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# HERALD



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Courtesy office of Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

At Monday's news conference, Cornnie Kaufman held a photo of her granddaughter, who died of complications of fentanyl consumption. Kaufman was joined by County Legislators Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, far left, Arnold Drucker, Scott Davis and Siela Bynoe.

## Call for fentanyl strips intensifies amid opioid crisis

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

Paige Gibbons had a sleepover with two friends in 2022. Gibbons, of Glen Cove, and one of the other girls bought what they thought was Percocet from an illicit dealer, hoping to ease some of their stress. They were unaware that it was laced with fentanyl.

Four days after taking a small nibble of a pill, Gibbons died. Her friend, who ingested a smaller amount, suffered two strokes, but survived, spending weeks in a hospital's critical-care unit.

Cornnie Kaufman, Gibbons' grandmother, told the 19-year-old's story at a news conference on Monday in Mineola, just before a bill called the Families Against Fentanyl Act was filed in the Nassau County Legislature. It would include fentanyl test strips in kits

now being distributed throughout the county to prevent opioid drug overdoses.

"At 19 years of age, she had a brilliant future ahead of her," Kaufman said of Gibbons. "Her community-service projects were about life, such as driving an ambulance, teaching CPR to her classmates, and choosing to be a doctor. Although those dreams have been lost, the message of her death isn't."

Kaufman has shared the story of her granddaughter's sudden death many times in the 15 months since it happened, in the hope that it will serve as a warning to prevent other families from experiencing the same grief.

"The drug is ravaging our young people," Kaufman continued. "It's possible that if she were aware of this menace, and if she had

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

## Remembering elections past

How the level of civility changes, or remains the same, in politics

By **WILL SHEELINE**

wsheeline@iherald.com

*This is the second in a series delving into the complexities of elections to provide a better understanding of one of Americans' most precious privileges, the right to vote.*

While most people are taught in schools across the country that American politics have always been conducted with respect and dignity, in the annals of American political history, the campaign trail has often been fraught with mudslinging, deception, and outright falsehoods.

From the early days of the republic to the digital age of today, candidates have engaged in tactics aimed at discrediting their opponents and swaying public opinion, often at the expense of truth and integrity.

As the recent special election in New York's 3rd Congressional District between Democrat Tom Suozzi and Republican Mazi Melesa Pilip showed, the electoral tradition of name-calling and truth-twisting is alive and well. Both candidates took umbrage with ads run by their opponent or their opponent's supporters, with Suozzi bristling at the nickname "the

godfather of the border crisis" and Pilip repudiating claims that she was anti-abortion and anti-environment.

Chuck Lavine, a state assemblyman, noted that these sorts of political attacks were nothing new to American politics, and added that they dated back to the earliest days of American democracy. A particularly

provocative example occurred during the presidential election of 1800 between Thomas Jefferson and then President John Adams, when a newspaper editor and political ally of Jefferson accused Adams of being a hermaphrodite.

"There have always been instances of dirty campaigns," Lavine said. "I thought it was a good sign that many people in that Suozzi-Pilip race utterly disregarded inflammatory commercials that were on television, on radio and on the internet."

Not everyone agrees with Lavine, however. Joseph Saladino, supervisor for the Town of Oyster Bay, claimed that civility had always been a key aspect in elections, and pointed to his election wins as a key example.

"Civility is important in politics, as residents want representatives that will enact positive solutions to enhance our

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8





# Navigating the digital landscape in school

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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The Glen Cove City School District has a new district coordinator of instructional technology, Anna Policastro. Her path to education has been marked by a deep sense of purpose and a commitment to making a difference in the lives of children.

Policastro's initial aspirations were in adolescent psychology, but it was within the walls of school buildings that she discovered her true calling. With a natural affinity for connecting with children and a desire to support them in their educational journey, Policastro knew that teaching was where she belonged.

The youngest of seven, Policastro's journey into the world of childhood education began while caring for her younger nieces and nephews in their academic pursuits. Her teaching philosophy is deeply influenced by her family background, characterized by diverse strengths and challenges among her siblings.

"I have one brother that's incredibly gifted with a very high IQ and he can do absolutely anything," Policastro said. "And then I have another brother who has attention issues since he was young, and he's always struggled with his schooling. Even throughout adulthood, completing his college degree was very

difficult for him. I feel like I can see that sort of situation reflected in any classroom door you open; you don't really know what kind of learner you have each year."

She first enrolled at Sacred Heart University in Connecticut to study child psychology, but in her junior and senior years, discovered her calling was early childhood education, and opted for a chance to work with students across multiple elementary schools in Bridgeport.

Policastro connected with students in special education classes and recalled a touching experience with a young boy who faced emotional challenges at home. During the transition period after school, she provided support to help him with his homework. Employing strategies like checklists and incentives, Policastro aimed to boost his confidence and provide the consistency he lacked at home.

"There were some students that were hearing impaired or emotionally disturbed things along those lines, I happen to connect with those kinds of students," Policastro said. "I think that that's where I really found my passion for teaching, being able to reach those students on a different level and support them in their education."

Policastro enrolled at Mercy College which offered multiple teaching certifications. Upon completing her master's degree in early childhood education, she earned three distinct certifications: birth to second grade, first to sixth grade, and special education.

During her initial post-graduation year, Policastro commenced her journey as a classroom assistant at an elementary school located on Manhattan's Upper West Side. She was promoted as a full-time classroom teacher the following year.

Policastro bypassed the traditional student-teaching requirements in New York. Because of her internship certificate and commendations from Mercy College, Policastro seamlessly transitioned into a full-time teaching role while completing her master's degree.

During her 12 years at the Saddle Rock School, in Great Neck, Policastro began her career as a fifth-grade classroom teacher, dedicating a decade to this role before transitioning to a technology staff developer and enrichment teacher. Her passion for innovation led her to actively participate in testing new technologies, aiming to enhance the learning experience for students.

Policastro's involvement in the tech-

nology committee allowed her to advocate for innovative solutions, such as specialized desks for holding iPads, improving classroom dynamics and engagement by repositioning desks in a horseshoe formation for a Socratic-seminar learning environment.

As she expanded her role to include technology instruction and staff development, Policastro's perspective shifted to a broader view of education, focusing on leveraging technology district-wide to make learning more accessible and engaging for students of all ages and abilities.

Just three weeks into her role as district coordinator of instructional technology, Policastro is still evaluating potential use of artificial intelligence programs like ChatGPT in the classroom. Some common misconceptions about using technology in education include the belief that all screen time is passive consumption, she said. However, children can also use technology creatively, such as through drawing or listening to audiobooks to make learning more fun.

"The digital landscape is constantly changing and evolving, and we're not going to stop that," Policastro said. "We're at the beginning phases here of how to utilize such a strong tool like AI and seeing how we can help our students really thrive and becoming like a global citizen."



**ANNA  
POLICASTRO**

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# Bringing health and wellness to city's youth

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

For students like Rachel Ayiku, gyms and exercise classes aren't easily accessible outside of school because of cost. When she heard about an opportunity to exercise at Level Up Glen Cove with the city's Equal Opportunity Coalition, during the first class of its kind, she knew picking up a dumbbell would be a smart choice for her health.

"I didn't know it was gonna be like this, I thought was just gonna be like a regular gym with treadmills everywhere," the high school senior said. "In gym class we do activities, but we don't do activities like this."

Ayiku and a dozen of her peers not only lifted weights and used resistance bands for cardio, but the dozen youth also received personalized instruction from Nicole Helmus, owner of Level Up Glen Cove, a fitness and wellness studio, striving to transform into a beacon of hope for those yearning for healthier lifestyles. However, Helmus' vision transcends the studio walls. In November 2023, she launched Level Up Glen Cove Cares, a non-profit arm dedicated to extending health and wellness services to marginalized communities.

Growing up in the Bronx, the journey toward health and wellness wasn't always accessible for Helmus. Despite her passion for fitness, nutrition, and meditation, financial constraints often barred her from fitness centers and healthy eating that she sought. Determined to break the cycle of exclusion, Helmus, now a certified expert in fitness, yoga, meditation, wellness, social emotional learning, reiki, sound healing, and ayurveda, has embarked on a mission to empower youth with resources she didn't receive as a teenager.

"As I've gotten older and learned about health and became certified in it, I wanted to give back to people who were in the same position as I was, who couldn't afford to learn about being healthy," Helmus said. "I always had a passion for fitness and being healthy with meditation and stuff like that. But I never could afford it and most of the gyms, they're very expensive. The ones that aren't expensive you're basically on your own."

