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HERALD PERSON OF THE YEAR CONNIE PINILLA



derstand the language, made me go for the law degree,” Pinilla said.

After 18 years with DTCC, Pinilla changed careers so she could spend more time with her then 9-year-old daughter, venturing into the world of real estate and law. She eventually opened both the Law Office of Constanza Pinilla and the Connie Pinilla Team at Compass real estate, in Manhasset.

She eventually moved to Glen Cove after her daughter graduated from high school in Manhasset. Pinilla decided that the city was the right place for her after showing many of her real estate clients the area. She felt comfort in its quiet neighborhoods.

Pinilla initially got involved with the Kiwanis Club of North Shore, but found her way to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce after seeing an advertisement for it in the Herald. The new organization was seeking a legal counsel who was fluent in Spanish. When she responded to the ad, she met its president, Ever Padilla.

Padilla had struggled with many of the legal details of estab-

Continued on page 2

Courtesy Connie Pinilla

Since joining the chamber when it was created three years ago, Connie Pinilla has made it her mission to bridge communication gaps between the North Shore’s Latino and non-Latino communities.

Enriching the cultural tapestry of Glen Cove

By Roksana Amid

As the first female president of the North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce, Connie Pinilla has helped small businesses connect with the Glen Cove community. Since joining the chamber when it was created three years ago, Pinilla has made it her mission to bridge communication gaps between the North Shore’s Latino and non-Latino communities.

In honor of her selfless nature and the way she has helped transform that community, the Herald is proud to name Pinilla its Person of the Year.

Born in Bogota, Colombia, Pinilla came to the United States at age 5 with her mother and seven siblings. After her parents divorced, her mother’s goal was to provide her children with a better life and education, something she couldn’t do as a housewife in Columbia.

When Pinilla’s family arrived in New York, they lived in Jackson Heights, Queens. While her mother worked long hours cleaning offices in Manhattan, Connie’s oldest sister took care of the family. A decade later, her mother moved the family to Kew Gardens, where Connie graduated from Jamaica High School.

She eventually became a lawyer, but she began her career in economics. After earning a degree at New York University, she entered the workforce as a manager in the finance department of Depository Trust and Clearing Corp. She went on to earn a law degree at St. John’s University while working with the legal department of DTCC as a strategic international product developer.

The struggles her mother faced as an immigrant working in the United States were a reminder of the importance of an education. Pinilla’s mother didn’t read English well, and had a hard time with even simple tasks like requesting sick leave from work. Through her teenage years, Pinilla helped her translate documents to get the care she needed.

“The love of education, and the realization that perhaps some people may not be given their due rights because they don’t un-

She’s not only a smart and savvy ... she brings that compassion as president of the (Hispanic) chamber.

GAITLEY STEVENSON-MATHEWS
second vice president and public relations officer,
Hispanic Chamber

2024
HAPPY
NEW YEAR
to all our readers

What’s INSIDE



On Purim kids were able to enjoy a variety of crafts.

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Santos referred to his indictment as a 'witch hunt!'

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Taking a break from miniature golf to chill out.

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FOR BREAKING NEWS go to liherald.com

Connie Pinilla helps Latino communities connect

She brings compassion and kindness to her work

Continued from front

lishing a nonprofit, and Pinilla's experience in the corporate world as well as law, and her fluency in Spanish, were just what Padilla needed to get the organization up and running. She became its first vice president.

The chamber was in its first year of operation when the coronavirus pandemic crippled much of the nation's economy. Pinilla took a long look at the financial needs of the Hispanic community on the North Shore, and, thinking back to the struggles her family faced with language barriers, she helped create a series of webinars to provide resources for chamber members needing advice on things like PPE loans.

At the beginning of 2023, Pinilla became the Hispanic chamber's first woman president, and over the past year she has continued to focus on strengthening community bonds among the Hispanic community, schools and businesses. The chamber's involvement in grass-roots initiatives such as food and toy drives, and its collaborations with local schools, reflect its commitment to addressing the needs of the community.

Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, 2nd vice president and public relations of-

ficer for the chamber expressed admiration for Pinilla's leadership.

"She's not only a smart and savvy businesswoman, she brings great compassion to her work, and she brings that compassion as president of the chamber," Stevenson-Mathews said. "People not only see that, but they also feel it, and that makes such a big difference in our organization."

Since she took over, Pinilla has offered a number of workshops for Latino businesses, and made the most of her skills as a bilingual communications bridge. She teamed up with Jill Nossa, executive director of the Glen Cove Business Improvement District, on a joint initiative to reach out to local Hispanic businesses, which often shied away from interacting with the BID because of the language barrier.

"It's, sadly, a very big barrier, because it makes each side think that they're different, when in fact they're not," Pinilla said. "All of us want the same thing, which is for our businesses to flourish, for our children to get an education and

for us to have a safe home."

Reflecting on the BID's interactions with businesses, Nossa acknowledged that Pinilla has had a positive impact, breaking down barriers and facilitating smoother communication. Some Latino

businesses have become more receptive to engaging with the BID. In September, the duo established what they hope will be an annual Hispanic Heritage Month celebration in Village Square.

David Thompson, owner of Extradentary Auto, said he is thankful for the insight and kindness that Pinilla has shown the Hispanic community.

"I could call her any time for help, and that's not just me," Thompson said. "She's that type of person to the whole community."

Bryce Klatsky, principal of Connolly Elementary School, approached Pinilla before the school's Hispanic Heritage Month celebration three years ago to brainstorm how the school could become more inclusive, and they decided to hold an annual Hispanic-themed

block party at the school. Klatsky said that Pinilla's dedication to fostering inclusivity has not only enriched the school's cultural tapestry, but also created lasting memories for its students, whose families and teachers joined in to share their cultural heritage through food, dance and lively interaction. The block party became a symbol of the school's diversity, encouraging students to connect with their roots and fostering a deeper understanding among them.

"One of my favorite memories with Connie is when she comes to the block parties, she's always dancing with the kids — she'll hold kids by the hand and spin them around," Klatsky recalled. "She's a pleasure to work with."

