

HERALD



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Courtesy GSM Communications

The Scarfo family, of Glen Cove, purchased banners in 2022 dedicated to their late brothers Joseph, John and Anthony Scarfo. Anthony's and John's banners hung next to each other.

A way to honor veterans with banners, essays and art

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Generations of the nation's veterans have planted roots in Glen Cove and helped the city thrive. From building Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347 after World War I to supporting local organizations, these heroes have continued to serve their hometown.

In recognition, the Glen Cove Public Library and the Veterans Services Department are continuing to offer community members an opportunity to sponsor military tribute banners that will be displayed on lampposts in Morgan Park from Memorial Day through Veterans Day.

There are 92 banners available for sale,

and Librarian Lydia Wen has already sold more than half of them. The cost is \$99 before March 1, and \$109 afterward. Potential buyers can contact Wen directly so she can guide them through the process, to ensure the quality of the submitted images and to help families craft their stories to honor the veterans.

When Wen began the program in 2021, she learned quickly that veterans are humble, and are hesitant to have their photos on display. The community, she said, must act on their behalf.

"They are really relying on friends and families to purchase a banner," Wen explained. "That's why it's really important to get the word out."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

Kids prepare to participate in civic life

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

In a world filled with challenges and uncertainties, the Glen Cove School District is shining a spotlight on the universal capacity for positive change, regardless of age or adversity. The district is at the forefront of the Seal of Civic Readiness initiative, emphasizing civic education's importance and recognizing students' preparedness for active participation in civic life.

The seal is a symbol of commitment to civic responsibility, but is also a formal recognition that a student has reached a high level of proficiency in civic knowledge, skills, mindset and experiences. The Seal of Civic Readiness distinction will appear on high school transcripts and diplomas.

"Civic education isn't just a tool for change; it's the key to saving our world," Susan Poulos, the district's coordinator of

social studies, said at the Jan. 17 Board of Education meeting. "It is the embodiment of the belief that collaborative efforts fueled by individuals such as our students can address the complex challenges we face, from environmental issues to societal inequality to political reform."

Civic education isn't just a tool for change; it's the key to saving our world.

SUSAN POULOS
coordinator of social studies, GCCSD

The elementary schools focus on building a foundation of empathy, and understanding rights and responsibilities as members of the community. In kindergarten, students learn the values of kindness, sharing and civic responsibility through activities like visiting senior citizens and engaging with community helpers. Kindergartners learned about civic action by visiting senior citizens at Sunrise Senior Assisted Living, where they sang holiday songs.

First-graders have written Mother's Day cards, and visited the post office to learn how to mail them.

"It's not just about sending a

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Suozzi wants debates, Pilip doesn't have time

January 25, 2024 — GLEN COVE HERALD

By WILL SHEELINE

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With the special election to find the replacement for fallen U.S. Rep. George Santos entering its final weeks, all eyes have turned to the two candidates: Tom Suozzi and Mazi Melesa Pilip.

Suozzi, a well-known figure in the district for decades — and the Democrat who held the seat before Santos — has frequently described himself “a talker,” citing it as one of his greatest strengths.

Pilip, however, is still quite new to the political scene, and wasn't widely recognized ahead of being selected by Republicans to represent them in the race, despite spending the past two years on the Nassau County Legislature.

Typically, a candidate seeking to make themselves better known clamor for public debates, while the one who already has name recognition resists it. But in this particular race, it's been the opposite.

Suozzi says he and Pilip have been invited to 11 such debates — several televised — but Pilip has only agreed to participate in one: Feb. 8, five days before the election and after early voting has already started.

“She's hiding,” the former congressman told reporters during a recent news conference. “She refuses to tell us anything of detail, and she refuses to debate me or appear in public in front of the

ladies and gentlemen of the media.”

When he sat down with Herald reporters last week, Suozzi argued that if anyone should be turning down debates, it should be him. He believes Pilip is relying on “the Republican machine, which is very strong in Nassau County” to gather support for her, rather than letting voters get to know her through public debates.

I'm engaging myself as much as possible to the public.

MAZI MELESA PILIP
Congressional candidate

“She should be clamoring for debates, to get people to find out who she is,” Suozzi said. “She's hiding behind (the party) and hoping that she'll win the same as the Republicans have won everything else on Long Island.”

Pilip has a very different take. She sat down with the same Herald reporters this past week, telling them that although debates are “very important” to the election process, but because of the truncated nature of the special election, she “didn't have much time to do” them.

Pilip only found out that she would be the Republican candidate a little more than a month ago, she said, and the county legislator needed to devote more time to raise money and meet more potential constituents. Suozzi “knew he would be running way before me,” she added, which gave him more time to potentially participate in debates.

Pilip was adamant voters could get to know her through other means, which she believes is more effective than debating her opponent.

“I'm trying to raise money,” she said. “I'm trying



TOM SUOZZI



MAZI MELESA PILIP

to meet — and meeting — a lot of people, a lot of events, a lot of small groups, synagogues and communities calling me to come to meet. I do not have that much time to debate. I have one debate. I'm looking forward (to) that one, Feb. 8.”

Pilip argued voters knew where she stood on the key issues such as the state and local income tax deduction cap, the migrant crisis, Israel, and other hot-button issues. Voters, in her opinion, didn't need to see more than one debate between her and Suozzi to know who to vote for.

“I'm very confident that I'm going to win this election, because people know where I'm standing on the issues that matter to the (3rd) District residents,” Pilip said. “I'm engaging myself as much as possible to the public.”

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Roksana Amid/Herald photos

The Glen Cove Fire Department showed their support for the VFW members by attending the gala. Many first responders in the city are also veterans.

Tribute and Honor Foundation to honor vets

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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The Tribute and Honor Foundation, formerly known as the Phoenix Rising Committee, is gearing up for its highly anticipated third award ceremony and fundraising gala scheduled for Feb. 3. Eight distinguished awards will be presented that night.

In a heartwarming display of community solidarity, Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, a Glen Cove resident and president of the organization, teamed up with Jeanine DiMenna, owner of the View Grill, in December 2021 to begin the foundation. Their mission was to alleviate some of the construction costs incurred after a devastating fire that left members of Glen Cove's James E. Donohue Veterans of Foreign War Post 347 without a home in August 2021.

Within weeks, a dedicated committee of nine individuals was formed. Strategic meetings were held with the leadership of the VFW, culminating in plans for an event that would not only raise funds but also pay tribute to the city's veterans.

Since its inception, the organization has successfully raised nearly \$50,000 for the post. Moreover, it has expanded its mission to provide support to veterans and their families across Long Island.

Stevenson-Mathews, in a letter to be included in the foundation's upcoming event journal, expressed gratitude to the local fire department, police, and EMS whose heroic response saved lives and the VFW Hall. She emphasized that the restoration of the building was a significant endeavor, serving as a gift to the community.

Acknowledging DiMenna's pivotal role, Stevenson-Mathews credited her not only for providing meeting space



The very first meeting of the Tribute and Honor Foundation, formerly known as the Phoenix Rising Committee, took place in December 2021.

but also for being a crucial sounding board during the organization's formative stages. The first awards ceremony was held at DiMenna's restaurant, marking a successful beginning for the foundation.

The overwhelming success of the inaugural event prompted the foundation to plan subsequent award ceremonies and engage in serious discussions about its future. Since then, the foundation has evolved into a robust entity with a dedicated board, liaison committee and passionate volunteers.

The foundation has forged partnerships with organizations like Team EVA and other veteran support groups to enhance the lives of veterans. It has sponsored programs such as the Glen Cove Library's VetNOW Program, offer-

ing veterans free access to online tutoring, employment transition assistance and other valuable resources.

Under Stevenson-Mathews' leadership, the foundation's board includes key members like first vice president Connie Pinilla, Esq., second vice president Harold Bollaci, Esq., secretary Angelina Stanco-Stone, treasurer Thomas Bunger, and board members Lydia Wen Rodgers and Mike Gadaleta. The Liaison Committee comprises individuals from various organizations, including Glen Cove Boy Scout Troop 6, Team E.V.A., Patriot Guard Riders of New York, Rolling Thunder Inc., Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce, Military Blue Star Mothers NY 14, VFW Post 347, and CEC Health Care (formerly the Charles Evans Center).



Photos courtesy the Tribute and Honor Foundation

Luke Whitting will be one of eight recipients awarded for their service and dedication to the community. He will receive this year's leadership award.

In a recent announcement, the foundation introduced the Ben Farnan Scholarship, named after the Korean War veteran and recipient of the 2022 Legacy Award. This scholarship will benefit graduating seniors entering the military or a military academy from Glen Cove, Locust Valley and North Shore High Schools. As the foundation prepares for its third gala, a portion of the proceeds will contribute to the Farnan Scholarship Fund, furthering its mission to honor and support veterans.

The gala is scheduled for Feb. 3, at the Crescent Beach Club, 333 Bayville Ave., Bayville, at 6 p.m. For information on the Tribute and Honor Foundation or to purchase tickets for the foundation's upcoming gala visit PhoenixRisingAwards.com.







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A client came in to see us for their follow-up consultation. The client shared that, in between their two meetings with us, the husband's brother had suffered a stroke and was now in a rehabilitation facility. He was a bachelor. He had no power of attorney or health care proxy. He may or may not have had a will -- they didn't know. Further, they were unable to get access to his apartment to clean out the fridge and get his clothes because he had failed to put them on the list of persons approved to enter in the event of an emergency.

One of the most overlooked areas in estate planning is the question of who you are responsible for. Do you have a friend or relative who you know will need to rely on you if something happens? Either they have no one else or everyone else is too far away. If you have the responsibility, then make sure that you have the documents you will need to carry out that responsibility. Otherwise, the challenges become of a magnitude greater.

Similarly, so many of our clients have adult

children with young families. Do you know whether your children have wills, powers of attorney and health care proxies?

There are serious pitfalls for young families if one spouse dies without a plan. Roughly half of their assets go to their surviving spouse and half to the children. The court will appoint a legal guardian for the children's money and the unused portion must be turned over to them at age eighteen, ready or not!

A potentially more serious problem for older adults is whether their sons and daughters who have families possess adequate life insurance. If your son or daughter dies without sufficient life insurance, you may be called upon to support and educate your grandchildren out of your retirement money.

Finally, if you are responsible for the care of an elderly parent, then make sure it is you who has the power of attorney and health care proxy and not another sibling who may end up controlling the situation from afar, much to your dismay.

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Fostering positive change in the City of Glen Cove

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

heartwarming letter to Mom," Poulos explained. "It's a lesson in communication and understanding the community services."

Middle school students have learned the importance of becoming informed citizens by exploring their community, visiting City Hall and meeting local leaders. The emphasis is on civic participation, and preparing students for the democratic processes they will encounter.

Sixth-graders were encouraged to create art with the theme Extraordinary Earth, and were tasked with raising awareness of global sustainability. Seventh- and eighth-grade students are offered two electives, Foundations in Government and Citizens Rights and Responsibilities. The seventh-grade civic engagement course focuses on foundations of government, citizens' rights and responsibilities, grass-roots movements and creating change, current events, and an introduction to debate. Eighth-grade students can choose capstone research projects with student-generated topics.

High school students reach the pinnacle of civic education, the practical application of civic knowledge and skills acquired in the previous courses.

Virginia Graziosi's senior capstone project, which she presented to the Board of Education on Jan. 17, focused on her experience, since last June, with HorseAbility, a nonprofit that focuses on adaptive horseback riding for those with mental and physical disabilities.

