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Petraeus talks about new book
 Page 3



City marks Martin Luther King Day
 Page 10

VOL. 33 NO. 4 JANUARY 18 - 24, 2024 \$1.00



Anna Georgoulis/Herald

Making new friends in school

Connolly Elementary School students Romello Carter, left, Kason Chandler and Ganibulut Yilmaz realized during a team building session, performed to mark Martin Luther King Day, that they had more in common than they could have ever imagined. Story, more photos, Page 10.

Community rallies around toddler battling rare cancer

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Keith and Mariella Hansen's seemingly routine day with their 3-year-old son, Erik, took a startling twist on a warm afternoon last April. Erik was in the yard of their Glen Cove home with his father, and was bitten by a few bugs. When Mariella brought him inside to apply some bug repellent, she found a lump on Erik's upper left arm — a discovery that eventually led to the toddler's diagnosis with myoepithelial carcinoma.

The rare cancer develops in myoepithelial cells in glands throughout the body, and is known for its aggression and its ability to spread. For the Hansens, the months unfolded with a series of surgeries on their son, each more complex than the last, as doctors worked to

identify the disorder, and then to remove cancer cells and prevent them from spreading. On May 4, Erik was taken to a pediatric dermatologist. On June 6, he had surgery to remove the lump on his arm at a pediatric plastic surgeon's office. On June 27 when she received the call confirming the devastating diagnosis.

"After I got off the phone, Erik comes up to me and says, 'Mommy, don't cry,'" she recounted. "That was his first response to me — hugging me."

Erik underwent four more surgeries at Cohen Children's Medical Center in July and August. After the third operation, cancer cells remained in his lymph node, leaving the potential for metastatic spread. At that point, Keith Hansen said, doctors gave the family four difficult treatment

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Creating a home away from home

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

The emotional impact of being homeless on those who experience it often goes unnoticed. Beyond the challenges of finding shelter and meeting their basic needs, the unhoused face profound emotional struggles that can be debilitating. Dozens of men in Glen Cove face that harsh reality, and often make use of the North Shore Sheltering Program at the city's First Presbyterian Church.

"Some of them do drugs, and some of them are so broken that they stay out on the street," Ron Baskind, former manager of the shelter, said. "They're really shunned by everybody. It's such a broken way to live life."

The shelter has worked in tandem with the church to house the homeless in its seasonal program for the past 24 years. The church provides the space for them to sleep, and the

program staff handles the cleaning.

Making the space feel like home for the men was a top priority for members of Do Unto Others, or DUO, a youth organization founded last March at St. John's of Lattingtown Episcopal Church. The group's first initiative was working with shelter residents to create works of art to make their space feel more like home.

The group's founding members, Tyler Barnett and Sammy Zarou, both residents of Locust Valley, said that when they first approached the shelter program about ways in which they might

help the men on an emotional level, they unanimously chose to flex their creative muscles.

"It's pretty easy for some people to express themselves through art rather than words," Barnett, a senior from Portledge School in Locust Valley a said. "Some people might

They've made it clear that they feel ostracized, but they are men of our community.

SAMMY ZAROU
 founder, DUO

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

2 Using art to foster a community connection

January 18, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

be a little insecure. It might be hard to express themselves. But I think we definitely got to know a lot more about each person after we've seen their drawings, and just talking to them."

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, there are two major contributors to the current housing and homelessness crises: a lack of low-cost housing nationwide, and the limited scale of housing-assistance programs. Nationally, the cost of rental housing greatly exceeds average wages earned by low-income households. A full-time worker needs to earn on average of just under \$26 per hour to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment, and over \$21 hourly to afford a one-bedroom, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

"We're not just raising awareness, but we also want to bring to light the issue, and actually let these guys know that they have a place in our community," Zarou, a junior Locust Valley High School student said. "They've made it clear that they feel ostracized, but they're men of our community. That's why we're doing art, because a lot of them express that they enjoyed painting. They wanted to do art to express their feelings, where they come from, and to make them more known, more



Ricardo Rodriguez's drawings of colorful birds remind him of home. Santos Reyes drew pictures of a volcano he saw as a child, saying the drawings help him feel more at home in the shelter.

heard around the community."

Ricardo Rodriguez, a former shelter resident, eats at First Presbyterian a few times a week. The Guatemala transplant said he came to the United States for a better life, and to study the lan-



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

guage and culture. He came here on a student visa, and attended school in Port Washington. His drawings of colorful birds, which were on display at the Glen Cove Public Library, remind him of home.

"Some of us are kind of shy, or we don't know how to express ourselves," Rodriguez said. "So this is a way where we do it, to show everybody that there is something else in us. The shelter does make a difference. They give us hope, and they give us strength."

Santos Reyes, a shelter regular, came to the United States from El Salvador, also looking for a better life and the chance to start a family. He drew pictures of a volcano he saw as a child, and said the drawings help him feel more at home in the shelter.

Reyes, one of 17 men who consistently use the shelter, said he wants to work to help him find his own apartment, and that he can help paint homes or do other manual-labor jobs.

Francis Kalombo Ngoni, a member of the National Coalition for the Homeless and the national campaign director for the Bring America Home Now campaign, emphasized the importance of recognizing housing as both a human-rights and civil-rights issue, and said the need for a collective effort to address homelessness is a human issue that goes beyond political affiliations.

"We have to take responsibility as a nation for the people that are familiar with this kind of suffering," Kalombo Ngoni said. "Blaming them does not solve anything."

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Petraeus shares lessons learned from conflict

By WILL SHEELINE

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Hundreds gathered at Congregation L'Dor V'Dor on Monday evening to hear one of the most impactful military minds of the modern world, talk about his new book, and the history and progress of global military conflicts.

Gen. David Petraeus joined former congressman Steve Israel — owner of Theodore's Books in Oyster Bay — to discuss a wide range of topics, nearly all of which are covered in his book, "Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine." That includes the running of a counterinsurgency force, the war in Ukraine, and the even the Israel-Gaza conflict.

Israel, who has known the general since his time in Congress, explained their friendship developed through a mutual appreciation for history and its importance in understanding the modern world. He added Petraeus was one of the first who recommended David McCullough's book about Theodore Roosevelt, "Mornings on Horseback," and was struck by the general's scholarly approach to command.

"He said, 'Congressman, if you really want to understand present conflict and how to deal with challenges, you have to read,'" Israel said. "That's really how this relationship developed."

"Conflict," co-written by British historian Andrew Roberts, covers the evolution of modern warfare from the end of World War II up to Russia's 2022 invasion of Ukraine. Petraeus — a commander in Iraq and Afghanistan who also served as the director of the CIA — discussed how "strategic leadership," one of the book's main themes, define modern warfare, and how it's applicable to daily life.

"You have to craft the right strategy, based on a very detailed understanding of your forces — the enemy forces, the physical terrain, the human terrain, the neighborhood, how the country is supposed to work, how it really works — all of these details," Petraeus said. "In the case of Iraq (in 2003), it was the different religions, the sects, the tribes, the political parties — all of the other elements that are present in that particular context — and I'll note that we didn't have a sufficient understanding of that when we went into Iraq, as we found."

Petraeus also focused on the numerous lessons that could be learned from the wars of the latter half of the 20th century, like those in Vietnam, as well as the 1973 Yom Kippur War between Israel and a coalition of Arab countries led by Egypt and Syria.

