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VOL. 34 NO. 2 JANUARY 9 - 15, 2025 \$1.00

Musa, near right, Richard and Emily Rubin, far right, celebrated the 103rd birthday of their mother, Carol Rubin, in November.



Courtesy The Regency at Glen Cove

Carol Rubin, teacher and lifelong learner, dies at 103

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

Carol Rubin, a Glen Cove resident renowned for her wisdom, boundless curiosity and remarkable vitality, died on Jan. 2, at age 103. Rubin was a teacher, a community leader and an advocate of lifelong learning, and her life was a testament to resilience, intellect and the joy of connecting with others.

Born in the Bronx to Rose and Solomon Begun, Rubin grew up in a home brimming with books and a love of the arts. Her mother was a talented writer, and her father

encouraged intellectual pursuits.

"She inherited a love of learning and curiosity from her parents," her daughter, Emily, said. "It shaped her entire life."

As a child during the Great Depression, Rubin witnessed breadlines and government assistance programs, though her family avoided economic hardship. Those experiences left a lasting impression on her. Despite the challenges of the era, she enjoyed a happy childhood — especially swimming with her father at New Jersey beaches.

Rubin trained for six months for the 1936

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

City secures \$553,000 county grant

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

The City of Glen Cove has received a \$553,000 grant from the Nassau County Boost Tourism Program, which will help the city enhance parks and recreational facilities to attract visitors and bolster local tourism. The grant will fund several long-overdue upgrades, improving spaces that are essential to the community and that will attract regional sports tournaments.

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck and Spiro Tsirkas, executive director of Glen Cove's Youth Services and Recreation department, who collaborated on securing the grant, said they were excited about the funding's potential to revitalize the city's public areas.

"This is a true grant," Panzenbeck said. "We have the money, and we're using it to do more refurbishments. It's wonderful because we don't have to borrow the money to get these

projects done."

The funds, which were allocated less than two weeks after the city applied for the grant last month, will allow Glen Cove to make significant improvements to its facilities without accruing additional

We're excited to see the positive impact these improvements will have on our city.

PAMELA PANZENBECK
 Mayor

debt. According to Panzenbeck, the grant is one of the largest single funding sources the city has received in recent years.

"We get grants for all different things, but this came all at once," she said. "It's going to allow us to continue refurbishing things in the city that have been so long neglected."

One of the most significant projects that will be funded by the grant is the renovation of the tennis courts at Stanco Park. The facility, which is used extensively for tennis and pickleball, is suffering from years of wear and tear.

"The tennis courts are cracked and in terrible condition," Panzenbeck said.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

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VFW to oversee veteran banner program

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Glen Cove residents will once again have the opportunity to honor their military heroes through the city's Military Tribute Banner Program, now in its 4th year. Organized by Glen Cove Salutes and the Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347 in Glen Cove, the program celebrates veterans and active military personnel by displaying banners on lampposts in Morgan Park from Memorial Day through Veterans Day. The banners serve as a visual reminder of the sacrifices made by service members and their families.

This year, 92 banners will be available, with two reserved for enlisted graduating seniors from Glen Cove High School. Each banner costs \$99 if ordered before March 1, and \$109 after that date. The program's continued success is attributed to the dedication of volunteers like Lydia Wen, a city librarian. The program was founded by Wen as an employee there, but the program won't be overseen by the library this year.

"I'm still working with the city's Veterans Affairs Office, and Tony Jimenez," Wen said. "It's the same people who are running it, but it's just under a new umbrella."

Funding for the program has been

bolstered by a \$1,000 grant from the Tribute and Honor Foundation, which helped establish a website and cover operational costs.

In addition to the banners, Glen Cove Salutes is sponsoring two essay contests to further honor veterans and involve the community. The "Liberty's Torch" contest invites middle school students to interview veterans and reflect on lessons learned, while the "Echoes of Freedom" contest challenges high school students to create audio essays on patriotic themes. Both contests offer a \$250 prize, with winners recognized during the Military Banner Unveiling ceremony on May 25.

Wen emphasized the importance of making the project sustainable and engaging younger generations. "If you're doing such a big project like that, and it's just for Glen Cove veterans, you want to just keep their spirit alive," she said. "The only way to do it is to involve young people to continuously give them a platform to talk to veterans and continue the conversation."