Helmus' commitment to youth empowerment is palpable. Her aspiration to hold weekly youth exercise



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Members of the Equal Opportunity Coalition said they felt the fitness class with Level Up Glen Cove was fun and necessary.

sessions underscores her dedication to community enrichment; however, sustaining these sessions would require donations to pay her fitness instructors.

Irma Jeanty, director of Glen Cove's EOC program, said they offer workshops about nutrition but there's a strong need for a fitness program.

"You could see the kids really enjoyed it," Jeanty said. "And also, I could see how much they needed it. Although it was their first day, you could see some of them kind of struggled a little bit."

Cassie Sullivan demonstrated the correct way to use resistance bands.



For students like Rachel Ayiku, gyms and exercise classes aren't easily accessible to her outside of school because of cost.



# Fentanyl strips need to be accessible

February 29, 2024 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

been educated about fentanyl, she may have tested first with the fentanyl detection strip.”

Fentanyl is a strong synthetic opioid that has been used in clinical settings for decades. It is often described as 80 to 100 times stronger than morphine, and 50 times stronger than heroin. One kilogram of fentanyl has the potential to kill 500,000 people.

There are two types of fentanyl, the pharmaceutical variety and the illicitly manufactured version. Pharmaceutical fentanyl is prescribed by doctors to treat severe pain, especially after surgery and for advanced-stage cancer. Most fentanyl-related overdoses, however, are linked to the illicitly manufactured version, which is distributed in illegal drug markets and sought for its heroin-like effect. It is often added to other drugs because of its extreme potency, which makes them more powerful, more addictive and more dangerous.

“Just one time is all it takes for someone to succumb to fentanyl,” Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton said during the conference. “With these test strips, people can check the drug for fentanyl, and at least 10 other drugs which are similar to fentanyl. These strips are not the sil-

ver bullet, but it’s our only tool that we have, and it’s something that we know can work. Every day that we wait, it should be on the county executive’s conscience.”

Fentanyl strips are small pieces of chemically treated paper that detect the presence of the opioid within minutes if it has been added to other drugs. The Families Against Fentanyl Act would add the strips to kits with Narcan, an opioid antidote that reverses an overdose, that are made available to the public by a variety of agencies.

The Legislature’s Democratic minority caucus has repeatedly urged Republican County Executive Bruce Blakeman’s administration to make more of the county’s portion of the state’s 2022 settlement with opioid manufacturers and distributors available for such mea-

sures. Democrats accuse the county of spending less than \$202,000 of more than \$92 million the county has received to date on opioid overdose prevention and treatment.

“No community has been spared from the scourge of the opioid crisis, and the \$92.5 million that Nassau County has received could make a tremendous impact upon the lives of those who are in the grips of addiction,” DeRiggi-Whitton said at the conference. “Consid-

**E**very day that we wait, it should be on the county executive’s conscience.

**DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON**  
County Legislator



Courtesy office of Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

Halle Gigante, left, and Cornie Kaufman formally submitted the Families Against Fentanyl Act.

ering the wave of devastation that we have experienced and the promises that have been made, it is infuriating to know that, two years later, just a sliver of these funds have actually been spent on life-saving initiatives. Where is the urgency as opioids continue to devastate our families?”

In a statement, Blakeman said that his administration is “always trying to make a safer environment for our kids,” and “one death is one too many.” He said he was open to partnering with a free,

state-run program to make the strips more accessible.

Asked about the pace of the distribution of opioid settlement funding, Blakeman said that the county “will continue to fund worthwhile projects that will provide immediate results rather than waste precious funds on projects and programs that are not proven.”

Asked for clarification about projects and programs that are “not proven,” Blakeman’s office had not responded as the Herald went to press.

## CRIME WATCH

### ARRESTS

- A 39-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Feb. 18 for criminal possession of a weapon on Glen Street.
- A 43-year-old Elmhurst man was arrested on Feb. 19 for two counts of criminal contempt on Shore Road.
- A 52-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on Feb. 20 for aggravated unlicensed operation and equipment violation on Miller Street.
- A 33-year old Glen Cove woman was arrested on Feb. 21 for criminal contempt on Broadfield Place.
- A 34-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Feb. 23 for assault on Brewster Street.
- A 29-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on Feb. 24 for criminal contempt and unsafe passing on Sunset Avenue.
- A 58-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Feb. 12 for criminal contempt on Stephen Oval.
- A 34-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Feb. 13 for criminal possession of a weapon and menacing on Forest Avenue.
- A 33-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on Feb. 15 for assault on Broadfield Place.
- A 62-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Feb. 15 for assault and criminal possession of a weapon on Dickson Street.
- A 33-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on Feb. 16 for criminal contempt, criminal and criminal obstruction of breathing on Broadfield Place.
- A 33-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on Feb. 17 for criminal contempt on Broadfield Place.
- A 70-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Feb. 4 for driving while intoxicated on McLoughlin Street.
- A 42-year-old Corona, Queens, man was arrested on Feb. 4 for driving while intoxicated without a license and numerous vehicle and traffic law violations on Glen Cove Avenue.
- A 49-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Feb. 5 for aggravated family offense and criminal contempt on Kirkwood Drive.
- A 24-year-old Hempstead woman was arrested on Feb. 6 for burglary, criminal contempt and criminal mischief on Bryce Avenue.
- A 49-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Feb 7 for criminal contempt and harassment on Clement Street.
- A 38-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Feb. 10 for criminal mischief on Hazel Street.
- A 24-year-old undomiciled man was arrested on Feb. 2 for resisting arrest, criminal possession of a weapon and possession of an open alcoholic beverage on Glen Street.
- A 44-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on Jan. 31 on School Street for aggravated unlicensed operation, circumventing an interlock device and operating a motor vehicle, an unregistered vehicle, operating a motor vehicle without insurance and being an unlicensed driver.

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# Sheltering program facing a funding crisis

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

In the heart of Glen Cove, amidst the picturesque streets and bustling community life lies a reality often unseen: the profound struggles of those grappling with homelessness. At the forefront of this struggle is the North Shore Sheltering Program, housed within the welcoming embrace of the city's First Presbyterian Church. For over 20 years, this program has served as a lifeline for dozens of men, providing them with a nighttime refuge from the harsh realities of life on frigid streets from November to March.

But the vital lifeline has faced setbacks in recent years, partly because of dwindling funds, and church elders contemplating the sale of its building. The shelter is set to resume its annual fundraiser to help keep its doors open. The last fundraising event for the shelter was in 2019, and social distancing mandates didn't allow for the program to hold its annual fundraising event.

"We are barely able to finish this season because we ran out of funds," Cantor Gustavo Gitlin of Congregation Tifereth Israel, president of NSSP's board of trustees, said. "We're now doing this fundraiser to be able to open next year."

It costs approximately \$10,000 per month for the shelter to rent space from the church and provide basic needs such as food, sleeping bags and hygienic products like body wash and toothbrushes for the 20 men who live at the shelter. The program has no funding from any government agencies. Instead, it is staffed mostly by volunteers and funded by the generosity of the North Shore community.

The program began in response to the death of two men who in separate incidents, were left out in the elements during the winter of 1996 ultimately dying of



Courtesy Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton

**Ann Marie Gallious, Ron Bieber, Tony Jimenez, Lester Burnett, and Bob Koehler help prepare food for shelter residents. Much of the food shelter residents receive are home cooked or donated by local businesses.**

exposure.

"Some of the men are so broken that they stay out on the street," Ron Baskind, the former manager of the shelter said about the homeless population in Glen Cove. "They're really shunned by everybody. It's such a broken way to live life."

According to the National Coalition for the Homeless, there are two major contributors to the current housing and homelessness crises: a lack of low-cost housing nationwide, and the limited scale of housing-assistance programs. Nationally, the cost of rental housing greatly exceeds average wages earned by low-income households. A full-time worker needs to earn on

average of just under \$26 per hour to afford a modest two-bedroom apartment, and over \$21 hourly to afford a one-bedroom, according to the National Low Income Housing Coalition.

"It's important that people go there and see with their own eyes where the men live," Gitlin said about this year's fundraiser. "It's important for our donors to see, interact and to have a conversation with our men, and to share a meal and see where they sleep. It's an eye opener."

Gitlin previously stated that some of the men they help have mental illnesses and find it difficult to live with family. Others use the shelter to save money during the winter so they can send it home to their families overseas. The program does try to help residents find stable housing throughout the year but have faced hurdles with undocumented residents who do not qualify for government assistance.