When it comes to more recent conflicts, like the one between Russia and Ukraine, Petraeus described it as being "about as 'right versus wrong' as it gets in life," comparing the strategic styles of Volodymyr Zelenskyy and Vladimir Putin.

"This is a brutal, unprovoked invasion of a country by a kleptocrat who doesn't believe that country has the right to exist," Petraeus said of Putin.



Will Sheeline/Herald photos

Gen. David Petraeus, left, joins former U.S. Rep. Steve Israel at Congregation L'Dor V'Dor to discuss his new book, 'Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine.'



Dozens who attended the book discussion at Congregation L'Dor V'dor this past week with Gen. David Petraeus — such as Will Gavin, left — got signed copies of the one-time CIA leader's new book, 'Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine.'

"Henry Kissinger rightly said that 'NATO's security now begins at the Ukraine/Russia border,' and the sooner that (Israel and former U.S. Rep. Peter King's) successors in the House in particular can get their act together and agree with the Senate on this supplemental bill that will provide the additional assistance that Ukraine so desperately needs ... the better off we'll be."

Israel started his series of conversations with authors after he left Congress in 2017, viewing it as a way to bridge the political divide while providing rele-

vant, unbiased information to patrons of Theodore's.

He told the Herald ahead of the discussion he found Petraeus to be "one of the most insightful and deep thinkers in the military."

"I learned from him that I can't understand modern-day complexities or strategic complexities without understanding history," Israel said.

The retired general's book — "Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine" — is available where books are sold, including at Theodore's Books on Audrey Avenue in Oyster Bay.



Gen. David Petraeus, left, explains to former congressman Steve Israel and the hundreds of attendees gathered at Congregation L'Dor V'Dor this past week the importance of leadership and its application in modern warfare. It was all part of the discussion of the retired general's new book, 'Conflict: The Evolution of Warfare from 1945 to Ukraine.'

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Tax and Medicaid Law Changes for 2024

For 2024, the exemptions for estate taxes rise to 6.94 million for New York estate taxes, and to 13.61 million for Federal estate taxes. The annual gift tax exclusion rises to \$18,000. If your estate is, or may become, greater than the New York threshold, early intervention can avoid the hefty New York estate taxes, which start at over \$500,000. Some of the techniques are (1) setting up two trusts, one for husband and one for wife, and using them to double the New York exemption, (2) gifting out so much of the estate so as to reduce it below the New York exemption, at least three years before the death of the donor, and (3) using the "Santa Clause" providing that the amount over the threshold be donated to a charity or charities of your choosing so as to reduce the estate to no more than the exemption.

For Medicaid, the house is an exempt asset so long as a spouse is residing there, up to \$1,071,000 of equity for 2024. Seeing as over 80% of nursing home residents do not have a spouse, it is better to plan ahead

with a Medicaid Asset Protection Trust (MAPT) to get the five year look-back for nursing facility care. In that case, the house would be protected by the trust rather than the unreliable spousal exemption. Unless your other assets have been protected by the MAPT, an individual may keep only \$30,182 and a spouse can keep up to \$154,140.

The major change to Medicaid is the often-delayed imposition of the new two and a half year look-back for home care, commencing April 1, 2024. Previously, there was no look-back for home care. This resulted in people not having to worry about getting home care until they actually needed it. With the law change, the MAPT now becomes far more important as a tool to qualify you for home care than to simply protect your assets from a nursing home. Assets will have to be moved into the MAPT years ahead of time if you want to be able to afford to stay in your own home and get home health aides for assistance with the activities of daily living, should the need arise.

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CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

- A 29-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Jan. 5 for assault and criminal obstruction on Coles Street.
- A 56-year-old undomiciled man was arrested on Jan. 4 for two counts of robbery on Glen Street.
- A 58-year-old Richmond Hill, Queens, man was arrested on Jan. 3 for grand larceny and criminal possession of stolen property on Glen Cove Avenue.
- A 60-year-old Oyster Bay man was arrested on Jan. 3 for aggravated unlicensed operation and other vehicle and traffic violations on Glen Street.
- A 30-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Jan. 2 for criminal contempt on Ashleigh Court.
- A 30-year-old Flushing, Queens man was arrested Dec. 31 for driving while intoxicated, unlawful possession of cannabis of more than 3 ounces, two counts of criminal possession of a controlled substance, reckless endangerment, resisting arrest, unlawfully fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle, obstructing governmental administration, reckless driving and numerous other vehicle and traffic violations on Glen Cove Road.
- A 46-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on Dec. 29 for aggravated unlicensed operation and criminal possession of a controlled substance on The Place.
- A 47-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Dec. 25 for driving while intoxicated aggravated driving while intoxicated, two counts of endangering the welfare of a child, and unsafe lane change on Sea Cliff Avenue.
- A 31-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested on Dec. 25 for assault on Meadowfield Lane.
- A 47-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Dec. 25 for aggravated driving while intoxicated, driving while intoxicated and endangering the welfare of a child and other traffic law violations on Sea Cliff Avenue.
- A 51-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Dec. 23 for criminal mischief on Harmony Lane.
- A 31-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Dec. 22 for a Glen Cove City Court arrest warrant for criminal possession of a controlled substance on School Street.
- A 29-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on Dec. 16 for assaulting a police officer, criminal mischief and disorderly conduct on Mariners Way.
- A 50-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on Dec. 17 for driving while intoxicated and resisting arrest on Glen Cove Avenue.
- A 56-year-old undomiciled person was arrested on Dec 15 for trespassing on Hendrick Avenue East.
- A 56-year-old undomiciled person was arrested on Dec. 11 for trespassing on Glen Street.
- A 28-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Dec. 10 for criminal trespassing, grand larceny and criminal mischief on Forest Avenue.
- A 28-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Dec. 10 for 2 counts of aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, and failure to yield right of way on Bridge Street.

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.



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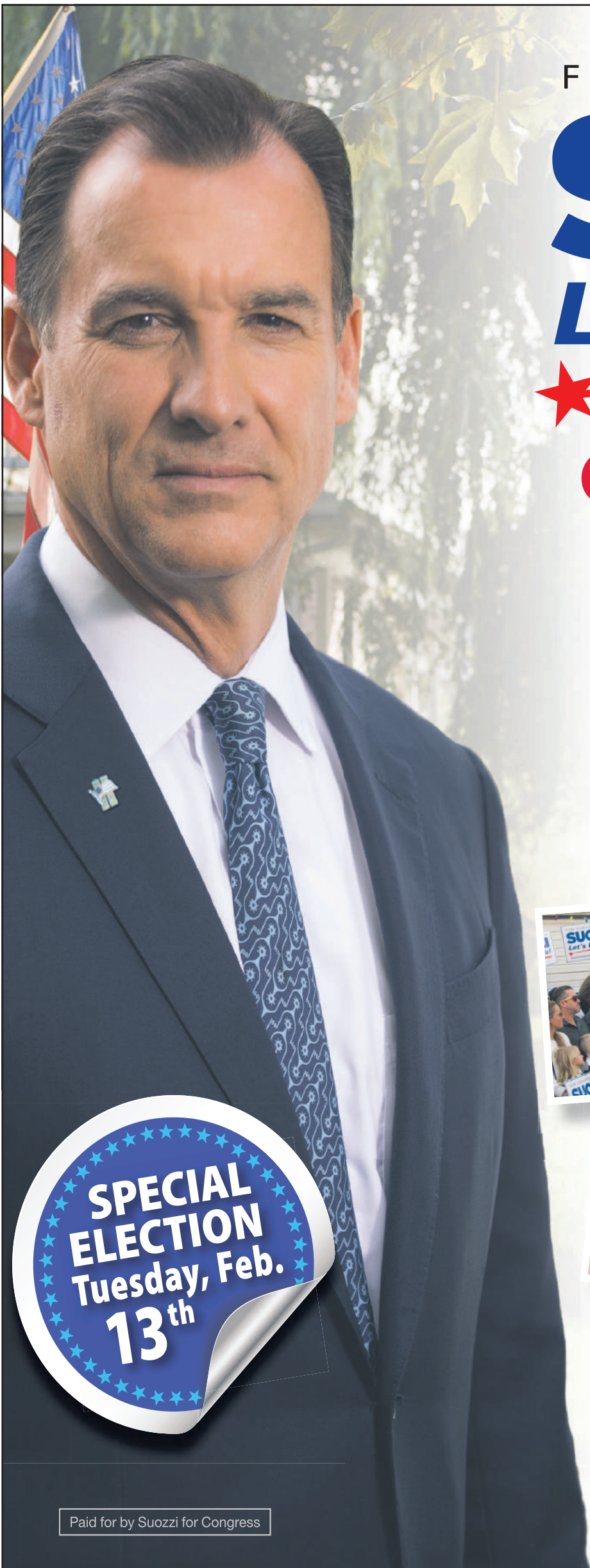
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SPECIAL ELECTION
Tuesday, Feb.
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Hansen: ‘No one is an expert in this’