Reflecting on her first year as president of the Hispanic chamber, Pinilla said that her roles as a mother, businesswoman and community leader can be tough to balance, but the difference she makes helps keep her going.

"It's heartwarming to see how these families and businesses have changed," Pinilla said. "Sometimes I say God has put me here for whatever reason to be able to help the people that needed it the most."

It's heartwarming to see how these families and businesses have changed.

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HERALD NEIGHBORS

The Greco's toy drive spreads holiday joy

The holiday season brings about the spirit of giving, which signals it's time for Luigi and Maria Greco's Miracle of Christmas toy drive — a holiday tradition for the last 13 years at the Church of St. Rocco.

Rows of tables at the Church of St. Rocco were filled with toy trucks and trains, plush unicorns and even art supplies for the more creative youth. Cookies, cakes, brownies and candy canes were also given to make the evening even sweeter.

The couple originally began their mission to help families in need by collecting donations at their Glen Cove home. From there, they spread holiday joy to children at Glen Cove Hospital. Seeing the rise in popularity, Luigi Greco, the church's youth minister, asked if the toy drive could be held at St. Rocco's instead of the couple's home.

Luigi said he wanted to not only help to spread holiday cheer, but to also show youth volunteers the joy that comes with helping one's neighbors.

"When our kids were little, they always had the biggest Christmas wish lists," Luigi recalled. "That's why we started. That way you're not just getting something on your list, you can donate to others."

For the past seven years, the drive at St. Rocco has featured Christmas carolers, and visits from Santa and his elves to spread holiday cheer for children. One child, Erik Hansen, was diagnosed with a rare malignant soft tissue tumor called myoepithelial carcinoma growing inside his upper left arm. His mother, Mariella Hansen, said she discovered the growth last April as she was tending to his mosquito bites. But even after multiple rounds of radiation, Erik could be found at St. Rocco playing with toy trains and receiving hugs from Santa.

This year, the drive collected over 600 toys for Glen Cove Hospital, Nassau University Medical Center and NYU Langone Hospital on Long Island.

The toy drive collected over 600 toys to donate to local hospitals.



Erik Hansen loved playing with the toy trains at the Miracle of Christmas toy drive.

Roksana Amid/Herald photos



Kaiden Gales and Melania Marial seized the moment and jumped into a pile of stuffed animals.



Santa Clause visited the Church of St. Rocco to help collect toys for families needing some holiday cheer.



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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Photos courtesy Woman's Club of Glen Cove

The luncheon hosted by The Woman's Club of Glen Cove included entertainment provided by Esther Beckman from the group Now and Then.

The Woman's Club of Glen Cove rings in the holiday season

The Woman's Club of Glen Cove hosted its annual Christmas luncheon at The View Grille on Dec 19. Members and their guests enjoyed delicious offerings and a fun afternoon that included live entertainment provided by the trio Now and Then.

Everyone also had an opportunity to

join in to win the large number of gift baskets that were raffled off and the ever popular 50/50 hosted by Happy Skvarla.

The club remembered those in need by way of donated toys and food that was delivered to Nosh to be given to the food insecure in the community.

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New Thinking for the New Year

This past year was so full of negative news and events, it is easy to lose sight of the fact that much is going right.

"Every day may not be good, but there is something good in every day." — Alice Morse Earle

"If you don't like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."
 — Maya Angelou

"Mind is a flexible mirror, adjust it, to see a better world." — Amit Ray

"Things turn out best for the people who make the best of the way things turn out."
 — John Wooden

"Optimism is a happiness magnet. If you stay positive, good things and good people will be drawn to you."
 — Mary Lou Retton

"In every difficult situation is potential value. Believe this, then begin looking for it."
 — Norman Vincent Peale

"The positive thinker sees the invisible, feels the intangible, and achieves the impossible."
 — Winston Churchill

"You'll never find a rainbow if you're looking down." — Charlie Chaplin

"Happiness is the only thing that multiplies when you share it." — Albert Schweitzer

"The more you praise and celebrate your life, the more there is in life to celebrate."
 — Oprah Winfrey

We are grateful for your support, dear reader, and wish you and your loved ones the very best for a Happy New Year.

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Members and their guests enjoyed an afternoon of music and raffles.

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YEAR IN REVIEW January 2023



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

City reflects on King's message of equal rights. Jeremiah Dominique led the audience in the Pledge of Allegiance, and Sheryl Goodine was the emcee. Their voices entertained and inspired the crowd as it reflected on King's message.



Tim Baker/Herald

First responders at story time. After the event was over, everyone said one last goodbye marking the day with a photograph. Sienna Quiroz, made sure he wore his fire helmet to the event.



Courtesy C-SPAN

Late-night hosts take first jabs at Santos scandal. U.S. Rep. elect George Santos sat mostly alone on the U.S. House floor during the Speaker elections, standing up only to cast his vote for Republican leader Kevin McCarthy. But his presence on the floor — along with the scandals he brought with him to Washington — opened up the North Shore politician to ridicule on the late-night talk shows



Courtesy Gill Associates Photography

New year begins with sunshine and high spirits. Although the event was postponed by one day, a large crowd gathered in Village Square to celebrate the beginning of the new year, a great opportunity for friends, family and neighbors to reflect on their hopes for the future.



Laura Lane/Herald

G.C. school crossing guard, a 'man of steel,' leaves hospital. Carlos Vazquez was overwhelmed by the support he received from the Glen Cove Hospital's staff when released from Glen Cove Hospital. He was hit by a car on Oct. 6 while attending to his duties as a crossing guard for the Glen Cove City School District.

YEAR IN REVIEW February 2023



Roni Chastain/Herald

Lads and lassies celebrate Burns night in style. Fiddle player Calum Pasqua, who played during the evening, is the first American to win the Glenfiddich Fiddle Championship.



Courtesy Junk Koture

Natalia Monsale's stylish journey to Dubai. Natalia Monsale presented her dress, "Grandstar" during the Junk Koture competition. The environmentally-friendly dress, made of recycled materials, impressed the judges.



Courtesy John Zozzaro

City's chef competes in 'Tailgate Takedown.' Hosts Vince Wilfork and Sunny Anderson joined John Zozzaro and Angelo Competiello to celebrate the duo's win. Competiello showed off the Yum-Bardi Trophy while standing alongside judges Ian Rapoport and Chef Eddie Jackson.