Many shelter residents have expressed gratitude for the new experiences they had with Baskind last year. Residents have made trips to the Bronx Zoo and areas of the state that are inaccessible to them. These additional experience for the men were inspired by Baskind asking residents what they strive to do with their time at the shelter, and other ways they'd like to spend their time, providing a mental break from everyday homeless life. Another of those experiences included a few mornings cleaning John Maccarone Memorial Stadium.

This year's fundraising event will take place on March 19, at 5 p.m., at the First Presbyterian Church, 7 North Lane, Glen Cove. Tickets are \$50 per person, and guests can enjoy refreshments prepared by the program board members, a raffle, and an opportunity to tour the shelter. Donations of new socks and underwear are welcome. For more information about the fundraiser and the shelter program, visit northshoreshelteringprogram.org.

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**b.** No portion of the principal or income may be converted to the use of the trustee or to any use other than for the benefit of a covered animal.

**c.** Upon termination, the trustee shall transfer the unexpended trust property as directed in the trust instrument or, if there are no such directions in the trust

instrument, the property shall pass to the estate of the grantor.

**d.** A court may reduce the amount of property transferred if it determines that amount substantially exceeds the amount required for the intended use. The amount of the reduction, if any, passes as unexpended trust property pursuant to paragraph (c), above.

**e.** If no trustee is designated or no designated trustee is willing or able to serve, a court shall appoint a trustee and may make such other orders and determinations as are advisable to carry out the intent of the grantor and the purpose of this section.

If you are interested in setting up a trust for your beloved pet, please make an appointment to see us for a free consultation. Should you have no one to take care of your pet, try PetEstates.com, who will perform this service for you.

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# Blakeman defends banning trans athletes

February 29, 2024 — GLEN COVE HERALD

By PARKER SCHUG

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Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman says he's protecting athletes in his executive order last week banning some transgender participants in female-centric sports in county facilities. But the action also has raised concerns — and legal questions. Some of which were brought before the Nassau County Legislature on Monday.

"An individual's gender is defined as the individual's biological sex at birth,"

**W**e're confident that as soon as this executive order comes before court, it will be shut down.

**BOBBY HODGSON**

director  
New York Civil  
Liberties Union

Blakeman wrote in his executive order, which demands any sport entities interested in using county facilities to first designate themselves based on male, female or co-ed categories, and then only accept athletes who meet that criteria according to the gender that was originally listed on their birth certificate.

There are nearly 100 facilities in the county that will be impacted, Blakeman told reporters last week.

But Bobby Hodgson — director of LGBTQ rights litigation at New York Civil Liberties Union — says those impacts may not be felt long.

"Were confident that as soon as this executive order comes before court, it will be shut down," Hodgson said.

The executive order primarily targets athletes born biologically male, but who now identify as female, from participating in teams intended only for girls or women. Blakeman's order does not require facilities to ban athletes born female and now identifying as male from joining male-centric teams.

Blakeman, however, was quick to add last week, that trans athletes identifying as females aren't completely banned — they will still be able to participate in co-ed leagues as well as male competitive leagues.

Nassau County Legislator Samantha Goetz backed Blakeman's directive, citing safety and integrity.

"This is about protecting our female athletes," said Goetz, whose district primarily represents Oyster Bay. "This is about making sure they're not denied opportunities for scholarships, or any type of opportunity that comes with playing sports, recognition and things like that."

Eva Nordman, an 8-year-old who plays basketball, softball and soccer, said it was also about keeping sports equitable.

"Boys have different chromosomes than girls and that makes them stronger," Nordman said. "It's not fair if they



Parker Schug/Herald photos

Victoria Argueta, from left, Sophia Argueta, Eva Nordman, Julia Nordman and Jenna Nordman join Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman at a news conference, telling reporters he's banning some transgender athletes from participating in female-centric sports in county facilities.



Juli Grey-Owens, executive director of Gender Equality New York, front, protests outside a Mineola news conference last week where Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman announced he was banning some transgender athletes from participating in female-centric sports in county facilities.

compete against us."

Protesters gathered outside of Blakeman's news conference last week led by Juli Grey-Owens, executive director of Gender Equality New York, chanting, "Trans kids are our kids." They will get some support from the NYCLU — a not-for-profit legal right group — say they will consider taking Nassau County to court over what Hodgson described as a disregard of state human rights and civil rights laws.

An amendment to the state's human rights law in 2019 outlawed gender identity and expression discrimination in employment, housing, places of public accommodation, and non-religious schools, according to state officials.

Hodgson is not alone. State attorney general Letitia James condemned Blakeman's order, calling it "transphobic and

deeply dangerous."

"In New York, we have laws that protect our beautifully diverse communities from hate and discrimination of any and every kind," James said, in a statement. "My office is charged with enforcing and upholding those laws, and we stand up to those who violate them and trespass on the rights of marginalized communities. We are reviewing our legal options."

But Blakeman told reporters last week he knew of no state policy that could threaten his executive order

"This is not precluding anybody from participating in sports," Blakeman wrote in his executive order. "What it is, is identifying that there are women and girls who spent a tremendous amount of time and effort to excel and compete in their sports that are women's sports — whether it's the WNBA, whether it's

college, whether it's high school, whether it's just a community league — and it is an unfair advantage for someone who's a biological male to compete against a biological female."

Dawn Foster — a former deputy county attorney and an Oceanside resident — stopped by Mineola on Monday to speak out against Blakeman's executive order in front of the county legislature on behalf of her family.

"In 2021, when I finally stopped fighting against myself and accepted that I was a woman and needed transition, we felt fortunate to live in Nassau County," Foster said, calling the executive order unlawful, and condemning what she described as efforts to demonize trans women. "That feeling was shattered last week.

"Blakeman and Goetz press conference was a total of repudiation of the humanity of trans people, implying that we are cheaters, liars and bullies."

Foster already had support from some county legislators like Carrié Solages and Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

"I have never, in my many years of government service, had a constituent or parent complain to me about this issue," Solages said, "making it clear that this embarrassing and illegal order is just another attempt by County Executive Blakeman to distract from the many issues that plague Nassau County."

But Blakeman is not going to let those efforts dissuade him.

"We are finding out, in the last few months, there was a movement for biological males to bully their way into competing in sports or leagues or teams that identify themselves — or advertise themselves — as girls, or female or women's teams or leagues," the county executive said last week. "We find that unacceptable. It's a form of bullying."





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—George Karatzas, James Cress Florist, Smithtown

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[psegliny.com/EcoDev](https://psegliny.com/EcoDev)

\*Incentives, grants, and savings will vary with every project.





# Smear ads have always been part of democracy

February 29, 2024 — GLEN COVE HERALD  
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

community,” Saladino wrote in a statement. “In the Town of Oyster Bay we’ve demonstrated that running a civil campaign is possible by speaking about our long record of achievements in turning this town around. That illustrates a sharp and successful contrast, and thus a successful campaign outcome.”

Political ads have often been an opportunity for candidates and their supporters to attack their opponent indirectly, fostering doubt about anything a candidate may stand for or be. In the Suozzi-Pilip race, both sides accused the other of being on the extreme side of the political spectrum, to the left for Suozzi and the right for Pilip, despite both having largely similar views on several issues including Israel, the SALT tax reduction, and crime.

An ad against Suozzi by Congressional Leadership Fund Super PAC accused the Glen Cove native of being responsible for the border crisis, despite the fact that the border crisis has been an ongoing issue since before Suozzi even entered political life. Meanwhile, the Jewish Democratic Council of America ran an ad claiming Pilip believes overturning Roe vs. Wade was the right decision, despite the fact that she never said that.

This tradition of using ads to misrepresent a candidate’s political stances is not a new one. During the 1860 presidential campaign, racist opponents of Abraham Lincoln published numerous drawings which depicted white Americans treating Black people equally, even though Lincoln, at that point, had never publicly supported the anti-slavery movement.

The election dynamics of the Suozzi-Pilip race mirrored these historical trends, with both candidates subjected to misleading attacks and smear campaigns. Lavine recalled witnessing commercials labeling Suozzi as an “ultra-leftist radical,” a portrayal he deemed patently false.

That does not mean that modern political campaigns stoop to every low, however. A more traditional style of ad that did not come up during the Suozzi-Pilip race was the use of political cartoons or caricatures to emphasize or lampoon negative aspects of their opponents. In the 1830’s, numerous cartoons of Andrew Jackson dressed as a king highlighted his authoritarian nature and claimed he did not respect democracy or its institutions.