"As I spent more time volunteering,

I've noticed that as riders approach the mounting block, their faces light up with smiles," Graziosi said. "Not only were these riders excited to learn how to work with horses, they felt safe in the hands of their side-walkers. HorseAbility showed me that the comfort animals bring to humans is no longer just my personal experience. This is why I'm taking on the role of an active change maker."

Graziosi said that her time with the program inspired her to get involved in fundraising efforts for HorseAbility beyond her project.

In another capstone project, senior Phoebe George addressed issues facing the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer community, focusing on trans youth. In their presentation to the school board, George explained that in the past two years, 510 anti-LGBTQ bills were introduced in Congress, and 278 of those were directed at trans people, who account for 2 percent of the United States population.

"According to the Trevor Project, allowing trans youth to express themselves as their truest selves drops the rates of depression, anxiety and suicide," George said. "I believe that smaller communities such as ours need to do something, the discussion of gender and sexuality is very taboo. Having that conversation not be considered taboo, not be considered dangerous, is just the first step in creating a more comfortable world for not just people like me, but people everywhere."

NEWS BRIEF

St. Patrick's Day parade announced

The Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day parade will be held on March 17 at 1 p.m., Grand Marshal Christine Rice, and Patricia Victoria will lead the parade along its original route, forming at noon in the area of the Finley Middle School at Forest Avenue and Dosoris Lane and will conclude at the Church of St. Patrick.

The after-party takes place at St. Patrick's Parish Hall.

Park in downtown garages, St. Patrick's lot, or take shuttle buses. The charity is Glen Cove SAGE Foundation, for support of senior programs. The parade features Irish pipers, vintage cars, costumed performers, fire and police units.

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HOW TO REACH US

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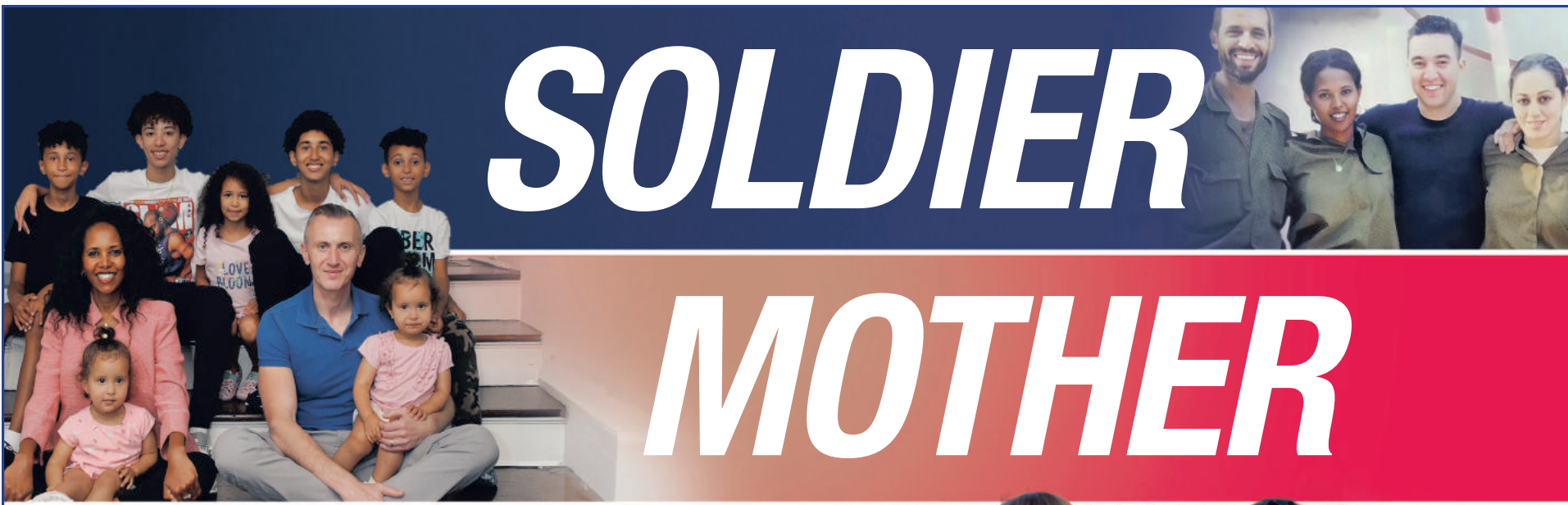
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Rosa Diaz, city's new chief of auxiliary police

January 25, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

If you've been to the Glen Cove City School District in the past 30 years you've likely come across Rosa Diaz helping students sign in for the day, monitoring the gates at the school and ensuring doors are tightly secured. Diaz, who recently took the role of chief of the city's auxiliary police, has spent her decades of service helping to create a safe environment within the school district.

The council unanimously approved Diaz to become chief of the auxiliary police on Dec. 12. But before each member cast their "aye" vote, they shared a few sentiments and funny memories they personally had with her.

"There's no one I know that's more respected in the high school. You've touched so many children's lives," Councilman Kevin Maccarone said. "You've always been a friendly face. You can also be a scary face, but at the same time, it's always for the good of everybody in the community."

Born in Cuba, Diaz and her family faced challenges due to the political landscape. Fleeing communism when she was

5 years old, her family first settled in Spain. They found their permanent home in Glen Cove in 1974, when she was 9.

Despite a language barrier, Diaz remembers her childhood fondly, emphasizing the supportive community she found in Glen Cove. Reflecting on her early experiences in Glen Cove, Diaz expressed gratitude for the welcoming community she entered after arriving in the United States. Diaz didn't speak English when she enrolled in the city school district, but recalled a smooth transition into American life, emphasizing the support she received both at school and within the neighborhood.

"The community in Glen Cove has always been great to my family," Diaz said. "I've never had a bad experience in Glen Cove. Everybody has always been very friendly."

Diaz was part of the school's Reserve Officers' Training Corps program for four years in high school, but military service wasn't in her future. Instead, she dedicated herself to family life, working part-time jobs and eventually becoming a

dental assistant for several years after high school. Not long after she gave birth to her son, Diaz joined the auxiliary police at just 20 years old. She has worked in the city's school district as a security guard since 1996.

When asked about her most impactful moments while working for the Glen Cove City School District, Diaz recalled her time with the district's food pantry during the coronavirus pandemic, where she played a crucial role in the community, ensuring that families in need had access to essential supplies by directly handing out food to families, while also serving as a security guard.

"It was very gratifying, everybody came together to help out in the community," Diaz said. "We started mostly for the kids to make sure they had food, but we made sure that everyone got something."

Three years ago Diaz was promoted to deputy chief of the city's auxiliary police. She was promoted to chief last October.

"Rosa has a unique way about her,"

Frank Pronesti, the previous auxiliary chief, said. "Her demeanor, the way she handles herself, her knowledge of the way the city works, she was the choice. There was no one that had her experience and her qualities that I would have chosen"

Diaz has preformed many tasks outside her designated role with the auxiliary police. She helped bridge communication gaps between police, and victims and criminals who predominantly spoke Spanish. The auxiliary police help prevent criminal activity by being the "eyes and ears" of the Police Department, but their dedication to the community comes with unique sacrifices. Pronesti explained that monetary compensation doesn't make up for the time police spend away from their families on major holidays.

"The dedication, the amount of time away from your family on holidays, is tremendous," Pronesti said. "It's a big ask from the day that you sign up. We'll let you know straight out, we're going to need you on all these holidays and events, and when you make the commitment to join the auxiliary police, this is one of the things that you do. People like Rosa are rare."



ROSA DIAZ

Unity, creativity, environmental awareness

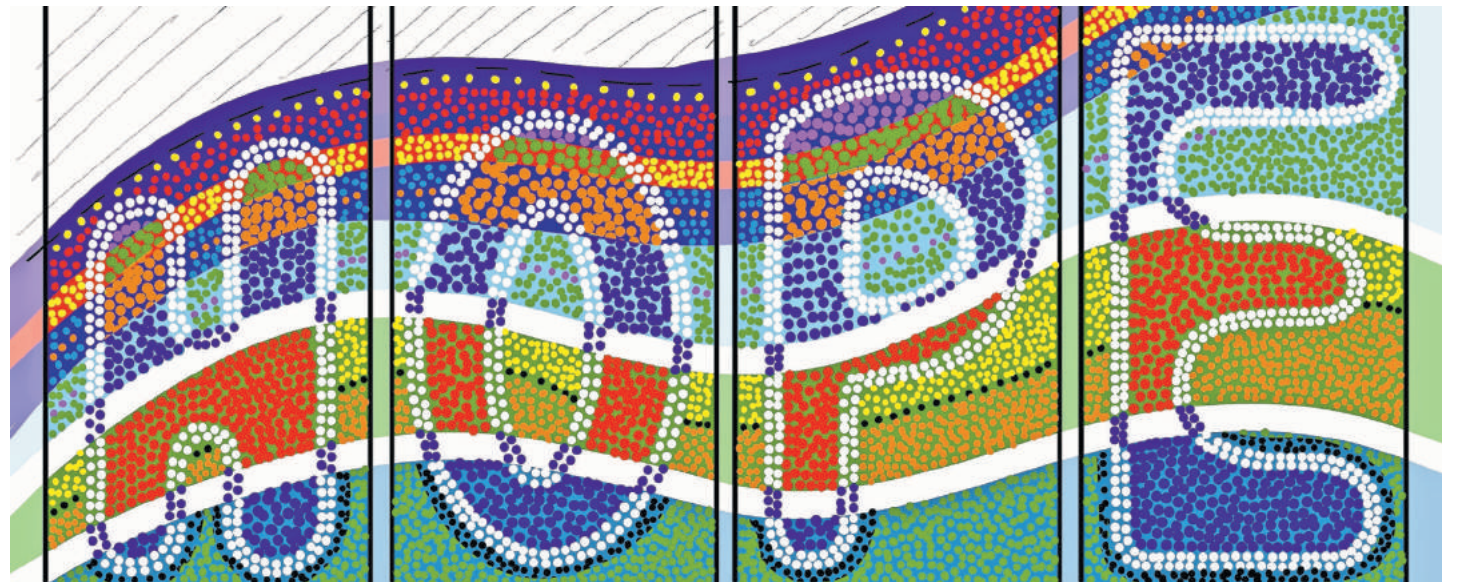
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Last year marked the introduction of two essay contests, for local middle school and high school students. The first contest, called Liberty's Torch, was available to sixth- through eighth-graders, who were tasked with writing about lessons they had learned from a veteran. Mia DiFrancisco, a seventh-grader at the Finley Middle School, took first place. In the second contest, Echoes of Freedom, Glen Cove High School students wrote about what it means to serve their country, and freshman Michael Renga won first place.

This year, the tradition continues. The subject for Liberty's Torch is, once again, lessons students have learned from a veteran, while Echoes of Freedom asks why the Pledge of Allegiance is important. Submissions for both contests are due by April 30, and the first-place prize is \$250. The winning essays will be presented on May 26, when the banners are unveiled at Morgan Memorial Park.

With the hope of promoting creativity among younger generations and the public, Wen is also gearing up for a unique recycled art mural project. She is collaborating with Amanda Fisk, the library's artist in residence, to create a mosaic using recycled bottle caps to spell the word "hope."

