Aug. 28, 1963, some 250,000 people gathered peacefully at the Lincoln Memorial to advocate for civil and economic rights for Black Americans.

Although it was a protest against racial discrimination, it also was an opportunity to show support for major civil rights legislation that had stalled in Congress.

It's important to remember what happened that day, and the changes it brought for Black Americans, while reflecting on what remains to be done to eliminate racial discrimination. Understanding history is important to avoid repeating what was bad and using what was good as a springboard for further positive change.

Black Americans were hopeful after the election of President John F. Kennedy. Roughly 70 percent of Blacks had voted for Kennedy in 1960. Their expectations were high for change, but Kennedy's narrow victory seemingly negated any voter mandate, leading him to be cautious in moving forward on controversial issues like civil rights legislation because he needed the support of the South, where racial discrimination was still the norm.

The march came together because hopes had been dashed that Kennedy would make any of the needed changes.

The president did not initially support the march, worried that there would be a disorderly mob prompting chaos. Seeing the big picture, Kennedy also thought the march might destroy public support for the civil rights movement, even making matters worse as racial tensions heightened nationwide.

But after meeting with organizers, Ken-

edy was behind the march by July.

At the Lincoln Memorial, the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. gave his historic "I Have a Dream" speech. The 34-year-old preacher from Atlanta gave people hope at a time in history when there was anything but that for Black people. Discrimination was rampant. The Ku Klux Klan was active around the country, and especially in the South. Black people could not live in white neighborhoods, use the same water fountains, attend the same schools or, in some states, even vote. They had to sit at the back of the bus and were not served in many restaurants.

Even here, a lot of Long Island was built with segregation securely in place, controlling where people lived and where their children went to school. Blacks and whites had to remain separate when it came to friendship and even love. Intermarriage was illegal, and it was a common belief — albeit a very wrong one — that Blacks were not as intelligent as whites. They were not even permitted to swim in the same pools as white people.

Kennedy never stopped trying to pass his Civil Rights Act. But it was President Lyndon Johnson who signed it into law after Kennedy's assassination.

The law ultimately supported what the march was all about. It was a guarantee that Blacks would have equal voting rights, outlawed discrimination in restaurants, employment and theaters, and encouraged school desegregation.

The march was also responsible for the 24th Amendment to the U.S. Constitution, outlawing the poll tax, which was a requirement for some to vote.

Yet there is much that still needs to be

done. The FBI released a report this spring showing that hate crimes are on the rise, with far more than half of them targeting people because of their race or ethnicity. Additionally, the distribution of racist, antisemitic and anti-LGBTQ propaganda — flyers, stickers, banners, graffiti and posters — rose by 38 percent in 2022, according to the Anti-Defamation League.

Next year, voters will weigh in on New York's Equal Rights Amendment, designed to prohibit discrimination based on ethnicity, national origin, age, disability, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, pregnancy and pregnancy outcomes. While Albany has created a number of laws over the years to ensure equality, the ERA would enshrine it in the state Constitution.

It seems the perfect time to remember the March on Washington and Dr. King's inspiring words. There are plans underway for a march down Constitution and Independence avenues in Washington on Aug. 28 that will conclude at the Lincoln Memorial. It will be led by Martin Luther King III and his wife, Arndrea Waters King, as well as the Rev. Al Sharpton, a civil rights leader and the founder and president of the National Action Network.

The hope is that the march will inspire the continuation of Dr. King's work and vision, and serve as an opportunity to highlight what is still needed to bring about peace, justice and equity around the world.

"The vision that Dad had is not one that cannot be achieved," Martin Luther King III told The Washington Post. "We have made great strides, and then there seems to be always an inevitable setback."