Furthermore, while modern campaign ads can often seem aggressive and even at times offensive and vulgar, compared to some historical political attacks, these appear relatively tame. In the 1836 presidential election, folk hero Davy Crockett accused Martin Van Buren of crossdressing, and in the 1977 New York mayoral election placards were placed reading “vote for Cuomo, not the homo” in reference to Ed Koch, according to nonpartisan public policy organization the Brookings Institution.

Despite this, the modern era has its own unique set of problematic systems which further enable campaigns to put out numerous misleading messages and ads. Lavine highlighted the impact of the Citizens United case, which unleashed unprecedented amounts of money into political campaigns, funding advertisements that can truly mislead voters.

“While some of that money contributes to advertising that’s honest and constructive, too much of it underwrites advertisements that are base and demeaning and untrue,” Lavine said. “I think we just have to strengthen ourselves to the realization that we are going to be subject to a tremendous and disgusting level of commercialization in the political process.”

Moreover, the proliferation of social media has exacerbated the spread of misinformation. The distinction between negative campaigning and dirty tricks becomes blurred in the digital age, where fabricated stories can permeate public discourse with alarming speed and intensity.

Despite these modern problems, Andy Person, chief



Tim Baker/Herald photos

Andrew Jackson was often dressed as and compared to a king in negative campaign cartoons and depictions due to his authoritarian tendencies.



Before the advent of social media, election pins and paraphernalia such as this one, aimed at Barry Goldwater, poked fun at candidates.

of strategy and advancement at Long Island University where he runs the Museum of Democracy, argues that the goal remains the same and in reach; protecting democracy. Person acknowledged that while the digital age poses unique challenges, Americans throughout the centuries have dealt with issues that, while less technologically advanced, were equally as divisive for voters.

“The only people who could vote when our country was founded were white, male land-owners. That doesn’t seem to be much of a democracy compared to today’s standards, but that’s what we had to start with,” Person said. “Did we have it right back then? No. Were we slow? Very slow. But are we done yet? Not at all.”

As America grapples with the enduring legacy of divisive and deceptive political campaigns, calls for



Numerous political ads and cartoons lampooned Richard Nixon following his impeachment.



Political cartoons like this one helped ensure that Gerald Ford only served one term as president.

civic education and media literacy have grown louder. Lavine emphasized the importance of teaching civics and media literacy in schools, to equip future generations with the critical thinking skills necessary to discern truth from falsehood in an age of rampant disinformation.





Courtesy Minority Leader Delia De-Riggi-Whitton

Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, far right, joined the Kiwanis Club of Glen Cove in donating food at the North Shore Men's Shelter.

## Dinner drop-off, cause for much gratitude

Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton joined with the Kiwanis Club of Glen Cove to deliver dinner to the North Shore Men's Shelter on Feb. 5.

"The Kiwanis Club of Glen Cove's frequent visits to the North Shore Men's Shelter are just another example of

their steadfast commitment to community service and giving back," DeRiggi-Whitton said.

"It was absolutely wonderful to experience the gratitude we received, and I was thankful for the opportunity to assist Glen Cove Kiwanis with this effort," she added.

## Lydia Cavallone, loving wife, mother, sister

Lydia Cavallone, 81, of Glen Cove, died on Feb. 25. Beloved wife of Cono; loving mother of Michael, Nick (Nancy) and Angela (Frank Zangari); dear sister of Tommaso, Antonietta, Elena, the late Donato, Michael, Giuseppe and Angelina; cherished grandmother of Ariana, Nicholas, Alyssa, Robby, Michael and Gianna. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge Thomas Funeral Home.



LYDIA CAVALLONE

## Frederick M. "Rick" Ceriello, musician

Frederick M. "Rick" Ceriello, 68, of Bay Shore, formerly of Glen Cove, died on Feb. 20. Ceriello was a talented guitarist and songwriter. Beloved son of the late Dorothy and Constantino; dear brother of Dawn Hetzel and the late Gary; adored uncle of Andrew and several cousins. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove.



FREDERICK M. "RICK" CERIELLO

## Jean Scarpinato, loved by so many people

Jean Scarpinato, of Glen Cove, died on Feb. 19. Beloved daughter of the late Anne and Eugene Mackewicz; loving granddaughter of the late Helen and Vincent Melillo; adored niece of John Melillo (the late Joann) and Vincent Melillo (Shirley); dear sister of Diane Schneider (Bert) and the late Ken Mackewicz. Also survived by many loving

cousins, grand nieces and nephews. Scarpinato was loved and will be greatly missed by her CMA family. Visitation at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove on March 23, from noon to 3 p.m. Catholic Prayer Service at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home on March 23. Interment is Private at St. Patrick's Cemetery, Brookville, NY.



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# Making positive waves in their community

February 29, 2024 – GLEN COVE HERALD

Black History Month is celebrated to honor and recognize the contributions, achievements, and struggles of African Americans throughout history. It serves as a reminder of the important roles that Black individuals have played in shaping various aspects of society, including politics, science, literature, arts, sports, and civil rights. Here are some of the most notable Black figures that have worked to better the Glen Cove community.

## **Irma Jeanty, program director, Economic Opportunity Commission**

Irma Jeanty has been the program director of the Economic Opportunity Commission for nine years, which has helped ease the lives of families on the North Shore. For over 50 years, the Economic Opportunity Commission of Nassau County has provided programs and services to low-income residents. The coalition was born out of the Economic Opportunity Act of 1964, which was signed into law by President Lyndon B. Johnson on Aug. 20, 1964, a signature legislation of Johnson's Act, "War on Poverty." During the past year, approximately 14,000 low-income children, youth, individuals, and families accessed EOC programs and services.

## **Phyllis Burnett, community leader**

Phyllis Burnett, a dedicated community leader in Glen Cove, has spent decades selflessly serving others. From her early volunteer work with the Red Cross to her pioneering roles within the Glen Cove government, including becoming the first Black woman to work with the Planning Board and later serving as Civil Service Commissioner. Her tireless efforts, including coordinating the Glen Cove Senior Center's medical transport program and securing a decommissioned police vehicle for the service, have had a profound impact on the community, especially its senior population.

## **Allen Hudson, principal, Glen Cove High School**

Allen Hudson, a former student, and star athlete at Glen Cove High School, fulfilled his promise to return to his community by becoming its principal after 16 years as assistant principal, marking the school's first Black principal. He aims to uplift student and staff morale, elevate expectations, and cultivate a culture of excellence at Glen Cove High.

## **Sheryl Goodine, president, Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Commission**

Sheryl Goodine is the former Glen Cove High School assistant principal and currently serves as president of the Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Birthday Commission. Goodine's own involvement in civil rights dates to her childhood in the late 1950s when her father successfully sued for the school district's desegregation, solidifying her family's place in Glen Cove's civil rights movement.



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

Irma Jeanty is committed to making life easier for people living on the North Shore.



Courtesy Allen Hudson

Allen Hudson is GCHS's first Black principal.



Herald file photo

Sheryl Goodine has been involved in civil rights for decades.



Roksana Amid/Herald

Phyllis Burnett is a dedicated community leader.



# STEPPING OUT



Photo by Matthew Murphy

Crystal Dickinson, Joe Tapper, and Jason Tam star in playwright Sean Daniels' autobiographical comedy, a wry theatrical journey of recovery.



Photos by Jenny Anderson



Sheryl Kaller in rehearsal.

## Her theatre life

Tony Award nominee Sheryl Kaller directs Off-Broadway's 'The White Chip,' a play about alcoholism and recovery

By Iris Wiener

**When Valley Stream native Sheryl Kaller was 12, she knew she wanted to be a director. It was 1973. She went to a Sunday matinee of "Pippin," and Ben Vereen sang "Magic to Do," immediately clinching her dream.**

"I always knew theatre was the only place where we can authentically use our imaginations," she says. "I had the Spidey sense of knowing that it was a collaborative art."

It was the start to a journey that would lead her to a Tony nomination as she directed Broadway ("Next Fall," "Mothers and Sons") and Off-Broadway plays, including "The White Chip," which follows a theatre director who finds himself spinning out of control with an addiction to alcohol. The play, exploring his journey to recovery, runs through March 9, at MCC Theater.

"Broadway and Off-Broadway always felt like my community," Kaller says. "My parents were very vigilant about getting me in to see theatre all the time. It informed my exposure to the art and my love of New York City."

As Kaller grew up in the Green Acres community of Valley Stream, she performed in community theatre with her mother, while her father — who repaired car seat covers for a living — would use his knowledge of sewing to design costumes for the shows. ("They were horrible actually," Kaller says, laughing at the fond memories.)