Wen emphasized the interactive nature of the project, so community members can take pride in contributing to specific sections of the mosaic. The library wants to make the project as inclusive as possible, to encourage people to be part of a collective effort to cre-



Courtesy Amanda Fisk

This image by Amanda Fisk captures a preliminary concept for the mosaic, dedicated to promoting unity, creativity and environmental awareness.

ate something visually stunning. Wen said she hoped to have the mosaic completed by Earth Day, April 22, and wanted it to become a symbol of unity, creativity and environmental awareness, and to leave an indelible mark on the community.

Fisk said she was looking forward to the opportunity to help beautify Glen Cove. "I am always excited by the opportunity to work on a community project," she wrote in an email. "As a designer, you have to throw caution to the wind because you don't know exactly what supplies are going to be collected for the project. So you make a plan and then you

get to react and respond to what arrives, it's exciting."

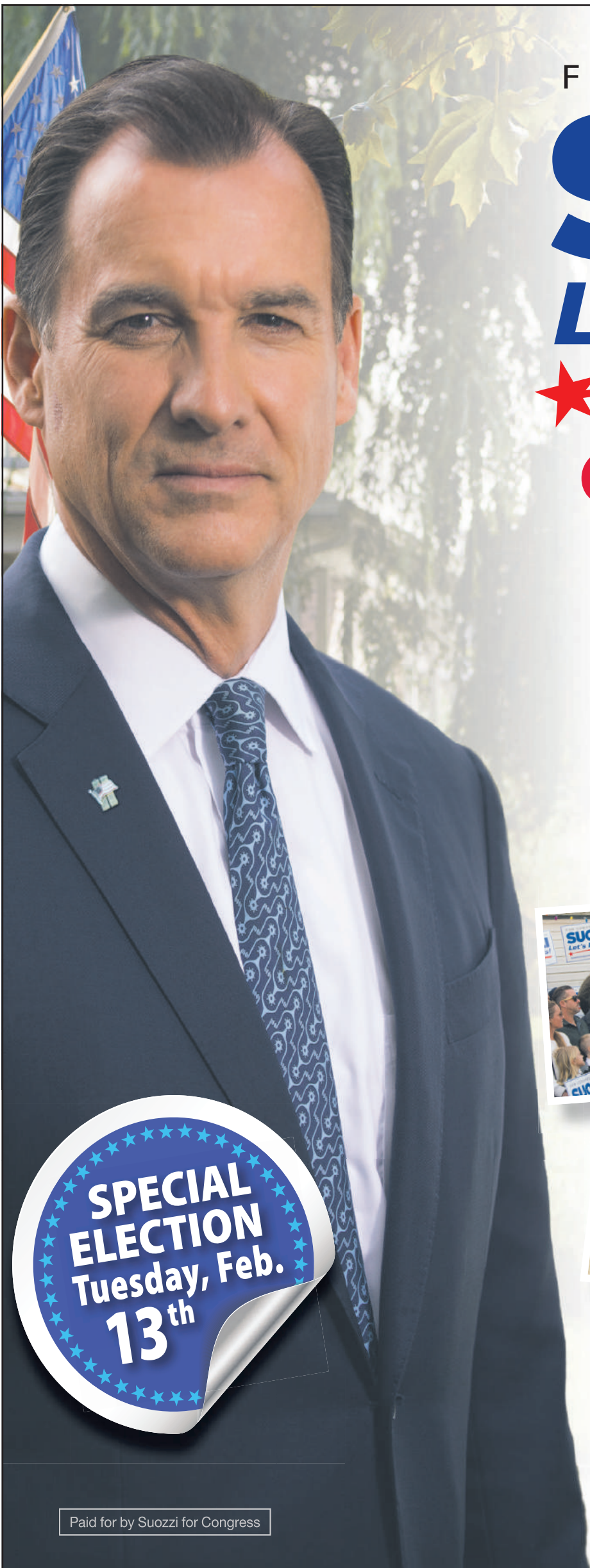
Fisk has completed a preliminary design, but emphasized that without seeing the bottle caps to gauge their exact sizes, shapes and colors, the exact images are hard to determine. The installation will consist of four panels, each measuring 4 feet by 6 feet. The panels will be separated or latched together to help make the exhibit portable.

The piece will be built by Glen Cove resident Mike Danchalski, a veteran of Desert Storm and the founder of Traditional Window Restoration Inc.

Jill Nossa, executive director of the

downtown Business Improvement District, has asked local businesses to help collect bottle caps. Those who are interested in contributing to the project can drop their donations off at Sorenson Lumber, at 64 Glen Cove Ave.; Starbucks, at 5 School St.; Downtown Café, at 4 School St.; Chef Morris Café, at 8 School St.; Trubee Hill, at 100 Village Square; the Glen Cove Senior Center, at 130 Glen St.; and Glen Floors, at 30 Glen St.

For further information on purchasing military banners or submitting essays to the contests, or to learn more about the art project, contact the Glen Cove Public Library, at (516) 676-2130.



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“ Washington D.C. isn't working for us.

I will work day and night with both parties to deliver for the people to make living here more affordable, safer, and better. I delivered for this district before, and I will do it again by putting you ahead of partisanship. Let's reject the nonsense and get back to work.”

- Tom



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Cricket fans get first look at new stadium

Eisenhower Park to host world's third-largest sporting event

By JORDAN VALLONE

jvallone@liherald.com

It's the world's third most-watched sporting event behind only the FIFA World Cup and the Tour de France. And come June, portions of the beloved T20 Cricket World Cup tournament will be played right here in Eisenhower Park.

Nassau County announced plans to bring the International Cricket Council tournament to Long Island last fall after plans to build a temporary stadium in the Bronx fell through. And now — less than six months before the games are set to start — officials have unveiled renderings for a temporary, modular stadium, expected to accommodate up to 35,000 fans.

“When the International Cricket Committee reached out to us about six months ago, I’m going to be perfectly honest: I didn’t know very much about cricket,” County Executive Bruce Blakeman told reporters last week. “I had no idea just how popular it was.”

Cricket is the second most popular sport in the world behind soccer, and was introduced in the United Kingdom during the 16th century. It has since grown in immense popularity in South Asia, Australia, New Zealand, Southern Africa and the West Indies — many parts of the globe that have been influenced by British imperialism over the centuries.

The upcoming tournament will have games played not only in East Meadow, but also in Dallas as well as southern Florida. The rest of the tournament will be played in the West Indies.

The ICC told Blakeman while 250 million people may tune in to watch the Super Bowl every year, the cricket audience is larger by about a billion people, while other estimates say viewership for cricket is actually a lot closer to 2.6 billion.

The tournament is expected to bring international attention to Nassau, which will host a number of international dignitaries from the countries playing games at Eisenhower, like Pakistan, India, Canada and Bangladesh. It is also expected to generate a large amount of revenue for the county.

“What an opportunity for Nassau County to showcase to over a billion people throughout the world our beautiful park — all our parks, our beaches,” Blakeman said. “We have everything here in Nassau County to showcase. We’re selling Nassau County as a destination.”

One of the most highly anticipated games of the tournament — India versus Pakistan — will be played in Eisenhower Park, Blakeman said. The countries consistently field some of the best players in the sport.

Harry Singh, the president and chief executive of Bolla Management Corp. — which operates a chain of convenience stores in the area — is serving as chair of the local host committee.

“Eisenhower Park has hosted some amazing events in the past — I think ICC



Jordan Vallone/Herald photos

Nassau County officials and members of the local host committee for the T20 Cricket World Cup unveiled the renderings of a temporary cricket stadium intended to be built in Eisenhower Park, holding up to 35,000 fans. Games will be played in East Meadow between June 3 and June 12.



Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman revealed more details about the cricket tournament scheduled to take place in Eisenhower Park. The T20 Cricket World Cup is expected to draw tens of thousands of fans when it comes to the county beginning June 3.

should be proud they’re going to run their World Cup,” Singh said. “As an immigrant from India myself, I’m feeling super proud to be here today, standing in front of all of you ... and making sure that we connect with the communities, that we connect with locals.

“It’s going to be an amazing event to watch. We’re looking forward to working with each of our community members and board members of this awesome community to make this a special event for all of us.”

Don Lockerbie, the T20 World Cup development director, said work has already begun to build the stadium. It’ll be constructed on the field directly across the road from The Lannin, and situated behind the park’s indoor swimming pools. Modular, temporary stadiums are not a new concept, he emphasized — golf and car racing events have utilized simi-

lar designs in past.

The stadium will be complete by spring, Lockerbie added.

“It is a temporary facility,” he said. “The ICC elected to do something large in the New York area. Working with Nassau County has been an absolute delight.”

Populous — an architecture firm that designed Yankee Stadium, Citi Field and the UBS Arena, among others — will design the Eisenhower Park stadium, Lockerbie said. While he was mum on how much the stadium would cost, Lockerbie said the entire initiative will be “privately funded,” with the structure disassembled by the end of July.

Blakeman noted concerns by some about safety and parking, but said the county is used to accommodating large events. Last summer, the park’s Harry Chapin Theatre was the venue for a Boyz II Men concert, which attracted 40,000

Schedule of T20 Cricket World Cup at Eisenhower Park

- June 3** – Sri Lanka vs. South Africa
- June 5** – India vs. Ireland
- June 7** – Canada vs. Ireland
- June 8** – Netherlands vs. South Africa
- June 9** – India vs. Pakistan
- June 10** – South Africa vs. Bangladesh
- June 11** – Pakistan vs. Canada
- June 12** – United States vs. India

people.

There will be a number of park-and-ride programs set up in nearby lots, including one at Nassau Coliseum in Uniondale.

Security will be provided by the county’s law enforcement services, primarily through the Nassau County Police Department.

“We are also working with other local agencies, and our federal partners will also be involved in the protection of everybody’s who at the stadium or on their way,” Blakeman said. “We will be ready for this major, major event, and it will have all the security measures that you would expect of an event like this, such as the Super Bowl.”

Tickets are not yet available to the public, and when they are, all will be handled by the ICC.

Those interested in attending or learning more about the tournament can visit NassauCountyNY.gov/cricket.

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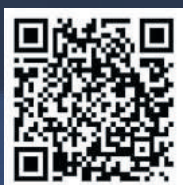
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Environment concerns Suozzi and Pilip

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

As the special election for New York's 3rd Congressional District approaches, members of local environmental groups and North Shore residents gathered at Sea Cliff Beach on Jan. 11 to declare their support for former Rep. Tom Suozzi, who discussed his future climate policy.

Dozens of people showed up despite the wind and cold, many representing organizations Suozzi has worked with in the past. They praised his focus on environment conservation over the course of his 30-year political career.

Suozzi claimed that his Republican opponent in the race, Nassau County Legislator Mazi Melesa Pilip, agrees with "the Conservative Party talking points," he said, "which actually (say) that climate change is not real, and that we should pull out of the Paris Climate Accords, and that's her platform."

He does the hard work that is required to protect our environment.

KEVIN CURTIS
executive director,
NRDC Action Fund

Brian Devine, communications director for Pilip's campaign, has vociferously denied the claim, writing on her behalf that she had always been a strong supporter of environmental protection and conservation.

"I have prioritized environmental protection and sustainability during my time in the Legislature," the statement read. "During my time as a member, I voted to allocate millions of dollars in funding for sewer and stormwater improvements, drainage projects, hazardous waste remediation, bicycle and pedestrian pathways, park improvements, historic property restoration, and groundwater protection in Sea Cliff."

Julie Tighe, president of the New York League of Conservation Voters, a nonpartisan environmental organization, emphasized Suozzi's environmental record and said that the league had officially declared their backing for him. Devine, however, wrote that the organization had supported Pilip during her campaign for re-election to the Legislature last fall, recognizing "the important work she has done while there."