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

options: wait and see if the cancer cells would grow; remove a muscle from the toddler’s arm and replace it with a muscle from his back; chemotherapy and radiation; or amputation of the arm.

They chose what is called functional muscle transfer surgery, on Aug. 24 in which the latissimus dorsi muscle in the boy’s back was replaced in his tiny left arm, leaving a 12-inch scar running from his arm to the center of his back.

“No one is an expert in this,” Hansen said. “The doctors at Cohen’s have been talking to doctors across the U.S., and internationally as well. There’s been no exact science as far as what we should do with treatment.”

Erik began 12 weeks of chemotherapy on Sept. 28, undergoing 20 treatments at a facility in the Bronx. In November and December, he received 25 doses of radiation at New York Proton Center in Harlem, spending six days and five nights at the hospital. The couple carefully planned for the final treatment to end before Christmas.

Now they are focused on Erik’s recovery, with the next scans scheduled for Feb. 6.

“We might have clear scans — we’re gonna take every positive that we can grab — but I’m still not sleeping easy,” Keith Hansen said. “This is a cancer that was there microscopically.”

Amid the physical and emotional challenges, the family navigated financial strains. Keith took a leave of absence from his job at Citibank in June for 12 weeks, and Mariella, a pharmacist, has not worked since July. The couple say they’re doing whatever it takes to pay Erik’s medical bills — which have



Erik Hansen has had four surgeries, multiple rounds of chemotherapy and radiation.

Courtesy Keith Hansen

included nearly \$200,000 in out-of-pocket expenses — by taking out personal loans and accumulating credit card debt.

“It was a big hit financially,” Mariella said. “But it was something that needed to be done, especially when you look at the radiation going in every single morning. Conventional medicine is sur-

gery, chemo, radiation, and there’s a whole integrative approach to help with his healing journey to prevent recurrence. Healthy food is more expensive.”

At the suggestion of a relative, the couple established a GoFundMe campaign in September. As of press time, it had raised \$35,323.



Courtesy Ashley Carrotta

Erik Hansen, left, with his best friend, Mino Carrotta, after Hansen’s chemotherapy treatment.

Despite their six-figure debt, the couple say they have been overwhelmed by the community support they’ve received from organizations like the Glen Cove Fire Department, the Junior Soccer League, the Anglers Club and Glen Cove Cares. Other community members have come to their home to lend a helping hand.

“A lot of Glen Cove who has heard our story has asked what they can do to help,” Keith said. “We love our friends, we know that they’re there, but we didn’t know they loved us this much.”

NEWS BRIEF

Glen Cove police officer Gregory Denk promoted to detective in December

Officer Gregory Denk has been promoted to the position of detective for the Glen Cove Police Department, as announced by Police Chief William Whitton on Dec. 9.

Denk, who joined the department in January 2018, showcased exemplary performance during his tenure in the patrol division, where he not only made numerous arrests but also active-

ly participated in various criminal investigations.

His impressive track record is further underscored by his extensive prior experience with the New York Police Department, where he served for nine years. During his time there, he ascended to the rank of sergeant and took charge of supervising an anti-crime unit. This background speaks to

Denk’s seasoned expertise in law enforcement, bringing a wealth of knowledge and skills to his new role in the Glen Cove Police Detective Division.

Whitton expressed confidence in Denk’s ability to contribute significantly to the detective division, saying he has proven he has the motivation and the necessary skills to become an out-

standing addition to the Glen Cove Police Detective Division. The promotion is a testament to Denk’s dedication and competence in the field, marking a pivotal moment in his career within the Glen Cove Police Department.

The promotion highlights the department’s recognition of exemplary service and the continuous pursuit of excellence within its ranks.

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SPECIAL ELECTION TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 13

Born in Ethiopia, Mazi was evacuated to Israel as part of an Israeli/U.S. mission, which provided sanctuary to people like Mazi, who lived in fear of antisemitism. This experience gave her a passion to serve in an Israel Defense Forces Paratrooper Brigade. She legally immigrated to the U.S. in pursuit of the American Dream. Mazi and her husband now live in Great Neck where they are raising their 7 children.

In 2021, Mazi was elected to the Nassau County Legislature, where she added cops to the streets, held the line on property taxes, and stopped New York City from sending unvetted migrants to Nassau. Mazi is a national leader in the fight against antisemitism and Jew hatred.

As part of the Republican majority in Congress, Mazi Pilip will be the critical vote to stop the disastrous policies of Joe Biden, AOC and The Squad.

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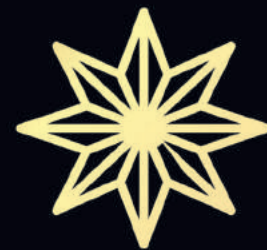
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Community banking is about more than just money

By **MICHAEL HINMAN**

mhinman@liherald.com

So many of us remember when our mother or father walked us to the bank, helping us open up that savings account for the very first time. The teller — more than patient — explaining why she's taking that \$10 bill from you, and where it's going.

Today, however, more people have never stepped inside a bank than those who have, taking advantage of technological conveniences. But that doesn't mean your neighborhood bank is going away anytime soon.

"Looking back, banking was an industry that probably didn't change for 100 years," said Marc Perez, president of Bank of America Long Island, and a Herald Top Chief Executive Officer last year.

"And then, once digital capabilities and a digital platform became available, it changed pretty quickly over a relatively short period of time."

Perez took over the Long Island portion of Bank of America in 2021, succeeding longtime president Bob Isaksen. Perez had already spent two decades with Bank of America, and was able to experience this massive paradigm shift firsthand.

A number of other bank chains have consolidated and even closed branches. Bank of America, however, took a different approach.

"We have what I would call a high-tech, high-touch focus," Perez said. "We're going to operate our business based upon what our clients tell us they want from us, not necessarily what we want to do going forward."

And that means many prefer to do their typical banking while they're relaxing on the couch, or in-between tasks while at work.