In her senior year at Valley Stream South High School, Kaller got her first taste of directing. After landing the role of Rosie in "Bye Bye Birdie," she realized a big number — "The Telephone Hour" — could use some major help.

"I said to the director, who was great, 'With all due respect, may I redo (the number)?' So I redid the whole 'Telephone Hour.' That's when I knew I was much better at directing than acting, and it led me to go to Emerson College — as a director, not as an actor."

In 2019, Kaller directed "The White Chip" at Off-Broadway's 59E59 with the support of acclaimed playwright Terrence McNally, who, much like the play's narrator, was



- Now through March 9
- Robert W. Wilson MCC Theater Space, 511 W. 52nd St., Manhattan
- Tickets available at [WhiteChipPlay.com](http://WhiteChipPlay.com)

a recovered alcoholic. When McNally died during the pandemic, Kaller knew she had to bring the play back to the New York theatre community.

"In the world of Covid and in the world of losing community, we felt it was really important to bring it back because 'The White Chip' is a hopeful sobriety story, and a serio-comedy. There's a lot of fun things in it," she says of the play, which found its new home at the MCC Theater. "We are building community and doing service with this show, while entertaining at the same time."

According to Kaller, after the pandemic, alcoholism in

women doubled, while in men it was up a third.

"AA and addiction meetings were all on Zoom, and everybody kind of fractured," she says. "This is a story that makes you laugh and cry. It also talks about how there's no shame in being an addict. Shame touches everybody's lives in one way or another."

In deciding to take the piece on again, it didn't hurt that Tony Award winner Annaleigh Ashford was at the show's helm as producer.

"She's very magical," says Kaller of Ashford, who recently starred in Broadway's "Sweeney Todd" opposite Josh Groban.

"The White Chip" has such an important message that it also boasts celebrity supporters and producers Jason Biggs, John Larroquette, Edie Falco and Hank Azaria. The pandemic even inspired playwright Sean Daniels to create The Recovery Project, an initiative working to heal the stigma of addiction and recovery through the development of new plays, theatre education programs, and outreach.

"All of our fancy producers are sober people," says Kaller, of the importance of the play and the initiative. "Every producer who came on board financially was incredibly gracious. They don't have the best deal in the world because a lot of the money is going into The Recovery Project. If you're an actor, a designer, in the PR department, if you're cleaning the toilets, you need resources. At all of our performances so far, at least one person has asked us for help. We have a QR code that gives them resources whether or not they have health insurance."

The play continues to remind Kaller of the importance of community, a lesson that harkens back to her roots on Long Island.

"One thousand Long Islanders showed up to my dad's funeral," she recalls. "I grew up in such a beautiful community there. My heart will always be on the 'Guyland.' I got the wonderful suburban, great education at Valley Stream South, and yet I got to go into the city all the time. But I will always remember all of these people who showed up for my family."

"I wish Long Islanders would start coming back to New York theatre because we really do build a lot of beautiful community in the city and it's worth it. It is apparent with 'The White Chip' and with so much more."



### Tusk

Tusk goes their own way, with their dynamic tribute to Fleetwood Mac. Since forming in 2008, Tusk has prided themselves on being the ultimate tribute to the '70s supergroup. No fancy tricks, no gimmicks, just five musicians recreating the music of Fleetwood Mac to perfection with note-for-note renditions. Seasoned musicians who go back some 25 years, their attention to detail, talent and reverence of their subjects has been critically acclaimed, resulting in their accolades as the premiere purveyors of 'Mac. Time, trust, and close friendship have cultivated an intimate familiarity with each other's musical nuances, shaping every performance with precision. More than a band, they are a family. Made up of Kathy Phillips (as Stevie Nicks on vocals), Scott McDonald (as Lindsey Buckingham, guitar and vocals), Kim Williams (as Christine McVie, keys and vocals), Randy Artiglere (as John McVie, bass) and Tom Nelson (as Mick Fleetwood on drums) the five-piece band transports you back to the group's glory days.

Friday, March 1, 8 p.m. \$63, \$53, \$45. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. (516) 767-6444 or [LandmarkOnMainStreet.org](http://LandmarkOnMainStreet.org).



### The Irish Tenors

These gents will warm your soul with the beauty of Irish music. The Irish Tenors have been the acknowledged Celtic music kings since bursting upon the scene during a 1998 television special. With 10 bestselling albums to their credit, they share company with the likes of The Three Tenors and Andrea Bocelli as the biggest money makers PBS has presented. They've since become a part of the Irish movement in America, with plenty of talented Irish acts coming after them. They have stood the test of time — audiences of all ages love the Irish Tenors. Now comprised of classically trained tenor Anthony Kearns, doctor-turned-vocalist Ronan Tynan, and tenor Declan Kelly, their repertoire is wide-ranging and they also introduce — or reintroduce — their audiences to Ireland's exquisite jigs, reels and ballads.

Friday, March 1, 8 p.m. Tickets start at \$70. Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville. Tickets available at [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com), [TillesCenter.org](http://TillesCenter.org) or (516) 299-3100.



# THE SCENE

March 8

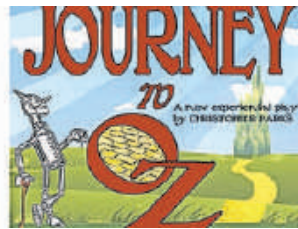
Janeane Garofalo

The comedian-actress, who reigns as the queen of the

alt-comedy scene, is eager to speak her mind on her current stand-up tour, when she visits the Landmark stage, Friday, **March 8**, 8 p.m.

Considered by many as an American institution since she first burst on the scene in 1992, the outspoken activist has plenty to say, in her own inimitable comedic style. Known for her incisive, cynical sense of humor, the SNL alum has branched out into many memorable film and TV roles, including "The Truth About Cats and Dogs," "Wet Hot American Summer," "Ratatouille," "Steal This Movie," "Reality Bites," "Romy and Michelle's High School Reunion," "Mystery Men," "The Ten" and "The Cable Guy," along with including the final season of NBC's "The West Wing."

Garofalo's informed opinions and unflinching honesty on topics ranging from everyday life to pop culture inspire laughs and strikes a chord with audiences everywhere. Often a lightning rod for controversy, Garofalo finds a way to get her point across with her trademark sense of humor. Known and respected worldwide, Garofalo was also instrumental in the successful launching of the first liberal radio network, Air America Radio, where she hosted her own talk show, "The Majority Report." A lightning rod for controversy, her opinions and candor have inspired laughs, as well as striking a chord with the left, right and everyone in between. \$33, \$28. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Tickets available at LandmarkOnMainStreet.org or (516) 767-6444.



## Family theater

Inspired by L. Frank Baum's stories, this clever adaptation puts the audience front and center, literally, on the Long Island Children's Museum stage, Friday, **March 1**, 10:15 a.m. and noon, Saturday, March 2, 11:30 a.m. and 2 p.m.; Tuesday through Thursday, March 5-7, 10:15 a.m. and noon. Kids become cast members, singing dancing, and acting onstage alongside the professional cast.

One of our most interactive shows at LICM Theater, this production received rave reviews in its prior run. Going beyond the traditional telling of the Oz stories, "Journey to Oz" uses personal journal entries and historic newspaper headlines to bring the history of author L. Frank Baum and illustrator W.W. Denslow to life. Dorothy, the Scarecrow, Tin Man, and Cowardly Lion take the audience with them on this lively, playful trip down the yellow brick road.

\$10 with museum admission (\$8 members), \$14 theater only. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or LICM.org.

## On exhibit

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

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

The "Upstairs, Downstairs" approach to the life of a country house brings to life not only the storied conspicuous consumption for which the Gilded Age was infamous, but also the real lives of these many individuals who maintained the palatial estates where that lifestyle was enjoyed. On view through **March 10**.

Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

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### Artist showcase

Sea Cliff Arts Council member Kaylin Burger's paintings are on view at Sea Cliff Village Library, through April. She embodies a distinctive perspective shaped by the diverse cultural landscapes of both the east and west.

Enriched by her experiences, Burger integrates elements from both worlds into her work, creating a harmonious fusion of influences that captivates the viewer. Immersed in the familiarity of coastal living, Burger finds boundless inspiration in the ebb and flow of the sea, inviting all to experience a sense of calm. 300 Sea Cliff Ave. Visit [SeaCliffArtsCouncil.org](http://SeaCliffArtsCouncil.org).