Tighe stressed that the upcoming special election is of the utmost importance. "So to all the voters out there, we ask you to vote for Tom Suozzi on Feb. 13, or to vote early," she said.

Tighe noted the environmental dangers now threatening New York, and Long Island in particular, "from the hottest summer on record to devastating floods." She touted Suozzi's strong support for environmental measures to fight climate change.

Also in attendance was Al Freder-



Will Sheeline/Herald

Former Congressman Tom Suozzi was joined by the leaders and members of several environmental organizations, who endorsed him for his strong stance on climate change and wildlife and open space conservation.

icks, the president of Sierra Club Long Island Group, which focuses on local, regional and national actions to preserve the environment, including the use of wind power and solar energy, and protecting wildlife. Fredericks said that the club was "extremely pleased to endorse Tom Suozzi," pointing to his long history of environmental action dating back to his time as mayor of Glen Cove and Nassau County executive.

"We are confident that Tom Suozzi will restore integrity and confidence to this important office, and that he will be a strong advocate for the environment," Fredericks said. "In each public office that he's held, Tom Suozzi has been a staunch champion of the environment, orchestrating the cleanup of brownfield superfund sites and other contaminated venues, preserving and expanding public open space and protecting and improving water quality."

Brownfield superfund sites are properties where the continuing presence of contamination may complicate future use and endanger local wildlife. Fredericks also pointed specifically to Suozzi's work in Congress, where he "helped to direct significant resources to New York for environmental protection."

The last to speak among the environmental groups was Kevin Curtis, executive director of the NRDC Action Fund, which focuses on averting climate change and conserving and protecting nature and wildlife. Curtis said that although he has not closely followed the former congressman until recently, he and the action fund were proud to endorse Suozzi based on his environmental record.

When Suozzi addressed the shivering crowd, which included Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, minority leader of the Nassau County Legislature, and Danielle Fugazy Scagliola, a Glen Cove City councilmember, he emphasized the importance of protecting the environment both in his community and nationwide.

Suozzi mentioned that he had seen a bald eagle while working at home several weeks ago, and described how wonderful it felt to see wildlife that wasn't around in his youth returning to Long Island, thanks to decades of work by local environmental groups.

"You don't see the results right away — you don't see it happen overnight," Suozzi said. "But after 10 years, 20 years or 30 years, you see dramatic improvement. I can't tell you how much clearer

the water of the Long Island Sound is since I became mayor of Glen Cove."

In the statement from the Pilip campaign, Devine wrote that Pilip had supported several environmental initiatives during her two years in the Legislature, and that she was "eager to explore bipartisan solutions" to the climate crises facing Long Island, New York and the country.

"I will continue to work on the issues that I have prioritized during my time on the legislature, which greatly affect my community," the statement read. "In specific, this includes sewer and stormwater improvements, drainage projects, hazardous waste remediation, as well as work with the U.S. Navy to expedite their remediation efforts at the Grumman Navy Plume."

CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

- A 23-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Jan. 18 for aggravated family offense, criminal contempt, criminal trespassing, grand larceny and menacing on Glen Cove Avenue.
- A 29-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Jan. 11 for aggravated unlicensed operation, reckless driving, unlawfully fleeing a police officer in a motor vehicle and two counts of passing a red light on Cedar Swamp Road.
- A 40-year-old Brooklyn man was arrested on Jan. 12 for two counts of petit larceny on Forest Avenue.

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

Faith-based education

Students put moral values to work in their lives every day

Strong spiritual guidance is an essential part of daily activities at Long Island’s Catholic schools, creating a special sense of community among children, families, teachers, and the local parish, which reinforces moral values and an abiding respect for others. Resourceful instructors use powerful spiritual teachings and real-world experiences to bring these values to life for children, while our smaller classes allow for more personalized and productive interaction between students and teachers.

Applying strong values in many selfless ways

Catholic school students apply the moral and spiritual lessons they learn in the real world by participating in charitable community initiatives throughout the year and by responding every day to others in a respectful and helpful manner. This spirit of caring and community in our students helps to give them the enduring moral foundation to become active, contributing members of society.

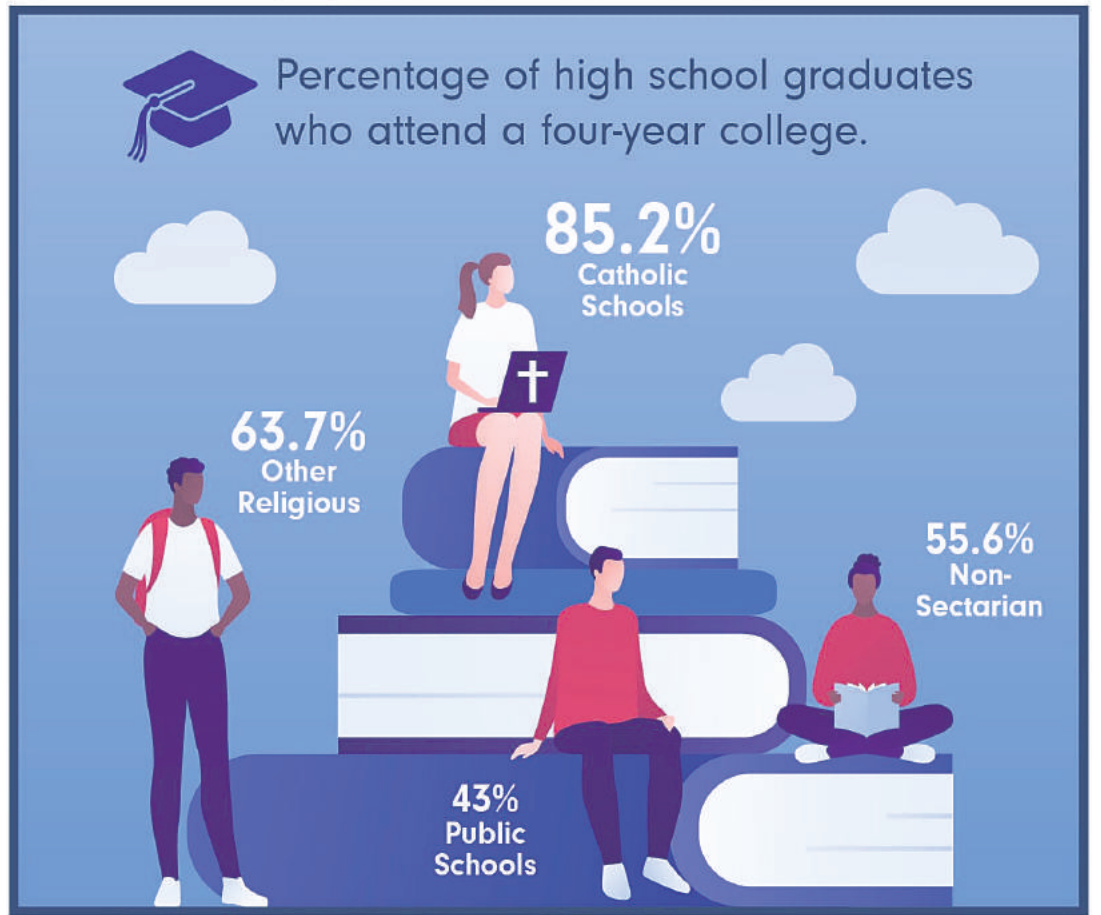
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- ✓ Reinforce the positive values that you live in your family.
- ✓ Reassure children that they are safe and loved, and that God loves them.
- ✓ Teach children that their value is not based on how others see them.
- ✓ Feature teachers who are models of the faith.

NCEA CATHOLIC SCHOOLS SNAPS

A quick take on issues and statistics



Sources: Broughman et al. (2021); Irwin et al. (2022)



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STEPPING OUT

Baked for success

Good eatin' with **Danielle Sepsy**

By Karen Bloom

Her world is tastier than ever. Danielle Sepsy, aka the Queen of Scones, bakes her way into 2024 with aplomb.

The chef-entrepreneur was on quite a ride in 2023. She catapulted to fame, following her appearance on Dan Levy's "The Big Brunch" on Max. All eight episodes were devoured by folks who quickly discovered the dynamic, bubbly Sepsy.

The cooking competition, created by Levy (of "Schitt's Creek" fame), highlighted the stories of 10 chefs and their impact on their local communities as they competed to win a \$300,000 prize.

Like many, Sepsy was familiar with Levy from "Schitt's Creek." As Sepsy tells it, "He created his next project because he was passionate about food and telling people's stories who didn't have a chance to tell their stories. They needed to be heard. He posted he was looking for chefs, and people urged me to apply."

Sepsy, who certainly has the competitive chops, had applied to other reality cooking shows — including Food Network's "The Next Food Network Star" — over the years, but hadn't yet made the cut.

"I always came close but didn't get it," she relates. "I think this happened for a reason. The second I read about it, I felt 'this is me.' It felt different, very well-intentioned. Super-positive."

"There's a risk in any reality show that you're portrayed as something you're not. I emailed the casting company before even submitting an application. They must have looked at my Instagram right away, wrote me back immediately, and wanted to have an interview the next day."

What followed was a four-month whirlwind of cooking tests, background checks, even psych evaluations. Plus Sepsy still had her growing bakery business, The Hungry Gnome, based in Long Island City, to run.

Shes the founder and creative genius behind her innovative wholesale bakery and catering company. Growing up in the kitchen with her Italian grandmother, Sepsy's love of cooking began at a young age.

"An amazing baker, my grandmother spent all her time creating recipes," she says. "She saw this was something I was passionate about, and spent her time with me cooking. She was my inspiration."

As a 13-year-old, she started a home business selling her delicious scones to friends, neighbors and local cafes. She had found her calling. That passion led her to begin her career in hospitality. She spent 10 years managing fine dining restaurants in some of New York City's elite luxury hotels, after graduating from Penn State University's School of Hospitality Management.

Her resume includes The Peninsula, and the iconic Plaza and Waldorf Astoria hotels. Yet, she longed to return to baking.

As she explains, the coronavirus pandemic actually presented her with that opportunity.

"I had lost my job unexpectedly," she said. "This was the push that I needed. I knew it wasn't a sure thing, but this was a sign. Overnight, I started to email coffee shops. I started bringing them samples. And, within a week, I ended up signing one of the biggest coffee shop chains in New York City, which had over 20 stores, and I was in business."

The pandemic happened simultaneously.

"It actually helped me because all my customers that had just signed with me said we're going to be closing for a while. And it was perfect for me, because it allowed me to get myself ready. I hired people who lost their jobs due to Covid. I found



a commercial kitchen. I started expanding my menu of baked goods, which initially was scones and banana bread, and then it became muffins and cookies. I started developing my recipes and working with my new team. By that July, I was in business and started doing wholesale."

More than three years later, the Hungry Gnome sells to 150 stores wholesale and ships direct to consumer through her website.

"It's grown tremendously," Danielle says, proudly. "I went from me and two other employees in the kitchen to 22 and counting."

Her explosive success has led her to recently move to a larger bakery space in Long Island City.

"I spent 10 months building from scratch," Sepsy says. "Our own space tailored to our

needs, with new equipment, more square footage so that means we can hire more people and expand further."

Meanwhile the Queen of Scones marvels at how it's all happened in a relatively short few years — transformed by what she describes as the "life-changing experience" of "The Big Brunch."