Yet, there are other aspects of banking where that face-to-face still reigns supreme.

"If they're inquiring about a car loan, or a mortgage, or investing for their future, they really still want that high-touch experience," Perez said.

Bank of America still maintains more than 60 financial centers across Long Island, he says, not only keeping money accessible, but providing jobs for communities from employees who, themselves, like giving back. Last year, leading up to the holiday season, 1,200 local employees donated more than 5,500 hours of volunteer service — the equivalent of 229 days.

The local branches themselves have also invested nearly \$10 million in local nonprofits over the last five years.

"I think that, now more than ever, when you want to do business with a company, you want to have shared values," Perez said.

Perez himself remains active as a board member for Long Island Cares, and volunteers for a number of organi-

zations that include Island Harvest, the Interfaith Nutrition Network, Catholic Charities, and United Way of Long Island.

The bank has supported Perez by fronting \$500,000 to Long Island Cares so it could open a satellite center in Hampton Bays.

"It's more about creating more of a sustainable future for Long Islanders, and focusing on workforce development," Perez said.

Moving that forward from a more corporate perspective is Bank of America's Neighborhood Builders program. Celebrating 20 years, the philanthropic effort chooses two non-profits, and gives them \$200,000 to cover general operating costs.

"Most of them use (the funds) for expansion of existing services, to increase their reach, or to develop wrap-around services for people that they serve," Perez said. "We also take both the director and an emerging leader from the organization, and we invite them into a leadership program that provides growth and development training to prepare them for long-term success."

Banks have always been an integral part of any community, and Perez says he's glad not even technology can change that.

"Long Island is a special place," he said. "The people that work here also live here, play here, raise their families



Courtesy Bank of America

Marc Perez was named president of Bank of America Long Island in 2021, succeeding longtime local leader Bob Isaksen. It's a new day and age for banking on Long Island — and in America — but Perez says he's ready for the future.

here. There's a deeper connection with the community here for our employees, and that's why they're so passionate about getting involved. And why I get involved."

GLEN COVE HERALD — January 18, 2024

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Remembering King's legacy in Glen Cove

January 18, 2024 - GLEN COVE HERALD

For 40 years Glen Cove's elected leaders, the community and faith leaders from across the North Shore gather for Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day to participate in a symbolic march from the First Baptist Church of Glen Cove to Finley Middle School.

Glen Cove is one of two localities on Long Island that has offered consecutive and annual community programs in honor of King. The march serves to remember and honor the accomplishments of Martin Luther King Jr. for his impact in the Civil Rights Movement

This year's presentation at the middle school featured poems, music and a performance from the high school's drumline.



Tammy Lanham/Herald photos

Glen Cove Police led the way as marchers made their way from First Baptist Church to Finley Middle School.



Maria Rianna spoke about the day's significance, and the importance of continuing to celebrate King's legacy.



The Glen Cove High School drumline, led by Jerry Noble, performed at the celebration.



Despite the freezing temperatures, the Glen Cove community proudly marched in the city's 40th celebration honoring of Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.



Sheryl Goodine, mistress of ceremonies, presents awards to Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck and Maria Rianna, superintendent of Glen Cove City Schools.

STEPPING OUT



Country Stew



Potato Lasagna



Turkey Green Bean Chili

COZY UP in the kitchen

Bring out those chef skills on a wintry weekend

By Karen Bloom

These winter days, as the wind howls around us, are a reminder that home is sometimes the best place to be. So settle in for some comfy nesting, and find inspiration in the kitchen. Then gather everyone 'round for conversation and a great meal.

Keep warm with hearty dishes that satisfy appetites and comfort food cravings. By using natural ingredients and relying on veggies and lean proteins, you can create many tempting meals that are tasty and healthful.

The potato, for example, can be used as a starting point for something creative. From russets to reds, fingerlings to purples, the hearty potato comes in many beautiful varieties that add color and texture to beloved comfort dishes.

Try these recipes for inspiration.

Country Stew

- 5 pounds bone-in short ribs, trimmed and cut into 2-inch pieces
- 3/4 cup all-purpose flour
- 1/4 cup vegetable oil
- 2 cups water
- 1 1/3 cups Zinfandel wine
- 1 medium onion, chopped
- 1 clove garlic, minced
- 2 teaspoons salt
- 1/4 teaspoon pepper
- 2 beef bouillon cubes
- 6 large potatoes, washed, peeled and quartered
- 1/2 pound small fresh mushrooms, cleaned and trimmed
- 1 package (10 ounces) frozen whole green beans
- 1 can (16 ounces) peeled whole tomatoes, undrained

Dredge ribs in flour to coat; reserve leftover flour.

Heat oil in 8-quart Dutch oven on moderate heat.

Add half of ribs and brown on all sides. Once browned, remove ribs.

Repeat instructions for remaining ribs.

Stir in the reserved flour. While stirring, add 1 cup water and wine and stir until thickened.

Return ribs to the pan.

Add onion, garlic, salt, pepper and bouillon and bring to a boil.

Cover and lower heat to simmer for 1 hour, or until ribs are tender.

Remove ribs with slotted spoon and cover with foil to keep warm.

Add potatoes, mushrooms and beans. Simmer 20 to 30 minutes, or until vegetables are tender.

Add ribs and tomatoes with liquid, and heat through.

Use slotted spoon to remove meat and vegetables to large serving platter.

Remove gravy to serving container and serve with ribs. Yield: 6 servings.

Potato Lasagna

- 2 links Italian turkey sausage (3 1/2 ounces each)
- 1 1/2 cups chopped onion

- 1 cup low-fat ricotta cheese
- 1 teaspoon dried basil or Italian seasoning
- 1/2 teaspoon garlic powder
- 1 egg white
- 2 cups marinara sauce, divided
- 1 1/4 pounds Yukon gold potatoes, peeled and thinly sliced, divided
- 1 cup part-skim shredded mozzarella cheese, divided

Remove sausage from casing and crumble into medium skillet with onion.

Cook for 10 minutes or until both are browned, breaking up sausage with back of spoon.

Stir together ricotta, basil, garlic powder and egg white in small bowl.

Spread 1/2 cup marinara sauce in bottom of 9-inch square baking dish. Place 1/3 of the potatoes in the bottom of the dish, forming solid layer with no gaps.

Drop 1/2 ricotta mixture in spoonfuls over top and spread out just a little.

Sprinkle with 1/3 of mozzarella and 1/2 sausage mixture. Add 1/2 cup more sauce then repeat potato, cheese and meat layers. Top with last layer of potatoes, remaining sauce and mozzarella. Cover with plastic wrap and make small slit to vent. Microwave on high for 30 minutes or until potatoes are tender.

Yield: 4 servings.

Turkey Green Bean Chili with Cheesy Corn Fritters

- 1 pound ground turkey breast
- 1 cup chopped onion
- 1 cup chopped red bell pepper
- 2 cloves garlic, minced
- 2 (14.5 oz. each) cans Chili Style Diced Tomatoes, undrained
- 1 cup water
- 1/2 teaspoon ground cumin
- Cut green beans

Corn Fritters

- 1 (8.5 oz.) package corn muffin mix
- 1 large egg, beaten
- 2/3 cup milk
- 1 cup whole kernel corn, canned or frozen
- 1/3 cup shredded pepper jack cheese
- 2 tablespoon vegetable oil

Cook turkey, onion, bell pepper and garlic over medium heat in a large pot for 8 to 10 minutes or until meat is brown and vegetables are tender; drain.