Howard Stillwagon, Commander of the VFW, expressed pride in the program's growth. "It's going to be an honor to keep this program going," he said. "We happily took the program."

For more information or to sponsor a banner, visit glencovesalutes.com.



Photos courtesy GSM Communications

As part of 'Glen Cove Salutes,' Ralph Comitino, president of Public Works CSEA, left, and Lydia Wen, librarian at Glen Cove Public Library, hung banners of veterans across Morgan Park in 2022.

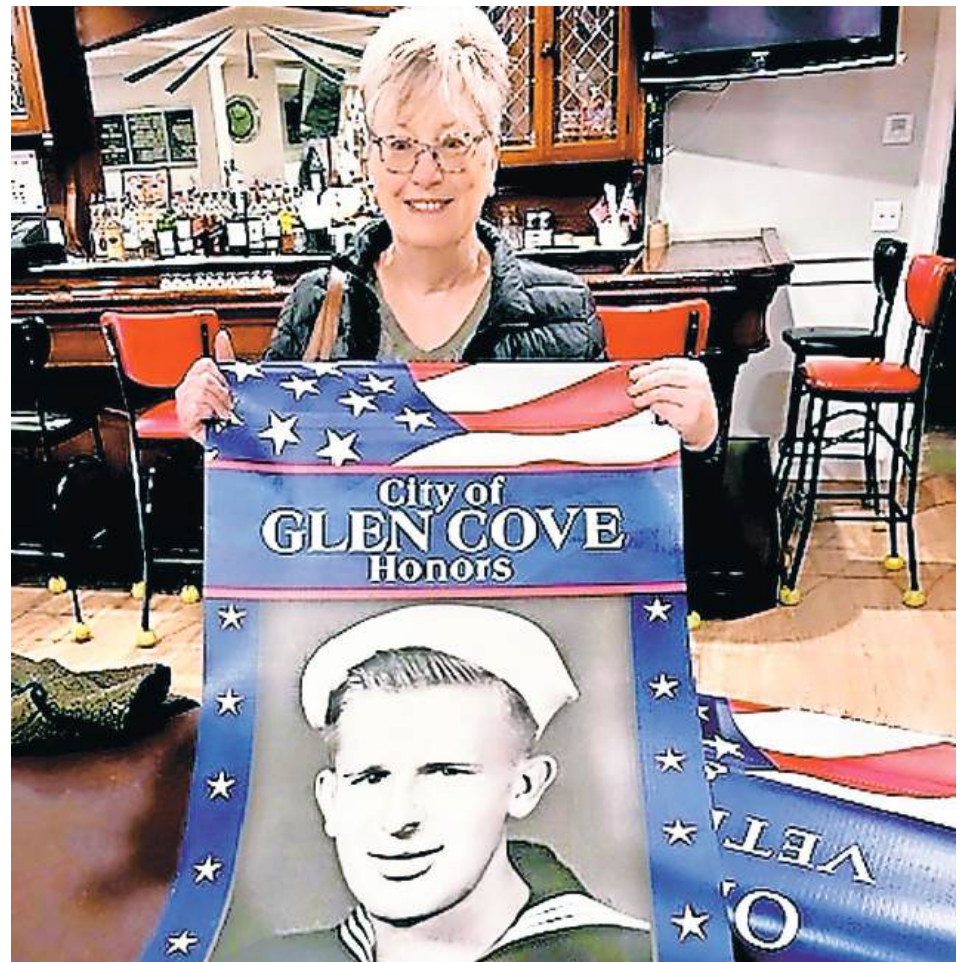


The Scarfo family, of Glen Cove, purchased banners in 2022 dedicated to their late brothers Joseph, John and Anthony Scarfo. Anthony's and John's banners hung next to

Glen Cove High School Class of 2024's salutatorian Jaida C. Ciampi, won the Echoes of Freedom essay contest last year. Ciampi read her winning essay in Morgan Park on May.



Herald file photo



Courtesy Lydia Wen

Debbie Cantor proudly displayed her veteran banner for Joseph Cunningham during a banner cleanup event in November.