## LETTERS

### We have a municipal employee problem

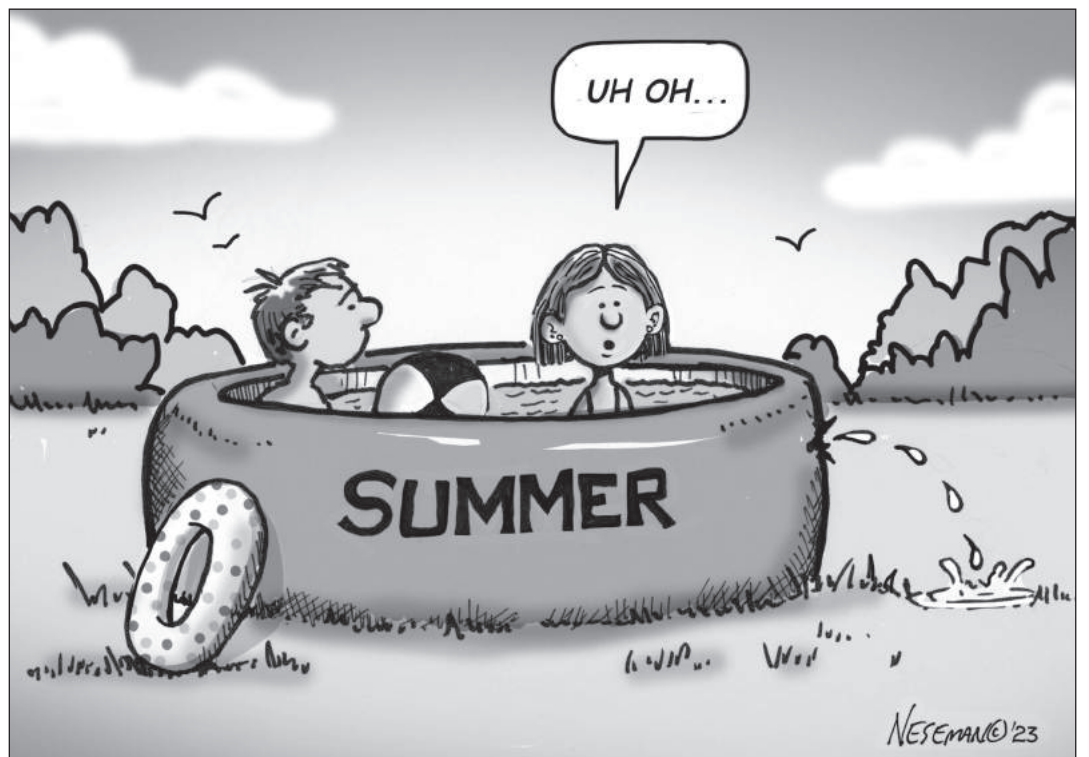
To the Editor:

"City workers say raises are long overdue" (July 20-26) exposed a toxic work environment between the mayor of Glen Cove and the municipal employees in the Department of Public Works. This is not constructive in serving our community, and can be very costly for our taxpayers.

Municipal employees, like everyone else, deserve to be appreciated for their work and to be treated with dignity. Our residents deserve good services, paved roads and a safe and clean environment, which are the results of a positive work environment.

GEORGE MARAGOS

Democratic Candidate for Glen Cove Mayor



## OPINIONS

# A glimpse into the heart

It was dated June 10, 1927, written from a home no longer standing at Exchange Street in Rochester, to a young woman in Ellicottville named Lola.

"I am not driving taxi now. I quit Sunday night. Monday morning, I went to work again for the Salvation Army. Am not driving truck this time, but am helping on a wagon. I quit Sunday night. Monday morning, I went to work again for the Salvation Army. Am not driving truck this time, but am helping on a wagon. I hope to get back on a truck again soon, but I am satisfied to get three square meals a day, and a bed to sleep in."



**MICHAEL  
HINMAN**

Lola, by the way, is my grandmother. The young man struggling to make ends meet at the height of the

Roaring '20s? OK, not hard to figure out: That's my grandfather Donald. The curative stretched across both sides of the yellowed, card-size paper, sharing much of the mundanity many of us today might reserve for text messages or a quick phone call while driving home.

"While you were in Buffalo, did you go to any shows, where they had Vitaphone pictures?" my grandfather asks.