Roni Chastain/Herald

Encouraging young readers. Reading teacher Patty Lucci, far left, PTA President Marian Iovino, fourth-grade teacher Lorraine Clementz and substitute teacher Evan Greenberg show off the books that students read during the school's reading week.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Traveling to D.C. by bus to protest Rep. George Santos. Casey Sabella, far right, an organizer with the group Courage for America, delivered petitions from constituents of the 3rd Congressional District to a staffer outside the Washington office of U.S. Rep. George Santos. Sabella and others called on Santos to resign during a trip to Capitol Hill ahead of President Biden's State of the Union address.

YEAR IN REVIEW March 2023



Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

District celebrates collegiate commitment. Everyone had cake to congratulate Londell Wheeler on his many achievements as a student and as an athlete.



Adrienne Daley/Herald

Sunshine, smiles at St. Patrick's Day parade. A leprechaun, far right, told Aidan Logan where to find a pot of gold.



Adrienne Daley/Herald

Female firsts share stories of success. Vice admiral Joanna Nunan, left, and Martine Materasso, chief of the New York Police Department's Counterterrorism Bureau and the commanding officer of the NYPD's 41st Precinct, shared stories at the International Women's Day Female First Conference on March 20 at Glen Cove City Hall.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Phoenix Rising fundraiser will help VFW rebuild. Evelyn Kandel received the 2023 Impact Award from Wayne Cohen. She was honored for her service as a marine and her contributions as a poet.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Purim carnival fun at Congregation Tiferith Israel. Jack Bader, who dressed up as one of his favorite superheroes for the Purim carnival at Congregation Tiferith Israel, in Glen Cove, enjoyed the arts and crafts table with his mother, Victoria.

YEAR IN REVIEW April 2023



Tim Baker/Herald

Opening day parade celebrates Little Leaguers. Sienna Quirros, and Emma Longobucco marched towards the stadium ready to play ball.



Adrienne Daley/Herald

Egg-citing Easter finds at the city's Morgan Park. Azariah and Nylah Ladeira teamed up to find the candy-filled eggs.



Courtesy Nassau County legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

Men's shelter give back to their community. Ann Marie Gallious, Ron Bieber, Tony Jimenez, Lester Burnett and Bob Koehler help prepare food for shelter residents. Much of the food shelter residents receive are home cooked or donated by local businesses.



Tim Baker/Herald

Volunteer EMT is laid to rest. Emergency Medical Technician Susan Giovanniello's colleagues carry her coffin from St. Rocco Roman Catholic Church on April 6. Many of the mourners were heartbroken over the teenager's tragic death.



Courtesy Amy Garay Solomon

Adult Day Program members' art featured in a museum. Mary Keogan, couldn't have been happier when discovering her dreamcatcher at the exhibition.

YEAR IN REVIEW May 2023



Herald file photo

Santos Indicted. U.S. Rep. George Santos, right, denied all of the charges against him, taking a page out of the Donald Trump legal defense book by calling the case against him a 'witch hunt.'



Tab Hauser/Herald

Community remembers 'Mrs. Trav,' GCHS secretary. Marcia Travatello was a beloved mother who worked at the Glen Cove City School District. She is remembered as someone with a kind heart.



Tim Baker/Herald

Penny's Flight takes off on quest to find a cure for NF. Kate Doerge, who held a fundraiser, is spreading the word about the foundation she and her husband, Chad, founded to find a cure for neurofibromatosis — Penny's Flight. Their daughter, Penny, died of the disease last November.



Tim Baker/Herald

Chamber offers evening of culinary delights. Glen Cove Hospital chefs Eric Sieden, far left, Zach Finelli and Pietro Fischetti prepare mouth-watering steaks for the evening.



Courtesy Victoria Crosby

Gem of the North Shore continues to shine. James Donaldson, who died in 2022, helped restyle an anniversary ring for Grace and John Cristando in 2012. Many fondly remember Donaldson for his caring nature and his love of the North Shore community.

YEAR IN REVIEW

June

2023



Courtesy Northwell Health

Celebrating special day for cancer survivors.

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.



Tab Hauser/Herald

Memorial Day honors our fallen heroes. Shawn Murray, and Carol Murray, honored Dennis Murray, a Vietnam veteran who died in 1969.



Roksana Arndt/Herald

Chef marks 10 years at the View Grill. Chef Jeanine DiMenna of the View Grill, known for her compassionate spirit, is marking her 10-year anniversary as owner of the eatery, where she's helped forge touching memories with the people around her.



Kim Mancuso/Herald

Book Fairies spread the magic of reading. Ethan Gioverla, left, received some help from Terese Mora, right, when deciding what book to take home for his summer reading.



Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

Deasy students win third at Albany competition. District Superintendent Maria Rianna took Jacob Palazzo, left, Dru Wilson and Tommy Scagliola out for ice cream to celebrate to celebrate their hard work at the State-wide Elementary Mathematics Tournament in Albany.



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YEAR IN REVIEW July 2023



Tab Hauser/Herald

City's annual vintage baseball game a hit. Councilman Jack Mancusi threw the first pitch of the game, a tradition that marks the start of the game.



Adrienne Daley/Herald

Bike parade indicative of city's patriotism. Paisley Bujnowski, cruised down the streets of Glen Cove during the bike parade.



Tim Baker/Herald

Commuters can now skip some LIRR stops. Commuters who frequent the Glen Cove station will need to head to either Glen Street or Locust Valley stations for their morning commutes.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Congregation Tiferith Israel thanks its heroes. Chris, left, Armando, Rosario, and Steven Garcia are thankful for the recognition their family has received from Congregation Tiferith Israel. They consider the house of worship to be their second home.



Roksana Amid/Herald

City plans for its future. Emily Junker, left and Gracie Donaldson Cipriano discussed the many aspects of the city's comprehensive plan. Cipriano asked questions about the planning process, while also sharing her ideas on how to make the city better.