### Nellie McKay performs

The effervescent multi-instrumentalist singer-songwriter returns to My Father's Place with music from her recently released album, "Hey Guys, Watch This," Friday, **March 1**, 8 p.m. Recorded in Charleston, West Virginia with The Carpenter Ants and a roving retinue of musical compadres, her album traces the haunted sounds of Appalachia to a renaissance of revelry.

Doors open at 6 p.m., concert is at 8 p.m. 221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. For tickets/information, visit [MFPProductions.com](http://MFPProductions.com) or call (516) 580-0887.

### AARP Tax Assistance

Free tax help is provided by AARP trained volunteers at the Glen Cove Public Library on 4 Glen Cove Ave, Glen Cove. Wednesdays, through **April 10**, 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. Be sure to bring your tax package, W-2 forms, your real estate property tax bill, a copy of your tax return and any other information that might be helpful in correctly filing your tax return.

Both spouses must be present for married couples filing joint tax returns. Masks are required to be worn while receiving tax assistance regardless of vaccination status. 4 Glen St. Visit [GlenCoveLibrary.org](http://GlenCoveLibrary.org) or (516) 676-2130.

### Hooks and Needles

Work on your craft projects with the Bayville Free Library's casual knitting, crocheting, and conversation group, Mondays, 10:30 a.m. No registration. 34 School St., Unit B, Bayville. Visit [BayvilleFreeLibrary.org](http://BayvilleFreeLibrary.org) or call (516) 628-2765.

### Movie matinee

Enjoy a movie on Gold Coast Public Library's big screen. See the Oscar-nominated "The Holdovers," Friday, **March 8**, 2-4 p.m. Paul Giamatti stars as a curmudgeonly New England prep school instructor who is forced to remain on campus during Christmas break to babysit the handful of students with nowhere to go.

Eventually he forms an unlikely bond with one of them, a damaged, brainy troublemaker (newcomer Dominic Sessa), and with the school's head cook, who has just lost a son in Vietnam (Da'Vine Joy Randolph). 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head. Visit [GoldCoastLibrary.org](http://GoldCoastLibrary.org) or call (516) 759-8300 for more information.

### St. Patrick's Day Parade

Everyone loves a parade, Watch the marchers step lively or participate in Glen Cove's St. Patrick's Day Parade, Sunday, **March 17**. It starts at 1 p.m. at Finley Middle School, on Forest Avenue, north of Dosoris Lane, and will end at St. Patrick's Church.



### Forest Bathing

Take a meditative Forest Bathing walk, led by certified guide Linda Lombardo, Sunday, **March 10**, 2-4 p.m. Based on the Japanese tradition of Shinrin-Yoku, a wellness practice developed in the 1980s, the walk, on the grounds of the former summer residence

of Howard Gould and later Daniel and Florence Guggenheim, inspires mindful connections with the natural elements of the woods for a range of healthful benefits. \$40, \$35. Registration required. Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road. For information, visit [SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org](http://SandsPointPreserveConservancy.org) or call (516) 571-7901.



### Art explorations

Converse, collaborate and create at Family Saturdays at Nassau County Museum of Art, Saturday, **March 2 and 9**, noon-3 p.m. Get inspired by the art and objects in the galleries and then join educators at the Manes Center to

explore and discover different materials to create your own original artwork. Kids and their adult partners connect while talking about and making art together. A new project is featured every week. \$20 adult, \$10 child. Registration required. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or [NassauMuseum.org](http://NassauMuseum.org).

### Movie time

Watch a movie on Locust Valley Library's big screen. See "The Marsh King's Daughter," Thursday, **March 14**, 1 p.m. In this tense 2023 thriller, a woman (Daisy Ridley) returns to the wilds of her youth to face her father (Ben Mendelsohn), the man who kept her and her mother captive for years. 170 Buckram Road, Locust Valley. Visit [LocustValleyLibrary.org](http://LocustValleyLibrary.org) or call (516) 671-1837.

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



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# Coalition formed to advocate for local journalism

## STAFF REPORT

A statewide group of local news organizations — comprising of more than 100 newspapers across New York — have launched The Empire State Local News Coalition, a joint advocacy effort to advance a legislative package intended to deliver long-term sustainability to the sector.

The coalition launches at a watershed moment for the journalism industry as well as democracy. More than 3,000 newspapers have shuttered across the country since 2005, resulting in thousands of layoffs and countless communities losing essential platforms for sharing their stories.

In New York state alone, newspapers have declined 40 percent between 2004 and 2019. Since then, the number of journalists has halved, and there has been a 60 percent decrease in overall circulation.

There is a growing number of communities with little to no access to local newspaper coverage. More than a dozen New York counties are down to just one newspaper, and Orleans County in Western New York is the first with no local newspaper at all.

The decline of local journalism is a threat to the health of our democracy, as research from the Democracy Fund shows there is a direct correlation between the breadth of local media coverage and levels of civic engagement — an especially significant factor in an election year.

If newspapers continue to shutter, communities across the state risk being effectively disenfranchised, losing the ability to shape policy conversations, and hold local officials accountable.

“The Empire State Local News Coalition is dedicated to advancing a legislative package with bipartisan support aimed at providing a lifeline to newspapers across the state,” said founding member Zachary Richner — director of Richner Communications, the parent company of Herald Community Newspapers — in a release. “All New Yorkers deserve to have their voices heard, and hometown newspapers are key to that mission.”

“We urge government officials and local stakeholders to rally behind us, safeguarding democracy, and bolstering the future of local journalism in New York.”

The Empire State coalition is championing what it describes as a robust legislative package intended to ensure local papers survive through the 21st century and beyond. Key priorities include:

- The Local Journalism Sustainability Act (S.625B,



More than 3,000 newspapers have closed across the country since 2005, resulting in countless communities losing essential platforms for sharing their stories. The Empire State Local News Coalition intends to reverse that by advancing new legislation and initiatives that would protect jobs, and incentivize small business to advertise.

GLEN COVE HERALD — February 29, 2024

A.2958C) — Sponsored by state Sen. Brad Hoylman-Sigal, the bill would provide tax credits to local news outlets for the employment of local journalists, while providing job stability and paving the way for more hiring opportunities, and an expanded workforce in the future.

- Incentivizing small businesses to advertise in local media — This win-win proposal, according to organizers, would encourage local businesses to advertise in local media, driving revenue for hometown papers, while connecting businesses with their customers.

“Democracy places a responsibility on citizens to be informed so they can effectively participate in the electoral process, and in local government,” said Bill Shumway, editor and publisher of North Country This Week in Potsdam, in a release. “A trusted local news source is essential for that to happen. Healthy commu-

nities need an unbiased news organization to connect, enrich and inform citizens.”

“The bottom line is that this proposed legislation would be a major game changer,” said Mark Vinciguerra, president of Capital Region Independent Media out of Clifton Park. “We would be able to increase the number and type of journalists we have on staff. It would allow us to cover more beats, do more video reporting, investigative reporting, and expand our ‘Good News’ initiative we have started.”

A 2022 analysis found more than 350 newsrooms across the state would benefit from the local journalism payroll tax credit. This includes 53 newsrooms in New York City, with 21 of them being ethnic media outlets.

To learn more about the efforts, visit [SaveNYLocalNews.com](http://SaveNYLocalNews.com).

## OBITUARIES

### Paula A. Beglin Mutolo, beloved wife

Paula A. Beglin Mutolo, 65, of Glen Cove, died on Feb. 15. Beloved wife of Frank J.; dear sister of George Beglin (Doreen), Gerald, Carol (Michael Curran) and the late Elizabeth; loving aunt of William, Alexandra, Andrew and George III; adored great-aunt of William Jr., Elias and Melanie; cherished great-great aunt of Bryson. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home.



PAULA A. BEGLIN MUTOLO

### Raul “Ralphy” Mojica, proud Marine

Raul “Ralphy” Mojica, 66, of Glen Head and Glen Cove, died on Feb. 12. Proud member of the U.S. Marines for six years; loving father of Marisol (Darius) and Nicholas (Tiffany); dear brother of Hector, Mercedes, Migdalia and Marizol; proud grandfather of Diandra and Jaylene. Also survived by many extended family, nieces and nephews. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home.