Stir in tomatoes, water and cumin. Bring to a boil; reduce heat. Simmer, uncovered, 15 minutes, stirring occasionally. Stir in green beans. Serve with Cheesy Corn Fritters.

For corn fritters, combine muffin mix, egg, milk, corn and cheese in a large bowl. Heat oil in a very large skillet over medium heat. For each fritter, pour about 3 tablespoons of batter into hot skillet. Cook 4 minutes or until golden brown, turning once. Keep cooked fritters warm in a 200 F oven while cooking the remaining batches.



Tom Papa

One of those rare talents who translates easily from the stage to television and the big screen, Tom Papa is now doing his 'thing' on his 'Good Stuff' tour. With more than 20 years on the stand-up circuit, Papa is clearly one of the top comedic voices around. In addition to his mastery of the stage, he's found success in a variety of creative pursuits, including as an actor and host in film and television, contributing writer for The New Yorker, author of three books, and popular podcast and radio host, among other endeavours. Papa has five highly rated stand-up specials to his credit, including his most recent Netflix special, 'What A Day,' filmed at the iconic Wilbur Theatre in Boston. His highly-rated podcast, 'Breaking Bread with Tom Papa,' features Papa and his guest eating, drinking, and engaging in revealing and funny conversations. When he's not on the road, Papa lives in Los Angeles with his family, where he spends most of his time writing and baking bread.

Saturday, Jan. 20, 7:30 p.m. \$59.50, \$39.50, \$29.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.



Puppy Pals Live

Madison Theatre goes to the dogs with Puppy Pals Live. From shelters to showbiz, the canine cast of mostly rescue dogs will have everyone smiling at their hilarious antics. As seen on NBC's 'America's Got Talent,' Puppy Pals is an over-the-top tale of what can happen when humans and animals come together in kindness, comedy, compassion and cooperation. These pooches, guided by their human handlers, perform challenging and comical tricks as they show everyone who's really the boss. Full of surprises and laugh-out-loud canine comedy, all ages will enjoy seeing the fur fly. Watch these 'performers' do amazing tricks and athletic feats, big air stunts, backflips, climbing a ladder, jumping rope, even dance and comedy antics. The audience also has an opportunity to get involved, and maybe even step up on the stage jump in the action with man's best friend. It's a howling good time for all.

Sunday, Jan. 21, 3 p.m. \$15-\$30. Molloy University, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. (516) 323-4444 or MadisonTheatreNY.org.

THE SCENE

Jan. 26

Royal Philharmonic Orchestra

The renowned Royal Philharmonic Orchestra visits Long Island on its 2024 tour, with soloist Isata Kanneh-Mason. The orchestra's new music director Vasily Petrenko conducts, on the Tilles Center stage, Friday, **Jan. 26**, 8 p.m. As a respected cultural ambassador,



the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra enjoys a busy schedule of international touring, performing in the world's great concert halls and prestigious international festivals. They are recognized as being the UK's most in-demand orchestra and count passion, versatility and uncompromising artistic standards as hallmarks and are celebrated as one of the world's most open-minded, forward-thinking and accessible symphony orchestras. In great demand internationally as a soloist and chamber musician, Kanneh-Mason was an ECHO Rising Star in 2021-2022, performing in many of Europe's finest halls and is also the recipient of the coveted Leonard Bernstein Award and an Opus Klassik award for best young artist. Her debut album on Decca Classics, "Romance — the Piano Music of Clara Schumann," drew popular and critical acclaim, entering the UK classical charts at No. 1. The program includes Debussy's "Danse, L. 69" (orch. Ravel), Prokofiev's "Piano Concerto No. 3" and Rimsky-Korsakov's "Scheherazade." Tickets are start at \$45; available at TillesCenter.org or (516) 299-3100. LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville.

Art talk

Join Franklin Hill Perrell, curator of Nassau County Museum of Art's "Our Gilded Age," for his talk "Art and Decorative Art Styles of the Gilded Age," Sunday, **Jan. 21**, 3 p.m. He'll discuss a selection of works on view through the lens of the era's changing styles and art movements including, grand tradition portraiture (in the spirit of Sir Joshua Reynolds and Thomas Gainsborough) French Salon style, Impressionism, Realism/Social Realism, Romanticism; and in the decorative arts, and Renaissance Revival Style vs. Art Nouveau. Artists examined include John Singer Sargent, William Merritt Chase, Thomas Eakins, Mary Cassatt and Louis Comfort Tiffany. Limited seating; advance registration required. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

On exhibit

Nassau County Museum of Art's latest exhibition, "Our Gilded Age," examines the appearances and the realities of an era that mirrors our own in many ways. Like the nation's economy, American art and literature flourished during the Gilded Age. The art of John Singer Sargent, Childe Hassam, Louis Comfort Tiffany and others adorned palatial residences designed by Stanford White and Ogden Codman Jr., architect of the museum's own quintessential Gilded Age mansion.

Drawing heavily upon the local literary history of Long Island, including William Cullen Bryant, Mark Twain (who named the Gilded Age), Walt Whitman, Edith Wharton and others, the exhibition will include paintings, fashion, decorative arts including period silver and china, photographs, manuscripts, first editions and other historic memorabilia.

The "Upstairs, Downstairs" approach to the life of a country house brings to life not only the storied conspicuous consumption for which the Gilded Age was infamous, but also the real lives of these many individuals who maintained the palatial estates where that lifestyle was enjoyed. On view through **March 10**. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

Library Walking Club

Participate in Glen Cove Public Library's at-your-own-pace hour walk, **every Thursday**, at 9:15 a.m. All fitness levels are welcome. Jumpstart your New Year's resolution of better wellness or take the first steps to improving fitness. 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. Register at GlencoveLibrary.org or call (516) 676-2130 for more information.

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Jan.
18**'Parallel Perspectives'**

View Molloy University Art Gallery's current exhibition, a duo exhibit displaying artwork of noted Long Island artists Holly Gordon and Ward Hooper. Various complementary paintings and prints are on view. Upon meeting, it became obvious that both Gordon and Hooper were deeply inspired by Long Island's fascinating environment and natural beauty.

Together, they toured the island and captured the same places, each interpreting the scenes in front of them through their distinctive artistic styles. Their creations not only influence one another but also blend unique aesthetics in their collaborative artistic journey. Gordon and Hooper's partnership yielded numerous accomplishments, one of which was the publication of their book "Parallel Perspectives: The Brush/Lens Collaboration." Through **Feb. 16**, Kellenberg Gallery, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. Call (516) 323-3196 or email artgallery@molloy.edu for more

Bird walk

See some winter birds with the South Shore Audubon Society. All are welcome to join members for another in its series of bird walks, at Mill Pond Park, in Wantagh, Sunday, **Jan. 21**, starting at 9 a.m. The park is on the north side of Merrick Road, 4 blocks west of Wantagh State Parkway. Walk leaders, other birders and nature enthusiasts are happy to share their knowledge and experience with you. Bring binoculars. The group will meet at the gazebo. To register, text your name and contact information to (516) 467-9498. No walk if rain or snow. Text regarding questionable weather. For more information, visit SSAudubon.org.

Comprehensive Plan Public Workshop

The city of Glen Cove will hold its second public workshop to discuss the city's comprehensive master plan, Tuesday, **Jan. 30**, 7-8:30 p.m. 9 Glen St.