YEAR IN REVIEW August 2023



Roksana Amid/Herald

The View Grill may be replaced next spring. Chef Jeanine DiMenna of The View Grill will see her lease expire in February. An RFP for the property was issued on July 10.



Roksana Amid/Herald

First responders connect with community. Charles Drowns, left, gave Amelio and Pascqualina Giovanniello a close look at the FBI equipment. Amelio said he wants to be an FBI agent when he grows up.



Adrienne Daley/Herald

The best feast in the east celebrated big time. St. Rocco's feast had many games, rides and sweet treats to offer guests.



Tab Hauser/Herald

Level Up raises \$3,500 for cancer research. James, left, and Heather Baxter competed on the high-low jump at Level Up Glen Cove's obstacle course. The wellness center hosted the event to help fund cancer research.



Photo courtesy Gill Associates Photography

Bringing music to G.C.'s Village Square. The crowd at Village Square danced during a fun-filled evening at Downtown Sounds, a perfect occasion to meet with friends and family during the summer.

YEAR IN REVIEW September 2023



Roksana Amid/Herald

Library's book sale, first time in 20 years. Ava, left, and Maria Buchholtz frequent the Glen Cove Library on Saturdays to check out their favorite books for the week. Ava has a reading chart to help meet her reading goals.



Courtesy Katina Csillag

Katina Csillag discovers family lineage through city library. Katina Csillag is the new president of Friends of the Glen Cove Public Library. Patrons like her have used the library's resources to learn new things about the world and their families.



Courtesy Ella Noonan

Colorful cars for inspiration and charity. Jason Naylor spray painted a car cover for onlookers, giving art enthusiasts a glimpse into his creative process.



Roksana Amid/ Herald

Cove Rescue has extra mouths to feed. Abby is a gentle giant. She came to Cove Animal Rescue severely underweight, but the staff put in a lot of care to get her healthy again.



Tab Hauser/Herald

Glen Cove will never forget Sept. 11. Robert Lynch played a touching rendition of 'Amazing Grace,' a song that offers a universal message of hope.

YEAR IN REVIEW October 2023



Courtesy Tribute and Honor Foundation

Veterans celebrated for community service. VFW Post 347 chaplain and 2024 Community Service Award Honoree Chard Ryals cradled his son Patrick in his arms as he led the closing prayer at an event hosted by the Tribute and Honor Foundation at the North Shore Historical Museum.



Adrienne Daley/Herald

Mini Mart makes a triumphant return. Theo Molina, 9-months old, looked at the custom items from the WinesGoneWhatNow booth, which sold up-cycled wine corks and other repurposed vintage items, with his grandmother Esther Cannella.



Samantha Samant/Herald

Bottoms up! The wonder-fall time of year. Matthew and Giana Villatoro had fun pretending which Henry Villatoro captured on film.



Courtesy Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home

Robert Truzzolino always 'treated everyone with respect.' Robert Truzzolino, a longtime commissioner of jurors for Nassau County, died at 70.



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews

Celebrating 100 years of Polish pride in Glen Cove. A Polish American Folk Dance company shared their talent at the centennial celebration of the Polish National Home of Glen Cove.



Roksana Arnid/Herald

Candidates address community concerns.

George Maragos debates incumbent Pamela Panzenbeck for the mayoral seat in Glen Cove.

YEAR IN REVIEW November 2023



Roksana Amid/Herald

North Shore poets prove that anyone can be creatively inspired. Victoria Bjorklund and George Strausman, two of the 13 poets who took Evelyn Kandel's long-standing poetry class, congratulate each other after reading their respective poems at the Sea Cliff Arts Council.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Celebrating downtown's Hispanic businesses. Bella and Hernan Lugo spun around Village Square to keep themselves warm while celebrating their Hispanic heritage.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Daffodils, a sign of hope and community. Emma Eshaghoff, left, and Brianna Pietri planted daffodils outside the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center to honor the children murdered during the Holocaust and the Hamas-led terrorist attack in Israel on Oct. 7.



Roksana Amid/Herald

City Council awards restaurant license to KVM Food. Rachel Bueno, a staff member at The View Grill, said she was upset with the council's overdue vote and added that she thought the RFP process was a facade.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Children join the traditionally spook-tacular Halloween parade. While playing miniature golf, one of several forms of entertainment provided at the Downtown Business Improvement District's annual Children's Costume Parade, Jayce Colon took a break to relax with his pumpkins before the next hole.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Warning period begins school bus law. A camera, circled above, will document motorists who illegally pass a school bus.

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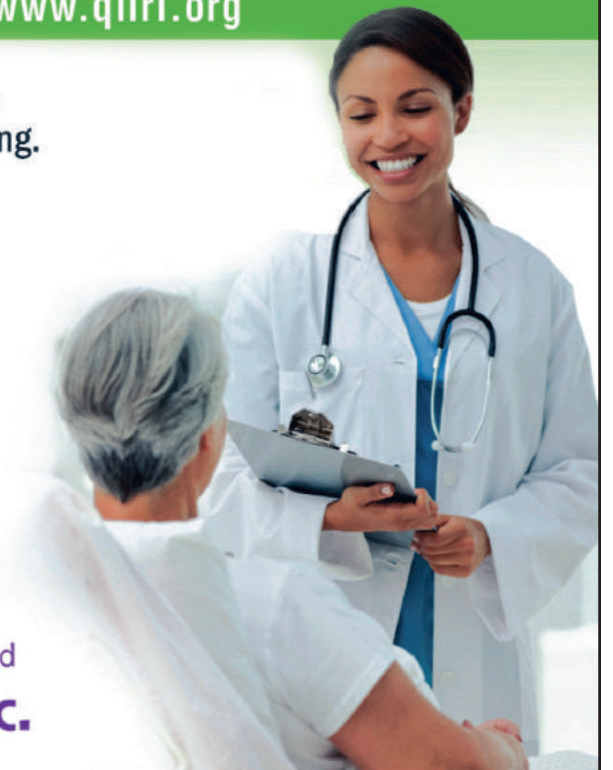
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YEAR IN REVIEW December 2023



Tim Baker/Herald

Glen Cove celebrates the holidays in the downtown. Santa promised Harper Etheridge she would get everything she wanted for Christmas.