A legacy ends:

First Presbyterian Church holds final service

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

For 90-year-old Eleanor Rapelje, the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Cove has been a part of her life since she was 4-years-old. She vividly remembers walking to Sunday school with her cousin, sitting on small wooden chairs, and singing hymns as Mrs. Vance, her teacher, played the piano.

“When I was a little girl, we would have 250 people in the sanctuary,” she recalled. “This is more than just a church, it’s family.”

Over the decades, the church became her second home, where she found community, faith and her husband. Now, as the congregation prepares for its final service on Jan. 11, Rapelje is saying goodbye to a place that has shaped her life for nearly nine decades.

Founded in 1869, the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Cove was once a thriving hub of community activity. At its peak, the church welcomed hundreds of congregates each Sunday, offering a bustling Sunday school program and a rich calendar of social events. But in recent years, attendance has dwindled to just six to ten people on a typical Sunday. The church, like so many others across the country, has faced mounting challenges: changing cultural attitudes toward religion, financial struggles, and the lingering effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

“When I arrived during the pandemic, there was already a sense that the church was dying,” said Reverend Lana Hurst, who joined as pastor in 2020. “Attendance had been declining for years, and it became clear that maintaining the building and the congrega-



Roksana Amid/Herald

Founded in 1869, the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Cove will hold its final service on Jan. 11.

tion was no longer sustainable.”

The historic church, with its intricate architecture, requires extensive repairs, including a new roof estimated at \$200,000. Full restoration costs run into the millions—an expense the small congregation cannot afford.

The church has gone through many chapters, from its socially conservative roots to its transformation into a progressive and inclusive community. Under leaders like Reverend Betsy Simpson, the church

adopted an open policy on LGBTQ+ rights in 2007, eventually welcoming gay and lesbian members who made up one-third of the congregation. Simpson officiated same-sex marriages even before they were legally recognized in New York, solidifying the church’s reputation as a trailblazer in social justice.

The North Shore Sheltering program was founded over 20-years-ago at the church when a homeless local man froze to death on Route 107. The shelter provided meals, sleeping arrangements, and even medical checkups. Civil rights leader Ralph Abernathy, a close associate of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr., even visited the church in 1972.

Despite these achievements, broader cultural shifts have made it difficult for the church to attract and retain members. Hurst noted that many younger people are turning away from institutional religion, citing scandals, political polarization, and generational divides. “People are still seeking spirituality,” she said, “but many feel that traditional institutions no longer serve their needs.”

The final service will mark the end of an era, but the congregation plans to continue Seekers’ Hour, a beloved book discussion group that explores diverse Christian perspectives.

The future of the building is uncertain. The property is listed for sale, though legal processes surrounding religious properties are complex and time-consuming. For now, it continues to host Alcoholics Anonymous meetings and two Spanish-speaking congregations.

The last service will be held on Jan. 11 at 3 p.m. on 7 North Ln, Glen Cove.

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“Anoint a villain and he’ll stab you: stab him and he’ll anoint you.”
“An old young man will be a young old man.”
“Don’t think to hunt two hares with one dog.”
“Eat few suppers and you’ll need few medicines.”
“Great almsgiving, lessens no man’s living.”
“Happy’s the wooing that’s not long a doing.”

“He that lies down with dogs, shall rise up with fleas.”

“If your riches are yours, why don’t you take them with you to the other world.”

“Lost time is never found again.”

“The noblest question in the world is, what good may I do in it?”

“They who have nothing to trouble them, will be troubled at nothing.”

“The sleeping fox catches no poultry.”

“The tongue is ever turning to the aching tooth.”

“When you’re good to others, you are best to yourself.”

“Who is rich? He that rejoices in his portion.”

Editor’s Note: The filing requirement under the Corporate Transparency Act (last week’s column) has been suspended by the courts until further notice.

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The Glen Cove Herald USPS 008886, is published every Thursday by Richner Communications, Inc., 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. Periodicals postage paid at Garden City, NY 11530 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to Glen Cove Herald, 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. **Subscriptions:** \$50 one-time payment within Nassau County or \$60 outside of Nassau County or by qualified request in zip codes 11542, 11545, 11547, 11548 or 11579 **Copyright © 2025** Richner Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.