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.

Night Flow L-O-V-E class

Open your heart this Valentine's Day with Night Flow: L-O-V-E class, Friday, Feb. 9, at Oyster Bay Yoga. This special all-levels yoga session will blend gentle poses, flowing sequences, and heart-openers, creating an atmosphere of self-love and connection. Expect a playlist inspired by love, carefully curated by Anne. Whether solo or with a partner, celebrate the spirit of Valentine's Day through mindful movement and heartwarming energy. \$15 to drop-in. free for members. 9 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay. Visit OysterBayYoga.com or call (516) 922-4222.

Dungeons & Dragons

Students in grades six to 12 can enter the world Dungeons and Dragons, with Game Master Laura, at Gold Coast Public Library, Tuesday, **Jan. 23**, 6:30-8:30 p.m. Players of all skill levels, including beginners, are welcome to join the adventure 50 Railroad Ave. Glen Head. Visit GoldCoastLibrary.org for more.

Afternoon of laughs

Plaza Theatrical hosts a new edition of the 50+ Comedy Tour, Sunday, **Jan. 21**, 2:30 p.m. Enjoy hilarious laughter and outrageous fun featuring some of the best comedians working today with one thing in common — they're all over age 50. Chase away winter blues with sidesplitting comedy from a lineup of top comedians on the stand-up circuit, at Plaza's stage at the Elmont Library Theatre. 700 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont. \$30, \$25 seniors. Elmont. For tickets, call (516) 599-6870 or visit PlazaTheatrical.com.

**Historic Spirits Tour**

Explore Raynham Hall, and three generations of Townsend family occupants, with spiritualist healer Samantha Lynn Difronzo, Friday, **Feb. 23**, 7:30-9 p.m. Robert Townsend, a central member of George Washington's Culper Spy Ring, and British officer Col. John Graves Simcoe, previously occupied Raynham Hall during the Revolutionary War. Transformed into a Victorian villa in the 1850s, the house offers two eras of interpretation, with the front of the house showcasing the period of the Revolution, and the back of the house preserving a late 19th century aesthetic. Reservations required. Raynham Hall Museum, 20 West Main St., Oyster Bay. Visit RaynhamHallMuseum.org for reservations and information.

Jan.
20**Gold Coast Estates lecture**

Join Richard Panchyk for a fascinating lecture about Hicks Nurseries at North Shore Historical Museum, Saturday, **Jan. 20**, 2 p.m. He'll discuss the importance of the nurseries to estates built from 1900 to the 1920s. Hicks offered the ability to supply fully grown trees to the estate owners to create enchanting landscapes. Discuss the creation of these estates from the perspective of the company that made the "new" appear to have been there forever. 140 Glen St., Glen Cove. Visit NorthShoreHistoricalMuseum.org for more.

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HERALD SCHOOLS

GLEN COVE HERALD – January 18, 2024

Teaching King's values through empathy

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

The Glen Cove City School District has ensured students realize that they are more alike than different. But the lessons didn't only come through a lecture or reading books. Instead, students spoke with classmates they normally would not interact with. And they did so in a place where they usually sat separately eating their lunch.

Students were assigned random seating arrangements in the Connolly Elementary School cafeteria, providing an opportunity for them to learn about their peers in ways that otherwise might not have been possible. The lesson aimed to foster a sense of common ground among the students. It encouraged them to share aspects of their lives, interests, and backgrounds. As a result, students discovered they had much in common, such as a love for dogs and various extracurricular activities.

While in their classrooms, students learned lessons on the life and the legacy of Rev. Martin Luther King, Jr. They were tasked with selecting and interpreting a significant quote from the civil rights leader. Then they created visual representations of their chosen quotes and discussed how it resonated with their lives and the world around them.

When asked about the inspiration behind the actives, Bryce Klatsky, principal of Connolly Elementary School, said it was a collaborative effort between him and Jacklyn Burnett, principal of Landing Elementary School. Both educators sought to celebrate the holiday while emphasizing the similarities among students and building empathy.

Klatsky plans to repeat the activity because the outcome was positive, he said. This heartwarming initiative not only celebrated the legacy of King, but also allowed students to connect, under-



Anna Georgoulis/Herald photos

Principal Bryce talks Joseph Dimaggio, Alan Castanos, and Lindsay Ruiz through the empathy building exercises.

stand, and appreciate their similarities and differences. The success of this activity has left a lasting impression, signaling a promising future for similar endeavors at the school.

"Part of his message was about building relationships with people that you don't normally talk to," Klatsky said. "I heard some students talking about countries they came from. Some students was talking about activities they liked outside of school, or that they might not have known that so-and-so played soccer or these other students did ballet or something like that."



When asked if they connected with a student they normally wouldn't interact with, many students raised their hands.

HERALD PUBLIC NOTICES

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 and Lot 60. Approximate
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 Attorneys for Plaintiff
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LEGAL NOTICE
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 that a Public Hearing
 shall be held on Tuesday,
 January 24, 2024, at 7:30
 p.m. in the Council
 Chambers at Glen Cove
 City Hall, 9 Glen Street,
 Glen Cove, NY to discuss
 changing the zoning
 district designation along
 the west side of Brewster
 Street from Mill Hill Road
 to the Glen Arms

Apartments, which area
 more specifically consists
 of properties known on
 the Nassau County Land
 and Tax Map as Section
 31, Block F, Lots 1070,
 1068 and 1066, 400, 401,
 404 and 1071 from B-1
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 Commercial District.
 All interested parties will
 be given an opportunity
 to be heard.
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LEGAL NOTICE
 Notice of Public Meeting
 and Public Hearing
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE
 that the City of Glen Cove
 will hold the second
 public workshop for the
 City of Glen Cove Smart
 Growth Comprehensive
 Plan with Sustainability
 Elements
 ("Comprehensive Plan")
 on January 30 in the Main
 Chambers at Glen Cove
 City Hall (9 Glen Street,
 Glen Cove, NY 11542).
 The meeting will also
 include the public hearing
 of the Comprehensive
 Planning Committee
 ("Committee").
 The meeting will be in
 two parts:

- 7:00 p.m.:
Presentation and
information board
stations.
- 8:00 p.m.:
Committee Public
Hearing. Comments will
be heard on the
Comprehensive Plan.
The Comprehensive Plan
will guide the City's
investment, development,
and growth over the next
decade. It will update the
Master Plan for the City
of Glen Cove that was
adopted in 2009.
The workshop and
Committee public hearing
will provide Glen Cove
residents and
stakeholders with the
opportunity to ask
questions and provide
comments regarding the
Comprehensive Plan.
More information can be
found on the
Comprehensive Plan
website, including draft
chapters as they are
prepared
(www.GlenCoveCompreh
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Members of the public
are encouraged to attend
the workshop and
Committee public hearing
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OPINIONS

God knows where my story will lead

While I truly appreciated every moment of my 28 years in Congress, I've found that a real benefit of being retired is that I have more time to think about where I've been and how I got there. Don't get me wrong, I'm still keeping myself busy in a number of areas, including writing for the Herald. But there's no longer the constant rush to be somewhere or get something done.



PETER KING

It took me at least a month or so to realize that when I woke up in the morning, I could go back to sleep if I wanted to. I didn't have to catch a plane to Washington or be in my district

office in Massapequa Park for an early-morning constituent meeting.