Tammy Lanham/Herald

A time of year when the star is a tree. Several people were spotted memorializing the lighted trees in downtown Glen Cove on Dec. 1 at the annual holiday tree lighting. Some even waited in line to do so.



Tammy Lanham/Herald

Tree lighting kicks off holidays, brightens spirits. The sound of hooves clip-clopping on streets were heard from horse-drawn carriages rides in downtown Glen Cove.



Courtesy John Kappenberg

Slayer Players return for another captivating show. Fred DiMenna returns to his role as Ebenezer Scrooge.



Will Sheeline/Herald

Lights off, no one home at Santos' office. George Santos' former district office in Douglaston appears to have been completely abandoned, and it remains unclear when district residents will be able to receive constituent services again, although it's required by House of Representatives bylaws.



Tim Baker/Herald

1,000-year-old relic of St. Jude brings some hope to Glen Cove. Mario Reali and his wife, Linda, praying to the relic of St. Jude, asking for the health and safety of family members.

Tom Suozzi stands firmly with Israel

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

In a bid to reinforce his commitment to supporting Israel, former Congressman Tom Suozzi embarked on a trip to Israel on Dec. 21, addressing issues ranging from security concerns to the ongoing conflict with Hamas. Suozzi, a Democrat from Glen Cove, pledged to be a staunch advocate for Israel if successful in the upcoming special election for New York's third congressional district.

The trip, which Suozzi had long planned, took place amidst a closely contested race with Republican candidate Mazi Melesa Pilip, an Israel Defense Forces veteran. Suozzi emphasized the importance of experiencing firsthand the dynamics on the ground, reflecting his broader philosophy of engaging with both local and international issues.

During his visit, Suozzi spoke with the parents of an IDF serviceman and district resident Omer Neutra, held hostage by Hamas. Suozzi, wearing Neutra's dog tags given to him by the soldier's parents, condemned Hamas as a "sophisticated and disciplined terror army with a mission to destroy Israel and Jews." He underscored the need for educating the public about the true nature of the extremist group.

"I've always had a philosophy that you have to go and see what's happening on the ground," Suozzi explained. "It's clear to me that we have to communicate to

people that Hamas is not some random, loose coalition of desert fighters."

Suozzi particularly emphasized Hamas' tunnel system as evidence of their advanced tactics used by the terrorist organization. Although Suozzi admitted that he had not personally seen any of the tunnels or firsthand evidence of them, the tunnel system is well known for its multi-faceted use by Hamas and other militant groups for a variety of purposes.

The special election gains significance as both candidates, Suozzi and Pilip, have ties to Jewish communities in the district. Suozzi, known for his consistent support for Israel during his congressional tenure from 2017 to 2023, emphasized the need for more outspoken pro-Israel Democrats to enhance bipartisan support for Israel.

Suozzi's opponent, Pilip, a former IDF paratrooper and an Orthodox Jewish Nassau County legislator, has been actively campaigning against antisemitism, particularly in the wake of the Oct. 7 attack orchestrated by Hamas. The race remains closely watched, with Jewish voters constituting approximately 13 percent of the district's electorate.

Recent polls indicate a shift among Democrats regarding the Israel-Hamas conflict, with growing support for a ceasefire. Suozzi acknowledged this trend but maintained that having a pro-Israel Democrat, especially one who is vocal and strong in support, is crucial for maintaining bipartisan backing for Israel.



Herald file photo

Congressional candidate Tom Suozzi traveled to Israel to show solidarity with Israelis in their war against the terrorist group Hamas.

"I'm here to show my solidarity with the State of Israel and with Jewish people throughout the world," Suozzi added, "and to be unequivocal in my support, to learn more and hopefully help educate people about what's going on."

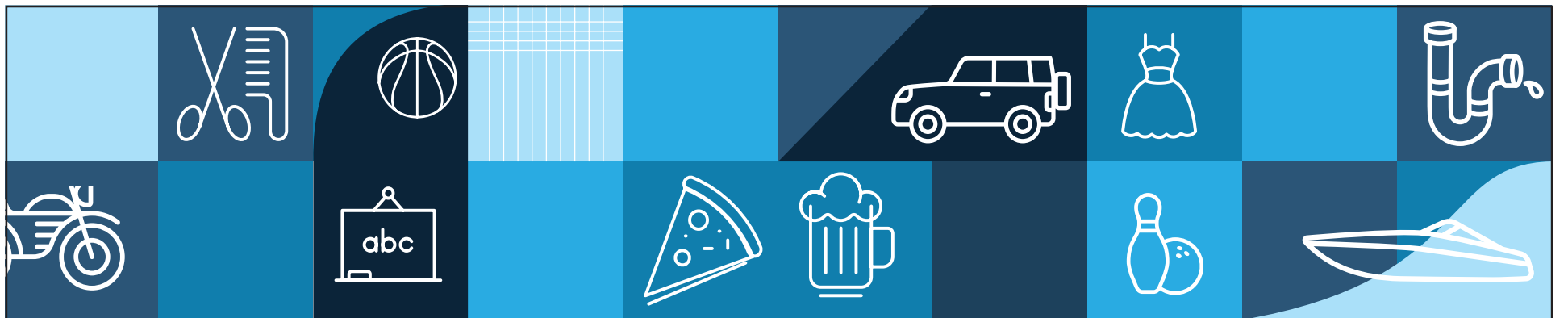
Addressing the issue of his party affiliation, Suozzi pointed out that while Republicans generally have higher support for Israel, Democrats need more outspoken advocates to ensure continued bipartisan support. He highlighted the

challenges posed by some Democratic members, like "the Squad," which include Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and Jamaal Bowman of New York, who do not align with the broader party support for Israel.

Suozzi also emphasized that despite his support for Israel, he remains committed to helping and supporting Muslim-Americans as well. As the founder of the Congressional Uyghur Caucus, which worked to raise support and awareness of the oppression facing the predominately Muslim Uyghur ethnic group in northwestern China, Suozzi expressed his endorsement of a two-state solution for Israel, albeit underlining that it cannot happen while Hamas is in power.