"It was a challenging journey as far as self-confidence," she said. "I started out feeling insecure. Even though I do savory cooking, too, I'm really a baker by trade, and everyone around me had a lot of fine dining background. I felt like Betty Crocker in this sea of Jacques Pepins. I began to realize challenge after challenge I had a place there. Everyone loved my food."

She began to thrive, reaching the finals.

"Although I didn't win, I very much feel like a winner as corny as that sounds," she says. "It impacted life tremendously."

Sepsy's social media presence certainly benefited at that point.

"I was the only chef (on the show) you could purchase from," she said. "I had started my website, so I had products available to be shipped direct to your door. Once people started watching, online sales grew 5,000 percent. I started getting recognized on the street, and was seen as a 'real chef.' It gave me this boost of confidence and motivated me."

Since then, Sepsy has been a frequent media presence, appearing on "Good Morning America" and "Anderson Cooper Live," among others, dispensing what she describes as "food talk" and culinary tidbits.

"I've become a baking guru and correspondent as far as food goes," Sepsy says. "It's a dream come true."

As far as those famous scones, if you haven't yet had the opportunity to sample, you may find the recipe in her upcoming cookbook — her first — due out next year. It's among the many new projects underway for Sepsy and her "gnomies."

Or, visit her website at TheHungryGnome.com. Her baked goods are now also available at newly opened Pantano's on Seventh Street in Garden City. The whirlwind continues for Sepsy.

"My life has completely changed in the past year," she says. "It's hard to sometimes realize in the midst of constantly moving and reaching for what's next. When I stop to look back on the course of one year, it's been tremendous. I'm so grateful."



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. As a respected cultural ambassador, the RSO 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 United Kingdom's most in-demand orchestra, and count passion, versatility and uncompromising artistic standards as hallmarks, and are celebrated as one 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 2021-22, 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.

Friday, Jan. 26, 8 p.m. Tickets are start at \$4. LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville. TillesCenter.org or (516) 299-3100.



Rick Springfield and Richard Marx

Grammy winners Rick Springfield and Richard Marx have hit the road and leaving the electric guitars behind as they co-headline their acoustic tour. The '80s legends share the stage for 'An Acoustic Evening,' highlighting their many influential years of music-making. Over the past four decades, Springfield has created some of the finest power-pop hits of the '80s and has sold 25 million albums and scored 17 U.S. Top 40 hits, including 'Jessie's Girl,' 'Don't Talk to Strangers,' 'An Affair of the Heart,' 'I've Done Everything for You,' 'Love Somebody,' and 'Human Touch.' Marx has sold more than 30 million albums worldwide, starting with his self-titled debut, which spawned many popular top singles, including 'Hold on to the Nights' and 'Don't Mean Nothing,' earning him a Grammy nomination.

Saturday, Jan. 28, 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$49.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD

THE SCENE



Feb. 2

Feb.
2

It's time to drag out that neon once again and give your hair its best '80s 'do. Those crazy days are back — as only Jessie's Girl can pull off, on the Paramount stage, Friday, **Feb. 2**, 8 p.m. The band of NYC's top rock/pop musicians and singers gets everyone into that "Back To The Eighties" vibe with the latest edition of their popular concert experience. With a lineup including four pop-rock vocalists dressing

and performing as 80s icons, backed by a dynamic band, this is the definitive 80s experience. Throw on top of that: a load of super-fun choreography, audience participation, props, costumes bubbles, and confetti — and you have a party that audiences don't want to leave. Jessie's Girl has mastered over-the-top renditions of the some of world's most unforgettable songs, all while dressed up as the iconic characters of that decade. This is theater meets live music, covered in '80s glitz. \$45, \$37.50, \$25. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.

Art talk

Grab your lunch and join Nassau County Museum of Art Docent Riva Ettus for her popular "Brown Bag Lecture" at the museum, Thursday, **Feb. 15**, 1 p.m. She'll discuss the current exhibition, "Our Gilded Age." Participants are invited to ask questions at the end of the in-depth program and also participate in a guided exhibition tour following the lecture. Registration required. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

Hot Cocoa Tasting

Welcome Valentine's Day with Diane Schwindt, who will delight visitors with stories of the history of cocoa, Sunday, **Feb. 11**, 4-5 p.m. at Raynham Hall Museum. Then warm up with a cup of hot cocoa with marshmallows and toppings of choice. Kids can take home an 'America's First Valentine' coloring page. \$15 adults, \$10 kids; \$10 adults, \$5 members. Raynham Hall Museum, 30 West Main Street, Oyster Bay. Visit RaynhamHallMuseum.org for reservations and information.

Glen Cove Pre-Council meets

The City Council meets, Tuesday, **Feb. 6**, at 6:30 p.m., at City Hall, 9 Glen St.

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.

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Jan. 25

'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

'60s prom night

Twist and shout to the tunes of DJ McLovin, at a "Prom Night," benefitting All You Need is Love scholarships, Saturday, **Feb. 10**, 7-10 p.m., at St. Luke's Parish & Community Hall. 21 years of age or older. Food and beverages served. Prom attire not required. 10 253 Glen Ave., Sea Cliff. Registration required at LYNP.org.

Movie time

Enjoy a movie on Locust Valley Library's big screen, Thursday, **Feb. 8**, 1 p.m. See "A Haunting in Venice," inspired by Agatha Christie's novel "Hallowe'en Party," and directed by and starring Oscar winner Kenneth Branagh as famed detective Hercule Poirot. It is set in eerie, post-World War II Venice on All Hallows' Eve and is a terrifying mystery featuring the return of the celebrated sleuth. Seating is limited. 170 Buckram Road. For information visit LocustValleyLibrary.org or call (516) 671-1837.

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.

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.

Hearth Health Screenings

Prepare for your healthiest year yet, because every beat matters. Mercy Hospital kicks off Heart Health Month, with screenings courtesy of St. Francis Hospital bus, Thursday, **Feb. 8**, 10 a.m.-3 p.m. Learn about cholesterol, HDL, casual glucose, blood pressure and BMI. Also discuss healthy eating and nutrition with a dietician and participating in a food demonstration. Meet with a stroke coordinator and obtain additional available screenings. Registration encouraged. 1000 N. Village Ave., Rockville Centre. Visit chsli.org/mercy-hospital or call (516) 626-3729 for more information.



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.

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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.

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.

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Your orthopedic questions answered here

By MOHAMMAD RAFIQ

mrafiq@liherald.com

Orthopedic surgery — a branch of medicine focused on conditions involving the musculoskeletal system. You know, cartilage, tendons, muscles and connective tissues.

It's one of the broadest medical disciplines, and one the doctors with Northwell Health LIJ Valley Stream take very seriously. So much, the facility is the first hospital in America to receive all five orthopedic specialty certifications available from the Joint Commission.

Three surgeons who helped lead the way — Dr. Giles Scuderi, Dr. James Germano and Dr. Alfred Faust — joined Herald Community newspapers executive editor Michael Hinman to discuss just what sets LIJ apart from other medical institutions when it comes to orthopedics.

Certification in the specialties of advanced spine surgery, advanced total hip and knee replacement, total shoulder replacement, total ankle replacement and hip fracture care surgeries really is a big deal, said Scuderi, vice president of the orthopedic service line at Northwell.

"It just brings to everyone's attention the quality of the work that we do and what we've achieved," he said. "And this is a major collaborative effort by all the staff. It's not just the surgeons alone. It's



DR. GILES SCUDERI



DR. JAMES GERMANO



DR. ALFRED FAUST

the nursing care, the physical therapists, and all our other ancillary services. It's a major testament to all our team at the hospital."

Orthopedics has come a long way, even in recent years, especially when it comes to knees — a specialty of Germano.

"Probably about 98 percent of my business is arthritis or some deformity around the hip or the knee," said Germano, who chairs LIJ's orthopedic surgery department. "It's not uncommon for a patient to see two or three other surgeons who feel like they can't take care of it. That's when they send them to me. That's kind of my enjoyment, thinking about the complex stuff. Thinking outside of the box."

Germano described hip replacements as "probably one of the best, if not the best, surgery ever made. Even Medicare will admit to it."

That's because the procedure not only helps people with their pain, but it also helps patients get back to their normal lives.

Even patients who first walked into Germano's office 15 years ago are very different patients today, he said. And something many exploring this type of surgery may not even realize: 95 percent of Germano's patients go home within the first 24 hours of surgery.

Faust doesn't typically handle knees or hips. Instead, he's LIJ's spine surgery chief, focused primarily on the lumbar spine — also known as the lower back — as well as the neck.

"The spinal column is usually what gets diseased or worn," Faust said. "Nerves get pinched. The spinal column gets compressed. Patients come in with numbness and tingling."

But in those cases, the problem typically is related to the musculoskeletal

system, and not the nerves.

A lot of Faust's time in the operating room is spent on surgical disk replacement. It's a surgery less likely to sacrifice movement than a spinal fusion, which surgically joins two or more vertebrae.

Still, a spinal fusion sometimes can't be avoided. Faust says he typically only performs spinal fusion when "mobility has already been completely lost." That way he doesn't have to risk patients losing further mobility.

As much as these doctors have already learned over their lifetime and long careers, there is still more than can absorb — and impart. Faust, for example, recently took part in a lecture series with two other spinal surgeons.

"We'll continue to do things of that sort," he said, but still prefers to sit patients in a conference room and "just answer questions as they come."

"These patient facing lectures we give are really meant to welcome people in," Faust said. "I don't know that anyone's really making themselves available the way we are to invite people in to learn more."

Learn more about LIJ's orthopedics program by visiting ValleyStream.Nothingwell.edu.

To learn more about upcoming Herald Inside LI webinars — or to watch the LIJ orthopedic surgeons — email heraldinsideli@liherald.com.

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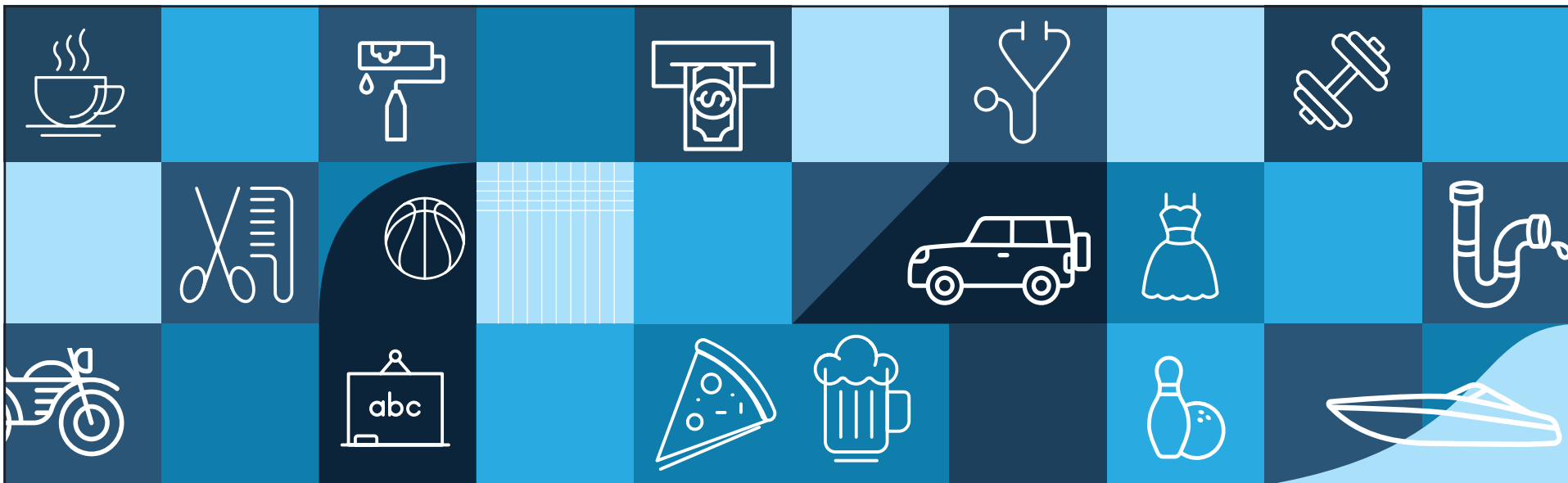
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PUBLIC NOTICES