Some friends suggested early on that I write about my experiences in Congress and what I witnessed — the historic, the exhilarating and the tragic. I gave it some thought, but decided to let my brain settle for a while before trying to make sense of what I had seen and whom I had met. But the more I thought

about it, the more I realized that in order to understand where I had been, I had to look back on how I got there, and how those earlier experiences influenced how I approached and dealt with the challenges I faced and the people I encountered.

Mine is no rags-to-riches tale. But it was an improbable journey that took me from the blue-collar, working-class neighborhoods of Sunnyside and St. Albans, Queens, to the halls of Congress and Oval Office meetings at the White House. From loading freight cars at the Railway Express Terminal on Manhattan's West Side to flying on Air Force One with three presidents. From grammar school classrooms crammed with 70 kids to Notre Dame Law School.

I went from working in a law firm on Vesey Street, in Lower Manhattan, across the street from where the World Trade Center twin towers were being built, to being at ground zero with President Bush days after the Sept. 11 attacks, as those still-smoldering towers lay in ruins, a burial site for almost 3,000 innocent people. From traversing the minefields of Nassau County and

New York politics to dealing with world statesmen and dictators. From listening to my Irish immigrant grandmother describe the Irish struggle against British rule, in which her brother was imprisoned, to working with President Bill Clinton and British Prime Minister Tony Blair on the 1998 Good Friday Agreement, which brought that 800-year struggle to an end. From being an altar boy in Queens to leading the American congressional delegation to the installation of Pope Benedict in Vatican City.

Early last year, I decided it was time to start writing. Attempting to describe the improbability of this journey that took me so far from where I began, and was neither planned nor predetermined, prompted me to title my proposed memoir "The Road to God Knows Where," from the Irish rebel song "On the One Road."

Now I'm about 60,000 words into it. Ironically, considering Israel's current war for survival, the chapter I'm just completing focuses on being in Jerusalem as part of a congressional delegation in August 1993, when Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin informed us that Isra-

el had reached a historic agreement with Yasir Arafat and the Palestine Liberation Organization, which led weeks later to Rabin's famous handshake with Arafat on the White House lawn, orchestrated by Clinton, creating the mood and belief that peace was inevitable. Unfortunately, of course, the chapter will conclude with Rabin's tragic assassination just two years later.

As I write more, the easier the words seem to flow. To make real progress, though, I'll have to block out time for concentrated writing instead of just writing spasmodically when time allows. I also want to make sure that I do justice not only to the events I've lived through and witnessed, but, more important, the people who have been such an important part of my journey. Not just the world leaders, but also those close to me. My mother, father, brother and sister. My wife, Rosemary, our son, Sean, our daughter, Erin, and our two grandchildren. Also, the close friends who urged me to write and continue to encourage me.

As to where this will lead? Only God knows where.

Peter King is a former congressman, and a former chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security. Comments? pking@liherald.com.

I'm 60,000 words into a biography with no ending in sight, but an appropriate title.

Hochul wins a round on the Albany battlefield

In this world, when you are presented with an opportunity to advance in some field, you often only get one chance. But when it comes to politics and you're the governor of New York, you get four chances to succeed at the job. Last week, Gov. Kathy Hochul got her second chance to present her blueprint for the future, and she succeeded in winning over many of the state's skeptics.



JERRY KREMER

At the outset of her State of the State address, Hochul made it clear to the 212 members of the Legislature that all of the federal Covid money had been spent, and if they had any plans to spend billions more of it,

the cupboard was bare. Despite her warnings, there is no doubt that she will be bombarded by the Legislature with multiple requests for money that the state doesn't have. Hochul made numerous proposals, but I'll try to single out a few that are worth discussing. Currently, there is a

great deal of discussion about the pros and cons of artificial intelligence, but few organizations are doing in-depth research into its best uses. The governor has proposed a first-in-the-nation \$275 million consortium that aims to leverage public and private-sector research into this very complex subject.

Over the years, New York state has spent billions on economic development, but there have been few major success stories for any governor to brag about. Thanks to a Biden administration program, the state is getting a \$5 billion grant that will be used for a major chip manufacturing plant in central New York, which will provide 10,000 jobs, and possibly more. The state will help advance that program, which may attract other job opportunities.

One of the governor's priorities that ran into heated opposition last year was her housing program. She had suggested that local zoning be overridden, and that thousands of units of new housing be built without community input. The proposal drew heated opposition from elected officials, and Hochul wisely

dropped the suburban portion of the plan. This time around, she focused on incentives for New York City housing, which is more likely to generate support.

This past year, there was a lot of discussion of the issue of New Yorkers

leaving the state for other places to live. There's no doubt that high taxes have driven quite a few people to Florida and Texas, which have no income tax. But Hochul discussed a new state survey that shows that many New Yorkers are moving to Connecticut and New Jersey as well, where they can find affordable housing. That applies especially to places like Long Island, where

many young people can't afford to live.

It's no secret that New York, like many other states, has failed to provide enough support services for people with emotional issues. This is especially true for our young people who suffer from problems created by social media. The governor announced a number of programs that will offer more services for troubled adults and high school students. Many of the crimes we read

The governor used her State of the State address to detail the future as she sees it.

about involve people released from state or city institutions with no after-care. This headache goes back as far as the early 1980s, and at least for now, there is a promise for more state action.

In her address, Hochul took the opportunity to boast about the large amount of funding that has been devoted to the suburbs. Topping the list is last year's \$2 billion in education aid, which helped keep school taxes from rising in many districts. She also reminded her audience about the millions being spent on such roadways as the Long Island Expressway and others that have been repaved.

All in all, Hochul did a great job in her second opportunity to meet the Albany establishment since she was elected in her own right. There is no doubt that the road ahead will be bumpy, because the Legislature has its own priorities. But the State of the State was her chance to shine, and she succeeded in enhancing her standing with taxpayers.

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.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

There's no such thing as too many debates

The political debate. It's a chance to see and hear from those who wish to represent us in government. But for the candidates seeking office, only they can truly appreciate the stress and pressure that comes with it.

There have been some extraordinary debate moments.

"I want you to know I will not make age an issue of this campaign," President Ronald Reagan, who was 73 at the time, said in his 1984 debate with the younger Walter Mondale. "I am not going to exploit, for political purposes, my opponent's youth and inexperience."

Then there was U.S. Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, running to become vice president in 1988, responding to his upper chamber colleague Dan Quayle, who had compared himself to John F. Kennedy.

"I served with Jack Kennedy," Bentsen told George H. W. Bush's running mate.

"I knew Jack Kennedy. Jack Kennedy was a friend of mine. Senator, you're not Jack Kennedy."

Good or bad, memorable or forgotten, political debates are a vital thread knitting our democratic landscape together.

They help voters get to know candidates and what they stand for. Debates force them to be held accountable for statements or positions they have taken. And they allow us to assess the candidates' character, completely unfiltered.

Most of all, debates show that we, as Americans, can disagree with one another, but do so in a civil way that leads to solutions rather than conflict. These forums are the very essence of listening to all sides of an issue, hearing how people stand, and then coming to our own conclusions — as well as deciding on the person we want to represent us in voicing our beliefs.

In just a few weeks — on Feb. 13 — voters across the North Shore of Long Island and parts of Queens will elect a new member of Congress to replace disgraced former U.S. Rep. George Santos. The vote will cap a special election race between the former Democratic holder of Santos' seat, Tom Suozzi, and Nassau County Legislator Mazi Melesa Pilip.