Specialty clinics open at NUMC

By JORDAN VALLONE

jvallone@liherald.com

Nassau University Medical Center has launched two specialty clinics to expand access to vital care for the community.

These new clinics have the potential to serve thousands of patients to help detect both common and life-threatening conditions.

MEGAN RYAN
President and chief executive,
Nassau University Medical Center

The Colorectal Screening Clinic, now open on Monday mornings, focuses on early detection and prevention of conditions such as colon cancer. The clinic, located on the first floor with NUMC's other surgical clinics, performs endoscopies under sedation by appointment. Colon cancer affects approximately 150,000 people annually in the United States, with one-third of cases resulting in death. Early screenings are key to improving survival rates. For appointments, call (516) 572-6703.

The new Reflux Clinic operates Tuesday afternoons and Thursday mornings on the hospital's sixth floor. Under the leadership of Dr. Venkatesh, the clinic provides diagnosis, treatment, and long-term support for patients experiencing acid reflux and related conditions. Gastroesophageal reflux disease, or GERD, can lead to serious complications such as esophageal cancer if untreated. Patients with frequent reflux symptoms are

Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow has launched two new specialty clinics for colorectal screenings and reflux treatment.

encouraged to seek care. Appointments can be scheduled at (516) 572-6703.

"These new clinics have the potential to serve thousands of patients to help detect both common and life-threatening conditions," said Megan Ryan, president, chief executive, and chief legal officer of Nassau Health Care Corporation. "NUMC is joining the fight against colon cancer with this new capability, and as so many struggle with maintaining a healthy diet, con-

ditions affecting the digestive tract are on the rise. These new services are yet another example of NUMC's continuing efforts to increase its capabilities for our growing patient population."

The hospital has also enhanced its services with a new Community Outreach Center, launched in August, and expanded evening hours for general, pediatric, and women's health clinics on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 6 to 9 p.m.



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HERALD SPORTS

Hofstra wrestling begins exciting new era

By ANDREW COEN

sports@iherald.com

Hofstra wrestling alum Jamie Franco is now leading the program where he thrived on the mats as a student-athlete looking to raise it to new heights.

Franco, a three-time NCAA Championship qualifier at Hofstra in the early 2010s, was named the Pride's 13th head coach on July 1, 2024 replacing Dennis Papadatos after he took an administrative role in the university's athletic department. It marks another return home for Franco, who served as an assistant coach under Papadatos from 2016 to 2023 before spending a season on the wrestling staff at Columbia University last year.

"I always wanted to be a head coach and to be able to get this opportunity was a dream come true for me," said Franco, who won 75 matches at Hofstra including a conference title at 133 pounds in 2013. "To come back to my alma mater and get my first head coaching gig at Hofstra was really special."

After graduating Hofstra in 2014 with a business degree, Franco was operations manager of the famed Longo and Weidman MMA Training Center in Garden City where Hofstra wrestling legend Chris Weidman trained when he held a UFC middleweight title from 2013 to 2015. Franco maintains a close relationship with Weidman and recently brought his longtime trainer Ray Longo in a cross training session with the wrestlers.

"I think it's always good to get these guys training outside of just wrestling to make them physically and mentally tougher," Franco said.



Ross McFarland and the Pride are looking to make noise under new coach Jamie Franco, a Hofstra wrestling alum.



Photos courtesy Hofstra Athletics Communications

Massapequa native Chase Liardi is one of Hofstra's captains.

Franco inherited a roster with plenty of former Long Island high school wrestling standouts including 133-pound Ryan Arbeit, who won a county title for Wantagh in 2022. The redshirt freshman was voted a team captain in October along with Massapequa High School product Chase Liardi, Justin Hoyle of Maple Valley, Wash and Ross McFarland of Pennellville, N.Y.

Two of Arbeit's former Wantagh teammates are also on the Hofstra roster including red-shirt junior Mat Rogers, who won a New York State Championship in 2020 and Joe Russo, who was sidelined last season after joining the Pride from Nassau Community College. Russo was sidelined at the beginning of the season with an injury, but Franco is hoping he can make a contribution as the dual meet schedule heats up.