January 25, 2024 - GLEN COVE HERALD

**LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT
COUNTY OF NASSAU,
U.S. BANK TRUST
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL
CAPACITY BUT SOLELY
AS OWNER TRUSTEE FOR
VRMTG ASSET TRUST,
Plaintiff, vs. MAUREEN
CLARK A/K/A MAUREEN
MARTINO, ET AL.,
Defendant(s).**

Pursuant to an Order Confirming Referee's Report and Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale duly entered on November 15, 2023, I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction on the front steps on the north side of the Nassau County Supreme Court, 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY 11501 on February 5, 2024 at 2:30 p.m., premises known as 7 Yale Place, Glen Cove, NY 11542. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Glen Cove, County of Nassau and State of New York, Section 30, Block D01 and Lot 60. Approximate amount of judgment is \$498,493.86 plus interest and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 611157/2022. Cash will not be accepted. This foreclosure sale will be held on the north side steps of the Courthouse, rain or shine. COVID-19 safety protocols will be followed at the foreclosure sale. If proper social distancing cannot be maintained or there are other health or safety concerns, the Court Appointed Referee will cancel the sale.

Peter Kramer, Esq., Referee (516) 510-4020
Knuckles, Komosinski & Manfro, LLP, 565 Taxter Road, Suite 590, Elmsford, NY 10523, Attorneys for Plaintiff 144125

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**LEGAL NOTICE
REQUEST FOR
PROPOSALS**

Notice is hereby given that the City of Glen Cove is seeking to retain engineering services in various disciplines. New York State (NYS)-certified Minority and Women-Owned Business Enterprises (M/WBEs) and Service-Disabled Veteran-Owned Businesses (SDVOBs) are encouraged to participate in this procurement. Proposers may obtain the Request for Proposals (RFP) on BidNet Direct (<https://www.bidnetdirect.com/new-york/cityofglen Cove>), or the City of Glen Cove website (<https://glen Cove.ny.gov/bid-rfps/>). Questions are due by February 1, 2024. Proposals are due by 4:00 p.m. on February 13, 2024. 144542

**LEGAL NOTICE
PUBLIC NOTICE OF
NASSAU COUNTY
TREASURER'S
SALE OF TAX LIENS ON
REAL ESTATE**

Notice is hereby given that commencing on February 20th, 2024, will sell at public on-line auction the tax liens on certain real estate, unless the owner, mortgagee, occupant of or any other party in interest in such real estate shall have paid to the County Treasurer by February 15th, 2024 the total amount of such unpaid taxes or assessments with the interest, penalties and other expenses and charges against the property. Such tax liens will be sold at the lowest rate of interest, not exceeding 10 percent per six-month period, for which any person or persons shall offer to take the total amount of such unpaid taxes as defined in Section 5-37.0 of the Nassau County Administrative Code. Effective with the February 2019 lien sale Ordinance No. 175-2015 requires a \$175.00 per day registration fee for each person who intends to bid at the tax lien sale. Ordinance No. 175-2015 also requires that upon the issuance of the Lien Certificate there is due from the lien buyer a Tax Certificate Issue Fee of \$20.00 per lien purchased. Pursuant to the provisions of the Nassau County Administrative Code at the discretion of the Nassau County Treasurer the auction will be conducted online. Further information concerning the procedures for the auction is available at the website of the Nassau County Treasurer at: <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/526/County-Treasurer>

Should the Treasurer determine that an in-person auction shall be held, same will commence on the 20th day of February 2024 at the Office of The County Treasurer 1 West Street, Mineola or at some other location to be determined by the Treasurer.

A list of all real estate in Nassau County on which tax liens are to be sold is available at the website of the Nassau County Treasurer at: <https://www.nassaucountyny.gov/527/Annual-Tax-Lien-Sale>

A list of local properties upon which tax liens are to be sold will be advertised in this publication on or before February 07th, 2024. Nassau County does not discriminate on the basis of disability in admission to or access to, or treatment or employment in, its services, programs, or activities. Upon request, accommodations such as those required by the Americans with

Disabilities Act (ADA) will be provided to enable individuals with disabilities to participate in all services, programs, activities and public hearings and events conducted by the Treasurer's Office. Upon request, information can be made available in Braille, large print, audio-tape or other alternative formats. For additional information, please call (516) 571-2090 ext. 1-3715.

Dated: January 24, 2024
THE NASSAU COUNTY
TREASURER
Mineola, New York

TERMS OF SALE

Such tax liens shall be sold subject to any and all superior tax liens of sovereignties and other municipalities and to all claims of record which the County may have thereon and subject to the provisions of the Federal and State Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Acts. However, such tax liens shall have priority over the County's Differential Interest Lien, representing the excess, if any, of the interest and penalty borne at the maximum rate over the interest and penalty borne at the rate at which the lien is purchased.

The Purchaser acknowledges that the tax lien(s) sold pursuant to these Terms of Sale may be subject to pending bankruptcy proceedings and/or may become subject to such proceedings which may be commenced during the period in which a tax lien is held by a successful bidder or the assignee of same, which may modify a Purchaser's rights with respect to the lien(s) and the property securing same. Such bankruptcy proceedings shall not affect the validity of the tax lien. In addition to being subject to pending bankruptcy proceedings and/or the Federal and State Soldiers' and Sailors' Civil Relief Acts, said purchaser's right of foreclosure may be affected by the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery and Enforcement Act (FIRREA), 12 U.S.C. ss 1811 et seq., with regard to real property under Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) receivership. The County Treasurer reserves the right, without further notice and at any time, to withdraw from sale any of the parcels of land or premises herein listed. The Nassau County Treasurer reserves the right to intervene in any bankruptcy case/litigation where the property affected by the tax liens sold by the Treasurer is part of the bankruptcy estate. However, it is the sole responsibility of all tax lien purchasers to protect their legal

interests in any bankruptcy case affecting their purchased tax lien, including but not limited to the filing of a proof of claim on their behalf, covering their investment in said tax lien. The Nassau County Treasurer and Nassau County and its agencies, assumes no responsibility for any legal representation of any tax lien purchaser in any legal proceeding including but not limited to a bankruptcy case where the purchased tax lien is at risk.

The rate of interest and penalty at which any person purchases the tax lien shall be established by his bid. Each purchaser, immediately after the sale thereof, shall pay to the County Treasurer ten per cent of the amount for which the tax liens have been sold and the remaining ninety per cent within thirty days after such sale. If the purchaser at the tax sale shall fail to pay the remaining ninety per cent within ten days after he has been notified by the County Treasurer that the certificates of sale are ready for delivery, then all amounts deposited with the County Treasurer including but not limited to the ten per cent theretofore paid by him shall, without further notice or demand, be irrevocably forfeited by the purchaser and shall be retained by the County Treasurer as liquidated damages and the agreement to purchase shall be of no further effect. Time is of the essence in this sale. This sale is held pursuant to the Nassau County Administrative Code and interested parties are referred to such Code for additional information as to terms of the sale, rights of purchasers, maximum rates of interest and other legal incidents of the sale.

Furthermore, as to the bidding,

1. The bidder(s) agree that they will not work with any other bidder(s) to increase, maintain or stabilize interest rates or collaborate with any other bidder(s) to gain an unfair competitive advantage in the random number generator in the event of a tie bid(s) on a tax certificate. Bidder(s) further agree not to employ any bidding strategy designed to create an unfair competitive advantage in the tiebreaking process in the upcoming tax sale nor work with any other bidder(s) to engage in any bidding strategy that will result in a rotational award of tax certificates.
2. The tax certificate(s) the Bidder will bid upon, and the interest rate(s) bid, will be arrived at independently and without direct or indirect consultation, communication or agreement with any other

THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Grief revisited!

Dear Great Book Guru, I just came home from a wonderful evening of Scottish music, drink, and poetry — the annual Burns Night at St. Luke's here in Sea Cliff. What great fun and great conversations!

One of the musicians mentioned an engrossing new novel he had just read about a man looking back over the decades at moments he remembered and questioning why those moments had significance rather than others. Are you familiar with the book?

A Fan of Robert Burns

Dear Lover of an Irish Setting,

I'm guessing the book is "Baumgartner," by Paul Auster. Like Burns, Auster takes the pieces of his life and incorporates it into his fiction.

Baumgartner is a 70-year-old philosophy professor who is deeply mourning his

wife's death 10 years earlier. It was a sudden, avoidable swimming accident and Sy Baumgartner revisits that day over and over imagining what he could have done to prevent the tragedy. Interspersed with this memory are short vignettes of their time together, early childhood incidents living in Newark, his grandfather's tales of life in Kiev, his attempts to remarry, and encounters with strangers that change destiny. Throughout this short novel (220 pages), we see how Baumgartner is attempting to control outcomes and make sense of the tragedies he experiences, both his and others. It's a very thought provoking look at the power of memory and a beautiful love story also. Highly recommended!

Would you like to ask the Great Book Guru for a book suggestion? Contact her at annmdipietro@gmail.com.

NEWS BRIEF

Unemployment form will now be mailed

The New York State Department of Labor has announced that 1099-G forms, detailing unemployment benefits for the year 2023, will be automatically mailed. This move aims to simplify the tax season for New Yorkers.

This year, the automatic mailing process will be mandatory. The 1099-G form outlines the total amount of benefits received throughout the year, along with

any adjustments or tax withholdings made.

The forms will arrive by the end of January. Alternatively, starting mid-January, they will have the option to access their 1099-G tax forms on the NYSDOL website. The department emphasizes this initiative as part of its ongoing efforts to enhance customer experience.

PUBLIC NOTICES

bidder and that the tax certificate(s) the Bidder will bid upon, and the interest rate(s) to be bid, have not been disclosed, directly or indirectly, to any other bidder, and will not be disclosed, directly or indirectly, to any other bidder prior to the close of bidding. No attempt has been made or will be made to, directly or indirectly, induce any other bidder to refrain from bidding on any tax certificate, to submit complementary bids, or to submit bids at specific interest rates.

3. The bids to be placed by the Bidder will be made in good faith and not pursuant to any direct or indirect, agreement or discussion with, or inducement from, any other bidder to submit a complementary or other noncompetitive bid.
4. If it is determined that the bidder(s) have violated any of these bid requirements then their bid shall be voided and if

they were the successful bidder the lien and any deposits made in connection with said bid shall be forfeited.