The former congressman's recent visit also occurred a day before it was announced that the death toll in the Gaza strip had reached 20,000, with an estimated 70 percent of the casualties women and children. Suozzi added that while "you'd have to not be human to not be upset by all these people getting killed," it did not change his unwavering commitment to and support of Israel and its military in the conflict.

"It's awful, but the reality is that Hamas must be stopped," Suozzi said. "I looked at this issue very carefully in 2018 — human shields. This is consciously done, so that (Hamas) can say exactly that 'civilians are getting killed because this is where we happen to put all of our weapons.'"



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Photos courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

The toy drive successfully helped to collect and distribute over 1,000 toys to North Shore families.



PUBLIC NOTICES

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NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT
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JPMorgan Chase Bank,
National Association,
Plaintiff
AGAINST
Barbara Lowell a/k/a
Barbara C. Lowell; et al.,
Defendant(s)
Pursuant to a Judgment
of Foreclosure and Sale
duly entered October 3,
2023 I, the undersigned
Referee will sell at public
auction at the North Side
Steps of the Nassau
County Supreme Court at
100 Supreme Court Drive,
Mineola, NY 11501 on
January 24, 2024 at 2:00PM,
premises known as 3
Westgate Court, Glen
Cove, NY 11542. All that
certain plot piece or
parcel of land, with the
buildings and
improvements erected,
situate, lying and being
in the City of Glen Cove,
County of Nassau, State
of New York, Section 23
Block D Lot 31. Approximate
amount of judgment \$243,046.89
plus interest and costs.
Premises will be sold
subject to provisions of
filed Judgment Index#
611517/2022. The

auction will be conducted
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Policies Concerning Public
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Property established by
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Foreclosure Auctions will
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Attorney(s) for the
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Malachy P. Lyons, Esq.,
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Attorney(s) for Plaintiff

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EOC helps to spread much holiday cheer

The Glen Cove Economic Opportunity Commission, the Waller family and State Assemblymember Charles Lavine, of Glen Cove, hosted a Christmas Toy Giveaway to help spread holiday cheer. They successfully helped to collect and distribute over 1,000 toys to North Shore families.

For over 50 years, the Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County has provided programs and ser-

vices to low-income residents. The coalition was born out of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on Aug. 20, 1964, a signature legislation of Johnson's Act, "War on Poverty."

During the past year, approximately 14,000 low-income children, youth, individuals, and families accessed EOC programs and services.



Assemblymember Charles Lavine, left, collected donations through the month of November for the toy drive. Before the event, he worked with volunteers to help distribute gifts to families.



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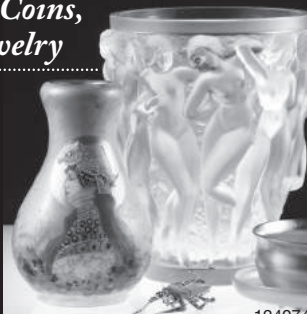
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The masthead

The box at the far left side of the page is called the masthead. It contains the newspaper's flag, or nameplate. The masthead offers important information about the paper, including the names of the staff members who are responsible for producing it each week.

Publisher Stuart Richner guides the business and news operations of the 23 newspapers in the Herald Community Newspapers group. This includes the Nassau Herald, which serves the Five Towns, as well as Heralds for Baldwin, Bellmore, East Meadow, Franklin Square/Elmont, Freeport, Glen Cove, Long Beach, Lynbrook/East Rockaway, Malverne-West Hempstead, Merrick, Oceanside-Island Park, Oyster Bay, Rockville Centre, Sea Cliff-Glen Head, Valley Stream, Wantagh and Seaford.

Each paper's editor is responsible for the assignment, selection and placement of stories, most of which the editors and reporters write. The executive editor, Michael Hinman, oversees news operations for all the papers in the group, with the help of Jeffrey Bessen, the deputy editor.

The production department is responsible for the papers' general design. The advertising and art departments produce the large, often-illustrated display advertisements that appear throughout the papers. The classified department produces the smaller advertisements at the back of the papers.

The masthead also lists each paper's age, the names of its founders, its address, email, and telephone and fax numbers, and provides notice that all contents of the paper are copyrighted.

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For your information . . .

Editorial page

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HERALD

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Publishers, 1964-1987

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Small businesses need us, and we need them

Our world is seemingly dominated by the twists and turns of the nation's largest corporations, where billions of dollars are constantly at play, and millions of jobs on the table.

Because of that, it's easy to overlook the businesses that aren't trading on the New York Stock Exchange, or that may not have a lot to spend on marketing and branding — where the owner knows every employee, and every employee knows her.

These are our small businesses — our mom-and-pop businesses. And while they might not be the Apples or the Disneys of the world, they remain vital to our communities, and our very lives.

There are 90,000 businesses on Long Island, according to Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, and a vast majority of them employ fewer than 50

employees. They might not be household names beyond their immediate neighborhoods, but where they are known, they are important.

Yet with each passing year, our society pulls further away from the small businesses that we so cherish and pushes further into the realm of the mega-corporations. Not that there isn't a place for the conglomerates — it's just best that they don't devour too much of our economic base.

Small businesses account for 44 percent of U.S. economic activity, according

to a report from the federal Small Business Administration just ahead of the coronavirus pandemic, and their share of the nation's gross domestic progress is slowly, but surely, shrinking. Between 1998 and 2014, the small business share of GDP dropped from 48 percent to 43.5.

Small business GDP itself is growing — but just under 1.5 percent a year, as compared to the 2.5 percent of larger businesses.

A lot of that shifting began after the 2008 recession, and continued as big-box stores grew dramatically, as did online retailers like Amazon. That's a primary reason why organizations like the Nassau Council of Chambers of Commerce — which represents more than 50 chambers of commerce in the county, and more than 10,000 businesses — are so keen to promote "Shop Local."

Small businesses need us, and we need them. Small businesses provide more jobs and more opportunities to people in their communities, corporate recruiter Martin Rowinski wrote in Forbes magazine last year.

"Successful small businesses put money back into their local community through paychecks and taxes, which can support the creation of new small businesses, and improve local public services," Rowinski wrote. "No matter how small it starts — one, two, five, 10 employees — within that town, the city or the county, your small business cre-

ates new economies where once there was nothing."