"In other words, 'talking movies.' I saw my first one here at Rochester, and it certainly is wonderful. I go to it nearly every night. There is no reading at all on the screen."

I found this letter at the bottom of a box of family heirlooms a cousin of mine keeps at her home in Florida, and I was mesmerized. I have very little memory of my paternal grandparents. Lola died when I was still an infant, and Donald when I was in kindergarten.

When I was growing up, my father would share many stories about his relationship with his parents — none of them good. Both would work all day, and at quitting time, they didn't come home. Instead, they headed to the bar, where they would drown any remaining daylight with booze.

My dad and his siblings were left to fend for themselves, his older sister — by just a year — filling in as caretaker. When either of his parents were home, it was never pleasant. My dad shared how he once saved a bunch of money he earned setting pins at a local bowling alley so he could take an art course.

When his mom found the stash of coins, she took it and spent in on a two-tone, brown Easter suit for my dad.

He was so angry, he wore that suit every day — whether it was a formal occasion or he was outside playing. The suit barely made it a month.

My life wasn't like that at all, thank goodness. My dad never touched alcohol or cigarettes, which might explain why he's about to turn 90 with the energy and health of a 60-year-old.

My mom worked so hard to provide for my little sister and me — the youngest of the seven children my parents had from previous marriages and their current one. A day for her could include driving a bus and then working at night as a bartender. Both of my parents grew up wanting for many things, and they ensured that their children wanted for nothing.

What I wouldn't give, however, to see the letters my mom and dad exchanged after they first met at a roller-skating rink. They were hardly the young adults my grandparents were — both already experiencing marriage and divorce, and raising kids as part of it.

Instead, all I have is the memory of the notes they would leave each other every morning. My dad addressed his notes to "Sweetheart" and signed them "Sweetheart," while my mom opted for "Honey."

I remember how irritated I would be to see these notes between them. Now, more than 30 years later, I would give anything just to find one of them at the bottom of a box somewhere. They may have been just as mundane as some of the letters between my grandparents, but still, each word is an expression of them. And thus, every note is a vital piece of my parents that I long to have again.

Writing letters — writing notes — has become a lost art in the century since Donald wrote to Lola. But even today, there's something special — even romantic — about not choosing a keyboard or a touchscreen, and instead picking up a pen and finding a sheet of paper.

I'm glad my grandfather did. And I'm glad my grandmother saved it. Because in those pages, I don't see the grandparents I only heard about through my father. Instead we get a special glimpse into their hearts.

*Michael Hinman is executive editor of Herald Community Newspapers.*

## LETTERS

### Can we control artificial intelligence?

To the Editor:

Re Mark Nolan's column in last week's issue, "We don't have much time — AI is coming!": Mr. Nolan's warning is timely. His most frightening sentence is, "AI's only limitation is that it is constrained by our limitations." Closer scrutiny of "our limitations" clarifies the nature and degree of the threat. Our limits, as humans, on perfidy and domination have yet to be found. Some among us already are, and will always, use any tool available to advance nefarious ends. Unity of the benevolent is necessary to limit the damage.

Our control as individuals over AI is minuscule. Whatever controls there are over its use, development or deployment are in the hands of a handful of corporate entities, semi-human creations with the status of

"corporate citizens." These beings operate to maximize profit and to maximize growth toward monopoly.

Creators and users of AI are already calculating its possible per-unit cost reductions. Workers will be sacrificed on the usual bloody altars of efficiency, consolidation and market share. Citizens and corporate citizens have divergent interests here, but the history of .com, Enron, default swaps, the inviolability of trade secrets and class action restrictions, to name a few, our business/market-friendly Supreme Court, overwhelming majorities must mobilize, rapidly, toward a clear goal.

Time is not on our side. Regulating this industry as a public utility, at least for a decade, while a plan for its most reasonable, least harmful integration into our culture, economy and polity is possible. But ...

BRIAN KELLY  
Rockville Centre

### FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



Is there any finer art than the details of life? — At the Queens County Farm Museum

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