Dated: January 24, 2024
THE NASSAU COUNTY
TREASURER
Mineola, New York
144440

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES

To place a notice here call us at 516-569-4000 x232 or send an email to: legalnotices@liherald.com

**LEGAL NOTICE
SUPREME COURT OF THE
STATE OF NEW YORK -
COUNTY OF NASSAU
DEUTSCHE BANK
NATIONAL TRUST
COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE
FOR HOME EQUITY
MORTGAGE LOAN
ASSET-BACKED TRUST,
SERIES INABS 2005-A,
HOME EQUITY LOAN
MORTGAGE LOAN
ASSET-BACKED TRUST,
SERIES INABS 2005-A,
HOME EQUITY LOAN
MORTGAGE LOAN
ASSET-BACKED TRUST,
SERIES INABS 2005-A,
V.
VITALI LEGUENKI A/K/A
VITALI LEGENKI, ET AL.
NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated October 24, 2023, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Nassau, wherein DEUTSCHE BANK NATIONAL TRUST COMPANY, AS TRUSTEE FOR HOME EQUITY MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED TRUST, SERIES INABS 2005-A, HOME EQUITY LOAN MORTGAGE LOAN ASSET-BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES INABS 2005-A is the Plaintiff and VITALI LEGUENKI A/K/A VITALI LEGENKI, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction RAIN OR SHINE at the NASSAU COUNTY SUPREME COURT, NORTH SIDE STEPS, 100 SUPREME COURT DRIVE, MINEOLA, NY 11501, on February 28, 2024 at 2:00PM, premises known as 20 VALENTINE STREET, GLEN COVE, NY 11542:

Section 31, Block 35, Lot 7:
ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF GLEN COVE, COUNTY OF NASSAU AND STATE OF NEW YORK
Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 611401/2018. Ellen Durst, Esq. - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. *LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES. 144540

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OPINIONS

Global debt is beyond control

The debt of developing countries is at “crisis” levels, the World Bank said recently. A story in The New York Times on Dec. 16 was headlined, “The Debt Problem is Enormous, and the System for Fixing It is Broken.”

“The foundational ideology — later known as the ‘Washington Consensus’ — held that prosperity depended on unhindered trade, deregulation and the primacy of private investment,” the article explained. “Nearly 80 years later, the global financial architecture is outdated, dysfunctional and unjust.”



**MEL
GURTOV**

Indeed, the world is awash in government debt, led by the United States, Japan and China, which together account for about half the total. But great powers have many options for handling indebtedness. Small, economically weak countries do not.

The Washington Consensus reflects American and European economic predominance — not just World Bank and International Monetary Fund leadership, but also the U.S. Treasury Department and the global network of financial centers that stretches from New York

and Chicago to Frankfurt and Zurich.

Predominance means the ability to dictate terms of loans. Over many years, World Bank and IMF decisions have aimed to condition loans to poor and middle-income countries on their openness to private investment, free trade, and deregulation of state-run agencies — roads, railways, banks, key industries.

Openness translates to opportunities for Western capital to penetrate developing-world economies, often resulting in the hollowing out, if not the elimination, of private and state-owned businesses.

Large borrowers also face high interest rates. To ensure repayment, the World Bank and IMF preach austerity: Governments should slash social welfare programs to pay down their debt. Any family deeply in debt would understand the terrible choice facing those governments: Stay on good terms with the bankers by eliminating or reducing subsidies to the poor for food, health care, and fuel.

Consequently, António Guterres, United Nations secretary general, said in the Times article: “Even the most fundamental goals on hunger and poverty have gone into reverse after decades of progress.”

The global debt crisis isn’t a new problem, just one that is surging again.

As the Times explained, “Pounded by the Covid-19 pandemic, spiking food and energy prices related to the war in Ukraine, and higher interest rates, low- and middle-income countries are swimming in debt and facing slow growth.”

Meanwhile, China has made billions of dollars in loans to poor countries that cannot possibly be repaid. China proclaims that its loans come without demands for austerity and with lower interest rates. But recipients may have to pay the loans back with access to ports and rail lines, extraction of mineral and other resources, use of Chinese labor, environmental damage, and adherence

to Chinese policy views on, for example, human rights and Taiwan.

The debt crisis is one symptom of a *development* crisis, in which far too many countries do not have the financial resources to support decent living conditions. Moreover, these countries are often the victims of rich countries’ behavior, as in the case of climate change. As one source pointed out, the richest 1 percent of the world’s population, 80 million people, account for about half of global carbon emissions, while the poorest 50 percent, 3.9 billion people, account for about 8 percent of carbon emissions.

The typical solution to the debt prob-

lem has been to give developing countries seats at the table where decisions are made. That might help if the major players, starting with the U.S., were ever persuaded to reduce their voting power.

Even then, it is the loan conditions — the amount of money available, the high interest rates and terms of repayment — that would still depend on the good graces of the major financial institutions. And those institutions, to put it mildly, don’t believe in being charitable.

The Times story failed to report on bottom-up approaches to development in the human interest. Giving aid or loan relief means dealing with governments that may be corrupt, excessively bureaucratic and incompetent, dominated by the military, and authoritarian — in any of these cases, giving low priority to human security.

Channeling funds to non-governmental organizations with experience in promoting human development is far more likely to help than providing unworthy governments with debt relief. There are plenty of grass-roots development programs that work — for example, in microfinance.

The real choice for international financial organizations is, do you want to bail out governments, or empower people?

Mel Gurtov, syndicated by PeaceVoice, is professor emeritus of political science at Portland State University and blogs at In the Human Interest.

I love us just the way we are

As we leap, scoot, crawl or get dragged into 2024, the ceaseless message in our heads is that we need improvement. Apparently, our face, our furniture, our travel plans, our friendships, our dog food, our recipe for coq au vin are not quite right. We as human beings, struggling along in the most challenging times, are not quite enough.



**RANDI
KREISS**

We’ve all been eating, sleeping, dressing ourselves and forming relationships for ages, yet those with the pens and platforms are telling us we are several inches off plumb, not thin enough or bold enough or bright enough or present enough or chill enough. If we were, why would we be receiving dozens of self-help suggestions every day?

Not since third grade, when Mrs. Heller wrote on the arithmetic column of my report card that “Randi needs improvement,” have I felt so under-remediated. Not since I got married and left my mother, the Great Influencer, behind have I felt

so naked and afraid in the world.

The bombardment of criticism, both explicit and implied, comes from every corner of the media world — presented, slyly, as “help.” After all, why not learn to braid hair better, change your running stride, find a good therapist, get more years out of your carpet or erase those wrinkles? From newspapers to TV to the Internet, with all its social media threads, the constant offerings of how to be better tell me I am not enough as I am.

So I am here to tell you, and myself, that I love us just the way we are. (There are some exceptions. For example, as I write this, Alaska Airlines has grounded its 737 Max 9 planes after a door panel blew out of one in flight. They can do better.) At the risk of adding to the chorus telling you how to improve, I would make the tiny suggestion that we jump off the wannabe train and think about what a good job we’re doing of being humans in an inhuman time.

Thank you, but I do not want to count my steps every day and respond like Pavlov’s dog to reminders from my watch to

stand up and walk around every 20 minutes. While I curl up with a book and read through a drizzly afternoon, let my blood settle, that’s what I say. What are we doing to ourselves? We seem to have lost confidence in our basic competence and ability to negotiate our way through

our days. I don’t need 12 more cooking hacks or YouTube videos on how to declutter. My clutter reminds me who I am. And I am not Marie Kondo.

Parents are turning themselves inside out, stressing over their parenting skills. Folks, we do our best and we make mistakes, and we fail, and we would do it differently if we had the chance to do it all again, but most kids grow

up fine, despite everything that goes sideways in everyone’s life.

Someone gave me a book on how to do nothing. Just sit in place, no book or media or puppy or changing scenery — just sit and let the mind go where it will. In my case, the book was superfluous. Nothing? I can do that.

Zillions of improvement articles focus on sleep. Dear friends, people have been sleeping for many years. Skip the medita-

**I don’t need
12 more
cooking hacks
or YouTube
videos on how
to declutter.**

tion and the calming podcasts and the drugs and the weighted blankets. (See paragraph on how to do nothing.) Eventually you’ll sleep.

Believe me, your car most likely will *not* get stolen, your house is clean enough, you don’t have to put your suitcases in the hotel bathtub, and you’re probably getting enough vitamins from your regular diet. True, the sun will burn out, but not for a while. Covid will persist, but we are most likely to survive. Our kids will do well enough in school and get into college, if that’s what they want, or land jobs that will support their lives.

We have become so hard on ourselves because we’re absorbing all the voices telling us how to “improve” how we jog, how we smell, how we pack for trips and how we take care of our friends.

I would change the message: How we are is fine. We’re doing the best we can. Time to put the wrinkle cream entrepreneurs and body influencers out of business.

One message I received offered an article on how to die better. What chutzpah. We’re getting criticized even on our way out.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

A new form of domestic terrorism is on the rise

It was a cold, overcast Tuesday, with temperatures below freezing, as students and teachers arrived at Newbridge Road Elementary School in North Bellmore. But the holiday break was still fresh in many minds, and many had renewed energy to get a good jump on their studies in 2024.

But then, just before 11:30 a.m., the world of the 330 or so students was turned upside down. Heavily armed officers from the Nassau County Police Department swarmed the campus, which was immediately put in lockdown — no one allowed in or out.

Someone had called 911, reporting a man with a gun and possible shots fired at the school. With safety in the forefront of their minds, police raced to the school and conducted an investigation.

Fortunately, there was no shooter. But unfortunately, finding yourself fleeing for shelter, scared that your life may be in danger, can be traumatic in its own right. To the point that the FBI began formally tracking these so-called “swatting” incidents last summer.

The Oxford dictionary defines “swatting” as a “prank call to emergency services in an attempt to bring about the dispatch of a large number of armed police officers to a particular address.” Many law enforcement agencies go as far as calling it criminal harassment.

But swatting is really much more than that. It’s domestic terrorism, and the students and teachers at Newbridge Road Elementary are hardly alone when it comes to being victimized.

There were 446 swatting incidents

reported at schools across the country during the 2022-23 academic year, according to the Educator’s School Safety Network, comprising 64 percent of all incidents reported at schools. Actual shootings were just 8 percent of that total, while all other calls made up the other 28 percent.

That means that on a typical school day nationwide, at least two campuses are targeted by swatting.

Last February, a string of schools in Michigan were hit with swatting attacks, pulling law enforcement resources away from where they were needed and creating chaos in educational institutions where none existed. Jessica Borelli, a clinical psychologist from the University of California-Irvine, told WLNS-TV, in Lansing, that the emotional impact of swatting — especially on children — can’t be ignored.

“Everyone in this situation has strong reactions, but it sends a very important message to talk to your children,” Borelli said. “It tells them it’s OK to talk about these things. That there’s a space to talk about these things. And their parents are people they can talk to about these things.”

For many of these students, this could be their first time ever directly dealing with police officers — and likely could plant seeds of fear when it comes to law enforcement, instead of seeing them as a force of protection.

That’s why, just a few days after the swatting incident at Newbridge Road, NCPD Commissioner Patrick Ryder hosted an impromptu “Police Interac-

tive Day” at the school.

Students had a chance to become acquainted with the county police force, including the K-9 dogs as well as the horses from the mounted unit. A number of officers were there as well, in uniform, armed with smiles and support.

The department had no obligation to do this — they were only doing their jobs. But it wasn’t something they did because they had to. Ryder and his team of those who serve and protect did this because they wanted to. And it was important to make sure everyone on campus knew the police are there to protect all of us from danger.

It was good thinking — and no surprise when it comes to Ryder, who has made a career of putting people first.