And that should be the definitive conclusion to this discussion, but sadly, it's not. While it's nearly impossible to find anyone who would consciously choose a large company over a hometown business, it still happens all the time. Many times, it's because we simply don't think about the impact of ordering something from Amazon, or ordering a pizza from a chain rather than a local pizzeria.

More often than not, it comes down to cost — more often than not, it's cheaper to head to Home Depot than to a local hardware store. Or to the 7-Eleven instead of the family-owned bodega on the corner. There is a place for the Home Depots and the 7-Elevens in our communities — but just not at the cost of local business. And it's important to keep that in mind when we choose where we spend our money.

One of the biggest spending periods of the year is coming up after Thanksgiving, and there will be so many businesses chasing after us, hoping to receive the dollars we're looking to spend.

But let's make every effort we can to keep those dollar right here in our communities. "Shop Local" isn't just a slogan — it's key to keeping our communities thriving. And it ensures that our small businesses will never be overlooked.

Editorial comment

Editorials offer the opinions of the Herald. Editors write them, but they do not necessarily reflect the views of those writers. Rather, they are the institutional voice of the news organization.

That is why they are unsigned. Herald editorial department heads meet regularly to plan the editorials. Independent reporting by our staff often helps inform our editorials. We might also speak with experts and advocates to gain their perspective before sitting down to write an editorial.

We are proud to say that we have won many state awards for our editorial writing over the years. But, in the end, it's sharing opinions that best reflect the views of you — our reader — that is most important to us.

■
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Vice President - Sales

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AMY AMATO
Executive Director of Corporate Relations and Events

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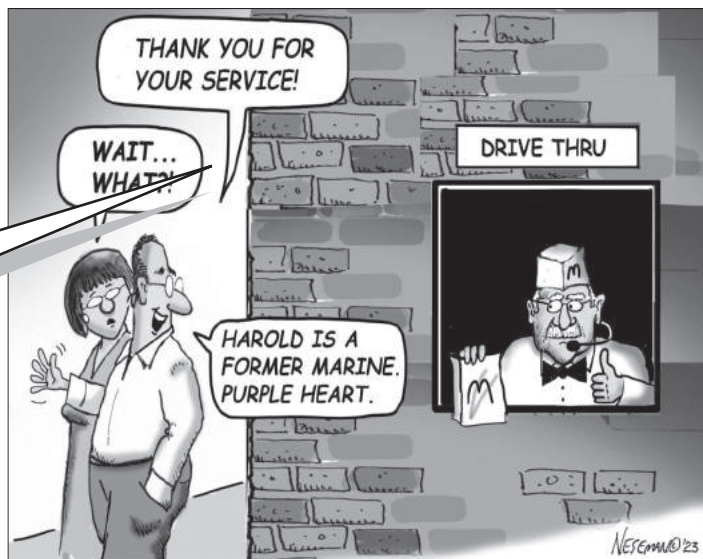
LETTERS

Does Congressman D'Esposito want to solve the border crisis?

To the Editor:
U.S. Rep. Anthony D'Esposito's partisan column last week, "The Biden border crisis comes home to New York," blaming President Joe Biden and Gov. Kathy Hochul and New York State Sen. Eric Adams for the issue of our border, exemplifies the House of Representatives' failure to work across the aisle to produce laws that have a chance of solving the problem. But the Republicans don't really want sensible immigration laws, because they want to scare people into voting for them.

Any fool can see that D'Esposito is intentionally introducing legislation that he knows will never be enacted just so he can say, "See, the Republicans are trying to keep you safe, while the Democrats want an open border." Keep an eye out for a tax-paid mailer that will mention yet another bill that will never become law.

D'Esposito conveniently failed to mention that he refused to support Biden's comprehensive aid plan, which would not only give \$14.3 billion in aid to Israel, but also direct \$14 billion to boost the number of border agents, increase staffing for



Editorial cartoon

Editorial cartoons are almost as old as newspapers themselves. They date back to 18th century England, and are a staple of the modern American opinion section. Yet, opinions here do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Herald or its staff.

Dale Neseman, a syndicated cartoonist from the Buffalo area, creates a majority of the editorial cartoons seen in these pages.

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What are the editorial pages all about? Who writes editorials? How do letters and guest columns get published? This week's pages offer some answers to our readers. We thank The Riverdale Press and The Seattle Times for the idea.

Opinion pages

Opinion columns

We publish three columns every week. Columns represent the views of the writers themselves, not of the Herald.

Each writer works independently and chooses his or her own subjects.

Among our regular contributors are former congressman Peter King, Herald Community Newspapers' executive editor Michael Hinman, and the Nassau Herald's former executive editor, Randi Kreiss.

We also feature columns by prominent political figures, including former Assemblyman Jerry Kremer, who is now a consultant. And we regularly invite guest columnists to offer their views.

OPINIONS

At this dinner, true patriotism was on vivid display

Recently I attended the annual Patriot Award Dinner hosted by the Seaford High School 9/11 Memorial Committee. This event, and other 9/11 programs in Seaford, are administered by the Memorial Committee, which was created in the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, with the commitment to "always remember."



PETER KING

Communities across Long Island were devastated by 9/11. None, however, has been more consistent or wide-ranging in its dedication to preserving the memory and legacy of that day and its victims than Seaford.

In November 2002, a commemorative plaza was constructed at the entrance to Seaford High School, dedicated to the alumni who lost their lives: New York City Fire Department Battalion Chief Tom Haskell, FDNY Firefighter Tim Haskell, New York City Police Officer John Perry, Robert Sliwak and Michael Wittenstein.

Each year on Sept. 11, more than 1,000 people attend a memorial at the plaza — last year, undaunted by a driving rain.

Since 2002, Patriot Award scholarships

totaling more than \$235,000 have been given to 112 Seaford High seniors who reflect the values of the graduates who died on 9/11. Honorary Patriot Awards have been presented to 59 people who selflessly service the Seaford community.

District students make field trips to the 9/11 Memorial at ground zero.