Suozzi is pushing for more debates, according to published reports. Pilip, however, fewer.

At this point, there is just one debate scheduled between the two, and it hap-

pens mere days before actual Election Day. That means the thousands of people who chose to vote early will not have a chance to hear the two candidates debate the issues.

Debates have perhaps never been more vital than in this race, just 15 months after voters elected Santos, a man they later discovered they knew nothing about. It is crucial that voters get to know Suozzi and Pilip, what their positions are and how they would represent their constituents. There's no such thing as too many debates, at least not in this race.

It's great that both Suozzi and Pilip have been accessible to the media — both, for example, have agreed to individually sit down with the Herald to take questions from our reporters — but nothing compares to being on stage and taking your case straight to the people whose votes you want.

We can't have another George Santos situation. We urge Suozzi and Pilip to debate.

Be civil. Share ideas. Disagree. And give all of us everything we need to make the most informed decision we can on Feb. 13.

LETTERS

Tom Suozzi, American Jewry and Israel — the right man at the right time

To the Editor:

American Jewry and Israel, America's closest ally, need friends and fierce advocates in Congress, especially now. Tom Suozzi is the right person at the right time.

Tom's demonstrated commitment to supporting Israel, his deep understanding of government and the U.S.-Israel relationship, and his fearlessness in defending the Jewish state — including against antisemites in his own party — is exactly what we need right now.

All these essential characteristics were evident in Suozzi's very first speech on the floor of Congress, seven years ago, on Jan. 5, 2017. The then newly elected congressman condemned the recently passed United Nations Resolution 2334, which declared that all of Israel's presence outside its pre-1967 borders was illegal, that Jewish control of the Kotel was illegal, that Jewish sovereignty in the Jewish Quarter of the Old City was illegal, and that Jewish

Darkness cannot drive out darkness; Only light can do that.

Hate cannot drive out hate; Only love can do that.

Martin Luther King Jr.

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OPINIONS

Why can't we be told the truth about congestion pricing?

Some politicians give out “candy.” Some give out “medicine.” That’s the nature of politics. But what’s unacceptable is giving people medicine and telling them it’s candy.

That’s what Gov. Kathy Hochul is doing with congestion pricing. As is often the case with problematic legislation, the plan’s sponsors are concealing the real objective. Instead, they appeal to us with noble causes and the promise of feel-good results.



JACK M. MARTINS

In this case, we’ve been told the new tolls will discourage vehicle use and ease Midtown congestion while compelling commuters to make greater use of mass transit. Our transit system will be flush with cash, gas emissions will be reduced, our air will be cleaner, and New York will be a green leader. We’ll be more energy-independent and less reliant on foreign oil, all of which underscores the larger theme that we can stop climate change and preserve

our planet.

It sounds great, and to be clear, these are worthy objectives that those on both sides of the aisle should get behind — except, when it comes to this congestion pricing plan, none of it is true. In fact, it won’t be achieved, because congestion reduction isn’t even the goal. In actuality, this is a fabricated narrative designed to dress up a controversial money grab, one that is desperately needed to bolster the ailing and notoriously inefficient Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

But don’t take my word for it. A simple perusal of the plan’s official budget predictions indicates that its creators expect absolutely no decline in traffic. To the contrary, they’re counting on traffic to remain the same, or increase, in order to meet their budgetary needs. So, while we’re hoping for a greener environment and better mass-transit alternatives, Hochul and her advisers are hoping for greener bank accounts.

You have only to look beyond revenue projections at actual budget allocations for further confirmation. You’ll discover that the bulk of the tolling rev-

enue is already earmarked for the MTA’s Capital Program, which has a current funding shortfall approaching \$1 billion. That’s just part of the MTA’s shocking \$48 billion in overall debt.

To make matters clearer, not a penny of the congestion-pricing revenue will be used to lower fares on subways, buses or railroads — the very use it supposedly seeks to encourage. That raises the obvious question: If the intention was to promote the use of mass transit, wouldn’t the planners use the funding windfall to reduce fares and make mass transit more accessible to a greater number of commuters?

That would do the most good for the most people, and make sense.

Let’s face it. The laws of marketing work in government as they do elsewhere. If a product is needed, good and cost-effective, people will utilize it. Likewise, if mass transit is needed, good and cost-effective, we can popularize it.

But the MTA never achieves the cost-effective, because too many private interests are at stake. So, rather than address the elephant in the room, our

leaders will once again try to tax their way out of a problem. In the end, the MTA gets a new funding source. We get the same traffic, same pollution, same train fares, except now we all pay extra for it.

We could get into the weeds on the many reasons this policy is debatable, but that’s the point. Such far-reaching legislation requires honest debate and input from those who must abide by it. But *honest* is the operative word, because misrepresenting intentions is cynical. False promises do more than advance questionable policy; they break the public’s trust in government. And we just can’t afford that right now.

The real key to going green is to make green the obvious choice. It’s high time we give it a try, but congestion pricing is not a sincere attempt. That would require a non-political audit of the MTA to establish real assessments of how to achieve green goals.

And therein lies the rub. Just once, I’d like my counterparts in government to give it to us straight. If the governor and the MTA want congestion pricing so badly, tell us the truth about why. At least we’d know we’re being force-fed a heaping tablespoon of bad medicine.

Jack M. Martins represents the 7th Senate District.

It’s clear that the plan’s creators expect absolutely no decline in city-bound traffic.

LETTERS

jurisdiction over holy sites such as the Cave of Machpelah, in Hebron — where tradition holds that Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Sarah, Rebekah and Leah are buried — was illegal.

In that brief but impactful speech, Suozzi eviscerated the U.N. resolution’s wrongful notion that Jewish life in the eternal Jewish homeland was an obstacle to peace. Rather, as Tom stated that day, the obstacle to peace was “anti-Israel terrorism.”

The fact that he chose to stand up for Israel on Day One of his congressional career is a testament to his genuine and heartfelt commitment. Of all the issues on which he campaigned; of all the issues that he and his supporters cared about; of all the governmental and political forces and pressures pushing and pulling him to make a statement about this or that, Suozzi devoted his first speech in that hallowed chamber to defending the safety and security of the Jewish state.

He did so despite the fact that it was a prior Democratic administration that declined to veto the U.N. resolution, thus letting it reach the Security Council for a vote in the first place. This tells us that Tom will not back down, will not relent, and will not look the other way when Israel is unjustly singled out, maligned and attacked.

Tom marshaled the evidence, and deployed his understanding of government and the U.S.-Israel relationship, to

clearly demonstrate that he took the job seriously and would continue to deliver. We need a representative in Congress who believes in the fundamental right of the Jewish people to self-determination and security, and who has proven that he will show up prepared and able to work every lever of government to get results. Tom has the knowledge of how government works, the relationships on both sides of the aisle, and the understanding of our issues to get the job done.

He has continued to be one of Israel and American Jewry’s fiercest advocates, fighting for unconditional aid for Iron Dome and David’s Sling, condemning antisemitic comments by Democratic colleagues like Ilhan Omar, passing bipartisan legislation to sanction the terrorist use of human shields, and even traveling to Israel as recently as December to support Israel and Jews throughout the world during this difficult time.

Governing is hard. For American Jewry and America’s closest ally, Israel, Tom Suozzi is the right person at the right time, for the right place. That place is the United States Congress.

RORY LANCMAN
Great Neck

Rory Lancman is a former member of the Assembly and the New York City Council.

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