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# LEGAL NOTICE CITY OF GLEN COVE PLANNING BOARD PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a PUBLIC HEARING will be held by the City of Glen Cove Planning Board on Tuesday, March 5, 2024 at 7:30 p.m. at City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, when all interested persons will be given an opportunity to express their views. The hearing will be on the Application of KIR Glen Cove 025 LLC, seeking a special use permit and site plan approval to construct a mixed-use development complex with residential, retail, and commercial uses at the property currently containing the North Shore Triangle shopping center. The new development would contain 148 residential units, approximately 34,199 sq ft of ground level commercial space and 365 parking spaces. The property is located at 91 School St. Glen Cove which is designated on the Nassau County Land & Tax Map as Section 31, Block 76 Lot 69 and located in the City's B-1 Central Commercial District and CBD Overlay Business District. The above application is on file at the city offices located at 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY where it may be seen during regular business hours of the usual business days until the time of the hearing. Dated: February 23, 2024 ANDREW KAUFMAN Chairman GLEN COVE PLANNING BOARD 145209 LEGAL NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that on Tuesday, March 4, 2024, there will be a comprehensive plan briefing to the Glen Cove City Council, made by BFI Planning, in the second-floor conference room, beginning at 6:00 p.m. Immediately following said briefing will be the regularly scheduled pre-council meeting. Tina Pemberton City Clerk 145208 Place a notice by phone at 516-569-4000 x232 or email: [legalnotices@liherald.com](mailto:legalnotices@liherald.com)

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## OPINIONS

## Reflections on the special election

It isn't often that a congressional race becomes the center of national attention. But that was the case in the campaign between Tom Suozzi and Mazi Pilip to succeed the disgraced George Santos in the 3rd Congressional District.

In less than 12 months in office, Santos became a joke — a very sick joke.



**PETER KING**

After the House of Representatives voted to expel him in December, Gov. Kathy Hochul set a special election for Feb. 13.

Under state election law, candidates in a special election are selected by party leaders. Not surprisingly, Democrats selected Tom Suozzi, a seasoned

veteran of the political wars who had represented the district in Congress for three terms before giving up his seat to make an unsuccessful gubernatorial primary run against Hochul in 2022.

Nassau GOP Chairman Joe Cairo set up a selection committee (that I was part of) that interviewed 22 potential candidates, and overwhelmingly recommended Pilip. Not wanting to repeat the Santos calamity, Cairo had Pilip vetted by several firms, and she passed with flying colors.

Ordinarily it would be a gamble for a relative newcomer who had served barely one term in the County Legislature to run against a veteran like Suozzi, but Pilip personified the American dream. She'd escaped from Ethiopia to Israel with her family when she was 12, and served in an elite parachute unit in the Israel Defense Forces. She was highly educated, married a Ukrainian cardiologist, moved to the United States and raised seven children in Great Neck. She was the first Republican ever re-elected in the 10th Legislative District.

Pilip was the new running against the old. She was coming off a solid victory against the odds in a Democratic district, while Suozzi had lost badly to Hochul in the primary. Pilip was the legal immigrant who supported strong border security, challenging the candidate of the party that had allowed more than 8 million illegal migrants into the country, many of whom were overwhelming New York City and the parts of Queens that fall in the 3rd District. She was the candidate who was endorsed by the Border Patrol Agents' union, while Suozzi had recently boasted of throwing Immigration and Customs Enforcement out of Nassau County when he was county executive. Pilip, a

trained soldier, supported strong defense at a time when Israel was at war with Hamas, Russia had invaded Ukraine and China was threatening Taiwan.

Though the Democrats had a significant registration edge over Republicans, 39 percent to 28 percent, President

Biden's popularity was at record lows, and Suozzi was on record saying he supported Biden "100 percent."

Pilip campaigned tirelessly, and was making strong inroads. Suozzi countered by separating himself from prevailing Democratic positions on immigration, border security and support for police and didn't seek Biden's endorsement.

In the campaign's closing days, every published poll had the race within the margin of error: A Republican poll had Pilip up by 5 points. Suozzi never got above 50 percent in any poll, a bad sign for a virtual incumbent. Democratic sources and some friendly reporters told me there was real concern in the Suozzi camp right up to Election Day. When the numbers were in, though, Suozzi won, 54 percent to 46 percent.

It's still early, but my preliminary thoughts are that:

■ The snowstorm on Election Day hurt Republicans, but not enough to make the

difference.

■ Suozzi effectively managed to separate himself in the eyes of the voters from the sins of his party on immigration and support for the police.

■ Democratic congressional campaign committees provided extensive financial support to Suozzi early on.

■ Though Pilip actually garnered a higher percentage of votes against Suozzi than former President Donald Trump did against Biden in 2020, she couldn't overcome the built-in Democratic registration edge.

■ Cairo and the Nassau Republican organization worked hard and effectively, but Pilip didn't receive financial support from national Republicans comparable to what Suozzi received from Democrats.

■ Pilip was handicapped by having to campaign against the backdrop of the antics of congressional Republicans like Matt Gaetz and Marjorie Taylor Green, who come across as a gang that can't shoot straight.

Suozzi won. No complaints. No excuses. But Pilip ran an excellent and courageous campaign, and has an excellent political future.

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

## A journey of the heart

February is American Heart Month, and this is a story about my heart — literally and figuratively. It's the reason I am where I am today.

I was born with a significant heart defect called dextrocardia, as well as a ventricular septal defect. Basically, my heart was on the wrong side of my chest cavity and inverted — and it had a hole in it.



**SETH I. KOSLOW**

When I was 3 months old, my doctors told my parents that I needed open-heart surgery to close the hole. At the time, however, my mother was pregnant with my sister. My parents

decided to wait until my sister was born before I underwent surgery. But somehow, for some reason, my heart decided that it had to be whole, and the hole I was born with began to close. My heart could stay as it was — imperfect and misplaced, but untouched.

Growing up, I found that I was doing a lot of things half-heartedly, so to speak. Schoolwork wasn't heartening, and there were few things that excited me. I dreamed of becoming a lawyer, but I couldn't muster up the resolve to pursue that dream —

LSATs, law school, internships, thousands of dollars in loans, six more semesters of school, and years of building a professional profile.

Deterred by these seemingly insurmountable obstacles, I remained listless through my early 20s. For a few years after college, I worked in sales. I was good at it, but my heart was definitely in a different place.

That is, until it wasn't.

In my early 20s, I was diagnosed with atrial fibrillation, or AFib, also known as an irregular heartbeat. It's fairly common among senior citizens, but as a 20-something in college, I was now a member of a not-so-enviable exclusive club. Over the next several years, I battled my irregular heartbeats, under-

went more than a dozen cardioversions to restore the heart's regular rhythm, and tried various cocktails of medications, all to no avail.

Eventually I met a cardiologist who specialized in adults with congenital heart defects — adults like me. He informed my family and me that the hole in my heart had reopened, and that it was substantially larger than it was when I was a child. This was causing my irregular heartbeat, and it would at last need to be closed. At age 25, because of the placement of my heart, I was about to undergo a potentially first-of-its-kind open-heart surgery.

On March 15, 2007, after five hours of surgery, I awoke with a heart that was beating normally for the first time in almost five years. Making it through that operation sparked something in my soul. Instead of whining about what I had to do to get to where I wanted to be, I decided to ball my fists up, dig in and do it. After all, I had just made it through open-heart surgery. Was there

**A**fter open-heart surgery, I decided there was nothing I couldn't make it through.

*anything* I couldn't make it through? I finally sat for the LSAT and got myself into law school.

That's the attitude that's gotten me to where I am today. When I was burning the candle at both ends, cramming for law school exams and eventually the bar exams, I would remind myself that I was getting stronger. When I was struggling to build my own law practice while juggling my responsibilities as a husband and father, I would remind myself of all that my heart could handle.

Naturally, when I saw an opportunity to run for office, a chance to represent and fight for all the communities our local government has left behind, I knew that I could take the heartburn of an arduous campaign, and that I could win over hearts and minds. That's the mentality that I bring to my law practice, and to my work with my fellow legislators.

The arc of my life's journey is proof that we are all stronger than we know — that we are all more capable than we can comprehend.

*Seth I. Koslow represents Nassau County's 5th Legislative District.*



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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## Let's be sure we don't relive some of our history

**B**lack History Month is a chance for us to celebrate the many contributions African-Americans have made to the country. They've done this despite discrimination and oppression — something even Long Island, in the past, was not immune to.

For example, when we think of slavery, we think of the Deep South before the Civil War. In fact, slavery existed in New York until 1827, and the state had more enslaved people than all the New England states combined, many of them on Long Island.

At the start of the American Revolution, there were roughly 10,000 enslaved Black Americans living on Long Island — nearly half of the state's total enslaved population. While they were allowed more mobility and financial opportunities than their counterparts in the South, the claim that slavery wasn't as bad in the North is largely inaccurate.