This year's dinner was held at Crest Hollow Country Club in Woodbury. As always, there was a large turnout, more than 300 people. The mood in the room was a mix of energy and respect. There was the energy of people who have been working for two decades to ensure that the memories and legacy of that day are preserved, along with respect for those who died and their family members, who were at the dinner, as they have been at so many commemorations over the years.

Among those sitting at my table were Monsignor Steve Camp and members of the Haskell family. Camp, now the pastor of St. Patrick's Parish in Huntington, was a priest at St. William the Abbot in Seaford in September 2001. He officiated at funerals for victims of the attacks, and with his compassion and concern that did so much to help not only the victims' families, but the Seaford community as well.

Tom and Tim Haskell were heroic FDNY members, as was their brother, Ken, who survived that day, and has dedicated so much to the Memorial Committee as its president. With Ken at the table were his mother, Maureen; his wife, Genene;

their sons Kenny and Ryan; Ken's sister, Dawn; and Tom's widow, Barbara.

We need to rekindle the sense of unity we had in the days after 9/11.

No family has endured more than the Haskells. Somehow their spirit remains as strong as ever — as does the spirit of the other 9/11 families.

Seeing so many neighbors, friends and other familiar faces, I was pleased and reassured by the number of young people who were there who weren't yet born on Sept. 11, 2001. I also gave a special hello to my sister, Barbara, a Seaford High graduate who put so much effort into making the dinner a success.

The student scholarship winners were very impressive, as were the Honorary Patriot Award recipients. Longtime Seaford High officials Tom Condon and Ray Buckley, who played strong leadership roles in forming the Memorial Committee and have continued their efforts to this day, spoke movingly, and then led everyone in an emotional and spirited rendition of "God Bless America."

All these good, hardworking people gathered to show their unflinching dedication and commitment to their community and country more than two decades after America's darkest hour exemplify patriotism at its best.

As I left that night, I thought about how wonderful it would be if the spirit of selfless dedication and commitment that these Seaford residents still demonstrate could once again predominate in our divided country. If the sense of unity and respect that Americans had in the days, weeks and months after the attacks could somehow be re-established. If we could work together on issues where we agree, try to find common ground where we disagree and do so respectfully, always remembering that we are Americans.

The terrorists who attacked us on 9/11 could not destroy us or break our spirit. Instead we emerged more united. We owe it to our nation, and all those who were murdered that day, not to divide against ourselves, but rather to do all we can to recapture the unity we had then, and never forget that we are still the greatest nation on earth. As the hundreds of Seaford residents proudly sang at the conclusion of the Patriot Award Dinner, let us proudly proclaim, "God Bless America."

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

Special features

The op-ed, or opposite the editorial, page features a weekly Framework photo, which is chosen by our photo editor, Tim Baker. The Framework offers a creative, at times humorous outlet for our photography staff. In this spot, we also publish photos sent to us by readers featuring them on vacation, reading the Herald at various international landmarks. We call it Herald Around the World.

At times, a correction might appear on the op-ed page. We strive each week for the highest standards of accuracy and accountability. When we make mistakes in our reporting, we believe we must own up to them and correct the record.

LETTERS

our restaurants closed or cut hours is because they are unable to find staff. We are at record low unemployment. Although Biden brought inflation down lower than any other industrialized nation, prices at the grocery stores will still be high as long as our farmers are unable to find workers.

But of course, D'Esposito fails to mention that Hochul passed a bill that will allow migrants to work in New York after 30 days instead of a 180-day wait. Her program matches migrants with employers, filling 1,300 jobs on Long Island alone. This will get migrants out of shelters, giving them the ability to provide for their families while they seek asylum. Real solutions to real problems.

What D'Esposito should be doing is initiating a similar program on the federal level. Other countries do just that. But no, because then he won't be able to scare his voters into thinking that criminal migrants are traveling 2,000 miles from the border to Merrick just so they can steal deodorant from CVS.

CLAUDIA BORECKY
President, Bellmore Merrick Democratic Club
Merrick

Caregivers need more support from Albany

To the Editor:

November is National Family Caregivers Month. In New York, 546,000 family caregivers are providing care worth over \$19 billion to their loved ones with dementia. Though these caregivers create significant savings for the state, they are not getting

enough support in return. The funding for New York's Alzheimer's Disease Community Assistance Program, or AlzCAP, which offers care consultations, support groups, educational programs and other services, has been stagnant for years, while the number of caregivers who need these services has continued to grow, especially since 2020.

I have seen the care-giving struggle firsthand for five years. My grandma has Alzheimer's, and my mother is her caregiver. My mother must balance caring for my grandmother while doing the same for my autistic brother. And she does this while trying to deal with the other demands of her life. She's not alone — there are many of these "sandwich caregivers" with similar stories. It is imperative that New York support them, not only because it will mitigate their financial, emotional and physical struggles, but also because it will be less of a financial burden for the state than nursing home care.

Taking care of someone with Alzheimer's is extremely expensive. One study found that 47 percent of family caregivers have cut back on their food, transportation and health care expenses to pay for a loved one's care. Also, many caregivers struggle with mental health issues, such as depression, and often don't have the financial resources to take care of their own physical health.

New York can do better in supporting people who take on this vital role. Please join me in calling on our state senators and Assembly members to increase funding for AlzCAP.

HELENA MILLER
Volunteer Advocate, Alzheimer's Association
Oyster Bay

FRAMEWORK courtesy N. Merrick



Visiting Hallgrímskirkja, its country's largest church — Reykjavik, Iceland

Letters to the editor

We welcome your letters to the editor, and publish most that we receive. We believe these letters are critically important, because they reflect the shared voices of the communities that we cover.

Letters should be 250 to 300 words in length. Each letter must include an address and phone number. Our editors call all letter writers to confirm the authenticity of letters before publication.

We edit letters for length, grammar, spelling and foul language. We do not censor viewpoints.

If we believe a letter requires major revisions, we will send it back to the writer and ask that he or she change it so that meaning and intent are not lost.

Readers can send letters to the editors of their hometown newspapers, or to editor@liherald.com. They can be sent by email (preferred), fax or mail. All contact information is listed on the masthead and on our website, LIHerald.com.

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