Stopping swatting may not be so easy. Some cities have put together databases to which people can add their address if they feel they could be targeted. And a number of states have passed anti-swatting laws — typically charging it as a felony if there are injuries. But no federal law exists, and many observers say there needs to be one, as well as more mental health resources made available, because tough laws on their own may not be enough to stop it.

This can’t be a problem just left to the states. Swatting incidents have been on the rise since the early 2000s, and it’s expected to get worse before it gets better. If we don’t do something about it soon, what happened at Newbridge Road could very well become a common occurrence in our schools.

LETTERS

Suozzi is not ‘the Squad’

To the Editor:

Mazi Pilip’s recent campaign ads make a ridiculous claim that Tom Suozzi joined the far-left “Squad” during his time in Congress. Nothing could be further from the truth, as Tom was one of the most moderate members of Congress, serving as the vice chair of the Problems Solvers Caucus, a bipartisan group that seeks policy solutions by reaching a middle ground — the antithesis of everything the Squad stands for.

In fact, he was one of the leading critics of the Squad in Congress, including by going on CNN immediately after Rep. Ilhan Omar’s noxious “Benjamins” comment, in which she claimed that Jewish money influenced her colleagues’ votes on Israel policy, to fiercely criticize her and stand against her antisemitic remarks. Suozzi responded by relating his own family’s story as Italian immigrants who were once treated as disloyal Americans, and reiterating that he supports Israel because it is good U.S. policy.

Suozzi was one of the strongest allies of the U.S.-Israel relationship during his time in office, co-sponsoring multiple pieces of legislation and consistently speaking out against Israel’s detractors, and traveling to Israel in a show



OPINIONS

Separating Hamas from the Palestinians

While I truly appreciated watching the war between Israel and Hamas continue, I am heartbroken. Like any person of goodwill, I am pained by the babies, young people, women, elderly and all people taken hostage by Hamas, including my neighbor Omer Neutra.



**ERIC
POST**

I am angry that some 1,200 Israeli civilians were murdered in ways that the most twisted minds couldn't imagine. However, I am also grieving for Palestinians held hostage by Hamas. Women, children and others who didn't ask to be part of this conflict. People whose

homes, schools, hospitals and even mosques have been turned into weapons-storage facilities and bases to fight Israeli soldiers.

It is particularly important, when speaking about the conflict, for both supporters and detractors of Israel to uncouple Hamas from innocent Palestinians in Gaza. Yes, there are child soldiers, and many children are inculcated to hate from a young age, but they, too, are victims. Victims of a terrorist group that puts a higher priority on the death of Israel than the lives of its own civilians.

There is another reason to distinguish between Hamas and innocent Palestinians. On Oct. 7, while homes in southern Israel were still burning and

Hamas terrorists were still inside Israel, many anti-Israel protesters didn't make the distinction between Hamas and innocent Palestinians. We rarely heard condemnation of the Hamas attack. When calling for a better life for the Palestinians in Gaza, or a ceasefire, there was no mention of Israeli hostages or murdered civilians. We've seen similar language on college campuses nationwide and in rallies in New York City.

We have seen posters of hostages torn down, we have seen anti-Zionist phrases like "From the river to the sea" uttered, and violent mobs that look nothing like the peace vigils of those who support Israel. This in itself is a microcosm of the Hamas-Israel conflict. I am led to believe that

without caveats, without clarifying statements, many of Israel's detractors do not support a Jewish state, and may even support the murder of innocent Israelis.

I hope I'm wrong. If we can't agree to disagree here, how can we ever imagine a negotiated solution to the conflict in the Middle East?

So my request to Israel's supporters and detractors is this: If you support a long-term solution to this conflict that allows Israelis and Palestinians alike to thrive, distinguish between those in Gaza who are terrorists and those who are victims of Hamas. As Israel seeks to destroy Hamas, a goal it will achieve, it is incumbent on all of us to separate those who will be defeated with Hamas, and those who deserve a better way of life moving forward.

Eric Post is the Long Island regional director of the American Jewish Committee.

LETTERS

of solidarity following the Oct. 7 attack by Hamas. What supporters of Israel need now are representatives looking to build a bipartisan consensus in favor of the U.S.-Israel relationship, something that Suozzi has done and will do again if he is elected on Feb. 13.

Pilip's charges reek of projection, because despite her remarkable personal story, she has failed to offer critical information during her campaign to explain to residents what type of representative she would be. She has declined opportunities to participate in numerous debates that would allow voters to assess her policy positions, refused to say who she voted for in the 2016 and 2020 elections, or how she came to support former Rep. George Santos, despite the red flags about his background and support for the Jan. 6 rioters that he expressed during the campaign, as he defrauded our district and is the very reason this special election is even occurring.

I am supporting Tom Suozzi because of his strong, consistent and outspoken support of Israel, and because he has the experience needed to deliver on the issues most important to our community.

PETER FISHKIND
Great Neck

This Republican voter conducted his own research

To the Editor:

For the past 12 months, constituents of New York's 3rd Congressional District effectively had no representation in Congress, and Long Islanders have been the laughingstock of the entire nation. My friends outside New York still ask, "How did this happen?" and "Did you vote for him?" referring to George Santos. My clients continue to ask, "How did no one not know his background?" "Did the Republicans know?"

On Feb. 13, the voters of the 3rd District have the opportunity for a do-over vote. As a

Republican, and especially for this election, I couldn't rely on my party again to vet the candidate, so I needed to do my own research. I examined both candidates' stances on the issues, reviewed their track records, and assessed their political experience to determine who is best to serve the community. Here's what I found.

Right from the start, at the announcement of her candidacy, Mazi Melesa Pilip was ushered off the stage without taking any questions from the press. That bothered me. That should bother you, too. I continued my research and discovered more of the same. She was evading hard questions and frankly, not-so-hard questions.

I also could not find any actual political accomplishments for Pilip over the past two years. What skill does she have to be in Congress other than to vote along party lines? I wonder if my fellow Long Islanders understand this is a Congressional seat in Washington, D.C. This is not some on-the-job training-type position.

In this election, I am supporting someone who I know can deliver — not just voting for Pilip because she's a Republican. I'm voting for someone with experience — a former mayor, county executive and, yes, a former Congressman. I urge all to do your own research — and vote for an effective leader with a proven track record. Without a doubt, that person is Tom Suozzi.

BEN MARZOUK
Great Neck

Happy Anniversary to NICE

To the Editor:

This month marks the 13th anniversary of Nassau Inter-County Express, or NICE, bus service, operated by Trans Dev under contract with Nassau County.

It's been 51 years since the county took control of all bus routes from private operators. Over that period, the county, Albany and

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



The Manhattan skyline, as seen from Norman Levy Park and Preserve — Merrick

Washington have invested a combined \$840 million-plus in capital improvements. Operating subsidies easily top \$1.5 billion.

NICE services continue to be one of the best bargains around. Since the 1950s, the average cost of riding a bus in Nassau County has gone up at a slower rate than either the consumer price index or inflation. The Metro Card, introduced in 1996, offers free transfers between NICE buses and New York City Transit buses or subways. Before that, riders had to pay two full fares. Purchasing either a weekly or monthly

pass further reduces the cost per ride. Many employers offer transit checks, which pay even more of the costs.

There ain't no such thing as a free lunch — or, in this case, bus ride. NICE services continue to be a great bargain.

LARRY PENNER

Larry Penner is a transportation advocate, historian and writer and a former director of the Federal Transit Administration Region 2 New York Office of Operations and Program Management.

LETTERS

Vote for Suozzi

To the Editor:

In the current campaign to replace grifter George Santos, the Republican Party, and their hand-picked candidate, Mazi Pilip, have sunk to new lows. They have called Tom Suozzi the “godfather” of the border crisis, thereby adding a slur against Italian-Americans to their usual antisemitic and racist dog whistles. It is particularly galling that their candidate, an immigrant herself, is pushing to deny others the American dream that the Suozzi family, and hers, exemplify. It is also galling in light of Suozzi’s common-sense approach to immigration, linking border security with a real path for immigrants to continue their contributions to this country. We are a nation of immigrants.

However, it is difficult to discern Ms. Pilip’s positions on anything, as her GOP handlers refuse to let her speak to the public, pleading “scheduling conflicts,” while Suozzi continually makes himself available to answer voters’ questions. How can we know what kind of representative she would be when she refuses to tell us? Not only does Suozzi make himself available, but he has a long record of competent and compassionate service to the 3rd District. The stakes are high, and we need to get this right.

Vote for Tom Suozzi, who will protect our environment, our health care, our reproductive rights, and all of the other rights that are now under attack. Election day is Feb. 13, with early voting Feb. 3-11. Protect your rights! Vote for Tom!

PAULA FROME
BEND THE ARC: JEWISH ACTION
CO-CHAIR. ELECTION COMMITTEE
Glen Cove

Suozzi can do it because he’s done it

To the Editor:

I have spent most of my adult life in public service, having served as a trustee on the Great Neck Board of Education for 16 years, as a legislator in the Nassau County Legislature for six years, and recently as Supervisor of the Town of North Hempstead for eight years. I believe this is the first letter to the editor on behalf of a candidate I have written. I feel compelled to do so now because the stakes are so high. I urge all eligible voters in the 3rd Congressional District to participate in the special election on Feb. 13, and to vote for Tom Suozzi.

My parents were Holocaust survivors, and I grew up understanding the importance of supporting Israel and standing up fiercely to antisemitism. I understood that it was essential for elected leaders to stand up against all bias and prejudice and have the courage to call out members of their own parties who did not. Tom Suozzi is that person. He has done it countless times, and we know we can count on him to always stand with the Jewish people.

The residents of the 3rd C.D. are still recovering from a lack of representation this past year. It is not acceptable to consider voting for a candidate who refuses to speak to the press and to civic groups, and refuses to participate in debates, except for one a few days before the election, when early voting will have begun and absentee ballots are being sent in. We need Tom Suozzi, a man who has engaged in countless town halls, has called for debates and understands that we have a right to know his position on all the issues facing this district and our country today. We need Suozzi, a proven supporter of democracy and minority rights, to be returned to Congress to represent us all.

When Tom was the Nassau County executive, his campaign slogan was, “I can do it because I have done it.” It should be part of his platform today as well. He has

reached across the aisle many times, as evidenced by the role he played in the Problem Solvers Caucus he helped form in Congress. He has the experience and the moral fiber to bring honor back to Congress.

I have never felt so strongly that the right choice, the responsible choice, is to vote for Tom Suozzi on Feb. 13.

JUDI BOSWORTH
FORMER SUPERVISOR,
Town of North Hempstead

After Santos, go with the sure thing

To the Editor:

As time passes, we learn from our experiences. Politics is no different. While I believe that Tom Suozzi and Mazi Melesa Pilip, would do their best to serve the Jewish community, experience and past performance must win out.

Both in and out of office, Suozzi has a long history of standing up for the Jewish people. But it’s not just that that has me believing he’s the right person to be our congressman. You need connections in Congress, and you need to know when to take on the bad guys, and when to temporarily sit back to defeat them.

Tom approached me and asked me what was important to me. He listened, and then listened some more. He didn’t ask for my vote or to donate to his campaign. He said, “I agree with you on your points, and will try my best to get it done and done right.”

Tom is the right choice at a time when antisemitism is at an all-time high since the Holocaust.

He is a man of his word, a fighter, aggressive when it is called for and a stand-up man. Proven leadership for the residents of the 3rd District is sorely missed, and needed. Please support Tom Suozzi by voting early, from Feb. 3 to 11, or on Election Day, Feb. 13.

JACK BRITVAN
Jericho



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