Throughout the 1700s, New York lawmakers created the Black Codes, which historian and author Richard Moss — in his book, "Slavery on Long Island" — claimed were "the harshest criminal laws and penalties enacted by northern colonists." Punishments for striking a white person included two weeks' imprisonment and corporal punish-

ment.

Enslaved people were forbidden from gathering in groups of more than three, and prevented from owning property. Children born to enslaved mothers were automatically enslaved at birth. And testimony by enslaved people was inadmissible in court.

One common practice at the time on Long Island and New York was shipping unruly African-Americans to the Caribbean slave colonies. Conditions on islands such as Barbados and Jamaica were particularly brutal, with less than a third of slaves surviving on some plantations.

Even after slavery ended in New York, discrimination did not. In the 19th and 20th centuries, the number of African-Americans in the Town of Oyster Bay dwindled from roughly 17 percent to less than a half-percent as racist real estate practices and federal policies prioritized homeownership for whites while driving Black Americans — and other minorities — from the area through a mix of intimidation, legislation, and rising property rates.

When Levittown — long touted as the model of the modern American suburb — was created in 1947, non-whites were expressly forbidden from owning any of the 17,400 new homes, with the deeds

themselves preventing ownership by "any person other than members of the Caucasian race," according to a 2011 research paper by Baruch College Sociology professor Robert Courtney Smith.

Robert Moses, the urban planner and public official who is best known today for creating Jones Beach State Park and the state parkway system, designed Long Island parkways to make them impassable for buses, frequently the only mode of transportation for non-white and low-income families. While some latter-day historians question the validity of this claim, Moses was also known to have fought against integrating public swimming pools in the 1920s.

African-Americans have continuously defied the odds and obstacles set against them — whether it be Jackie Robinson playing Major League Baseball, or mathematicians Creola Katherine Johnson, Dorothy Vaughan and Mary Jackson helping NASA put men on the moon. Recognizing those contributions — and learning from our mistakes of the past — can open the door for even greater accomplishments in the future, as we look to remove more barriers.

The late Maya Angelou once said that "history, despite its wrenching pain, cannot be unlived. But if faced with courage, need not be lived again."

## LETTERS

### Leave trans kids alone

To the Editor:

Bruce Blakeman couldn't care less about girls' sports.

By signing an executive order to ban teams that allow transgender girls and women from playing in Nassau County athletic facilities last week, Blakeman continued to distract from his shirking of responsibilities as Nassau County Executive.

Since his marginal win over Laura Curran in 2021, after campaigning on the promise of \$128 million in tax cuts, Blakeman has rejected every cut in annual budget proposals.

In 2022, amid the highest rates of new Covid-19 cases and hospitalizations in the county, he issued a series of orders against mask mandates in schools.

What has he been doing instead in his capacity as executive? Attacking the participation of the county's small percentage of transgender girls and women in athletics, a right that is supported by experts in the field, including the National Women's Law Center. Blakeman's order does not mention transgender boys and men — instead he hides his under-researched and dangerous order behind a thin veil of Victorian-era patriarchal values and personal opinion.

"Part of good government is listening to your



constituents," Blakeman said in a recent interview. Listen to this constituent, Bruce: Do your job, and leave trans kids alone.

CARTER ALLEN  
Garden City

### At your library, borrow a book — or a telescope

To the Editor:

I enjoyed Randi Kreiss's column last week, "It's Library Lovers Month — borrow



## OPINIONS

## At our schools, they're cutting to the bone

**M**y wife and I know a successful young couple who live in a spacious Manhattan apartment. They have lots of dining and entertainment options, a doorman and great views of a park. Best of all, they roll out of bed, hop on a subway and they're at the office in a matter of minutes. They've got it made, yet everyone's debating how long it will be before they move to Long Island.



**JACK M. MARTINS**

You guessed it. This dynamic duo now has a newborn, and, as with many young families, conversations turn to where best to raise a family. Of course, they're dutifully fighting

it. Hoboken has a "hip little downtown." Parts of Brooklyn have a "good vibe," but ultimately, the conclusion is always the same: growing families need safe communities and good schools.

Education has been part of this equation for as long as I can remember.

I've known people who paid top dollar for drafty old houses with bad plumbing on busy streets just to get into a particular school district. And background, faith or politics don't matter; we are united in wanting what's best for our children. Real estate agents say this is key to Long Island's robust real estate market. We're a stone's throw from Manhattan, and boast some of the best schools in the country. That's an enviable distinction, but one that could now be in jeopardy.

Gov. Kathy Hochul's recently proposed budget contains some controversial changes to state aid formulas that would hurt Long Island schools. For starters, the governor would be eliminating 1976's "hold harmless" provision, which gave schools planning stability by guaranteeing at least the same level of funding year to year. That's because schools couldn't fairly be expected to put programs in place one year and then pull the rug out from under children and parents the next. Unfortunately, Hochul's effort would result in more

than \$167 million in cuts to 337 districts — more than half of the districts in the state, many of them on Long Island.

She would also change "school aid runs." So instead of computing for current inflation, Hochul would use an eight-year average, which would reduce school aid by another \$245 million. Frankly, I can't think of a greater accounting end run. Do our school superintendents get to tell labor, vendors or their insurance companies that they won't pay increased fees, and prefer to pay an "eight-year average"? This is no time for make-believe. If it wouldn't work in our personal budgets, it won't work in theirs, either.

Suffice to say, Nassau and Suffolk counties are faced with a combined loss of \$75 million. The governor would have you believe that we can just change brands of soap and make those savings, but they're not cutting fat in Albany, they're cutting to the bone. These funds pay for things like special education, development programs, music and art — things that make our

schools special.

And unlike other parts of the state, where schools get as much as 90 percent of their funding in the form of state aid, some of ours receive as little as 5 percent. That means local taxpayers shoulder as much as 95 percent of the cost. To ask them to pay more is nothing short of government malpractice. And in a \$233 billion budget that's growing by \$5.9 billion in state operating funds, savings can certainly be found elsewhere. Hochul plans to spend \$2.4 billion on illegal migrants, \$275 million on artificial intelligence and even \$150 million on swimming pools. Are Long Island students less important?

We are America's first suburb, with communities that place a high value on family life and safety. We are neighbors who send \$15 billion more in taxes to Albany than we get back, and schools are the backbone of our communities. This isn't Democrat versus Republican, because districts everywhere are getting cut. This is Long Island versus Albany. It's time to lock arms and voice our opposition.

*Jack M. Martins represents the 7th Senate District.*

## Nassau and Suffolk County districts are facing a combined loss of \$75 million.

## LETTERS

a book." Libraries are the greatest thing. They open the world to anyone willing to look. Not everyone bothers to look, but those who want to have the opportunity. We need to keep that going, and not be controlled by closed-minded people.

You may not know that about one-third of Nassau County libraries allow adult patrons to borrow a telescope just like a book. I have been promoting the Library Telescope Program for almost eight years now, and I work with 17 Nassau County libraries so far.

Everything I do is free to the library. It just needs to buy the telescope and various accessories directly from vendors, totaling about \$450. I help by modifying the telescope to make it easy to use and transport, and provide maintenance as needed. I also provide staff and patron training on how to handle and use the telescope, as well as periodic astronomy-related presentations. In March I will be doing eclipse presentations at eight libraries, and occasionally I do Moon Parties as well. All at no cost.

There are now over 1,000 libraries running the Library Telescope Program, mostly in the U.S. and Canada, but also in other countries.

TOM LYNCH  
*Lynbrook*

## A neighborly winter surprise

To the Editor:

Looking out my bedroom window, noticing the snowfall had just about stopped, I decided to gear up and start the removal process. As I was clearing off the car, readying to start the shoveling, I noticed that part of my front walk has been cleared. Looking even closer, I saw a body working on the front entranceway. My neighbor has often started snow removal for me as I have done for him, so I thought for sure it was either him or one of his sons helping out.

As I got closer to the sidewalk, I realized for sure that this helper, a young man, was unknown to me. I asked why he was helping, and he said, "I got up early, noticed the snowfall and decided to do some shoveling." He was finishing up the last section of sidewalk, so I went inside to grab some cash to give him, but when I came back outside, he was gone. Off to job No. 2, I suppose.

Whoever you are, thank you!

PHIL GRELLA  
*Rockville Centre*

## FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



At Ogden Elementary School's Father-Daughter and Special Person Dance — Valley Stream

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