The Nassau County South Shore presence on the Hofstra mats also includes 165-pound redshirt junior Eric Shindel, who was an All-County wrestler at JFK High School in Bellmore in 2020 and 2021.

Fellow 165-pounder Kyle Mosher, who won a New York State title with South Side High School in Rockville Centre, joined the Pride this season as a graduate student after competing as an undergraduate student

at Columbia under Franco.

"He is looking really good early in the season so we're looking to keep building on it," said Franco of Mosher, who placed eighth in the 30-team Cliff Keen Las Vegas Invitational on Dec. 7. "He's on everyone's radar now."

Franco recorded his first dual meet win as Hofstra head coach with a 21-12 victory against Duke at home on Nov. 16. The Pride entered the new year at 4-3 and will next be in action on Jan. 9 with an Eastern Intercollegiate Wrestling Association (EIWA) road match at Binghamton. The Pride then has home matches in the Mack Sports Complex scheduled Jan. 26 against Penn starting at noon and Feb. 2 versus Franklin & Marshall at 4 p.m.

The Pride will look to make some noise at the EIWA Championships at Lehigh on March 7-8 and qualify at least three of four wrestlers for the NCAA Championships in Philadelphia from March 20-22.

"The guys are growing every week," Franco said. "I think we're going to see a more gritty team for us in the EIWAs so I feel like we're going to get a bunch of placers there this year."

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Upgrades to parks will 'enhance the city'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

"They've been waiting to be repaired for a long time, and it's wonderful to finally address this."

In addition, four baseball backstops at Glen Cove City Stadium will be refurbished. "We use our stadium to bring tournaments and teams in to play, so that's a great thing," Tsirkas said. "The backstops have needed work for a long time, and once we fix one thing, it's like a domino effect — we have to continue fixing more."

Other projects include repairing the driving range at the city's golf course, focusing on its structure and exterior walls, which will cost an estimated \$18,000. Additionally, new fencing and curbing will be constructed at the sand volleyball court at Pryibil Beach, upgrades that are expected to cost roughly \$50,000.

The enhancements funded by the grant are intended to increase tourism and community engagement. Stanco Park, which has a playground and facilities for golf, basketball, handball and basketball as well as tennis and pickleball, will become a more appealing destination for sports tournaments.

"Between baseball tournaments and other events, these upgrades will enhance the city and attract people to our facilities," Tsirkas said. "Everything we do, and everything the department does, is for the kids. We want to



Herald file photo

Brian DeMasi, left, and Simranjeet Singh play regular pickleball games at Stanco Park.

give them the best and safest environments to excel in their sports and get out of the house to play."

Panzenbeck echoed that sentiment, emphasizing the importance of creating spaces that benefit both residents and visitors. "We converted a decrepit playground into a sand-based volleyball court, and families love playing there in

the summer," she said. "Now we're able to upgrade it further and make it even better."

The grant's quick allocation allowed the city to begin planning and contracting work almost immediately. "The funds came almost instantaneously," Panzenbeck said. "We always have a list and a plan for what we want to repair

next, so we were able to act quickly."

According to Tsirkas, contractors are already preparing to start work, with fencing and backstop repairs at the stadium expected to start next week. The backstops should be completed within a month, while the fencing and volleyball court upgrades will be finished shortly thereafter. More weather-dependent projects, like the tennis courts, will begin in the spring, when conditions are better suited to asphalt and paint applications.

Tsirkas anticipates that all projects will be completed by July 4.

"This funding allows us to focus on what's important — maintaining and improving the spaces that our residents and visitors use most," he said. "We don't stop looking for ways to enhance the city, and as long as the mayor and council continue to support these initiatives, we're on the right track."

The upgrades are part of a larger strategy by the city to boost tourism and improve infrastructure. The refurbished facilities are expected to draw more visitors, in turn supporting local businesses and enhancing the city's reputation as a destination for sports and recreation.

"These projects aren't just about fixing things — they're about creating a better environment for our community and showcasing the best of Glen Cove," Panzenbeck said. "We're excited to see the positive impact these improvements will have on our city."

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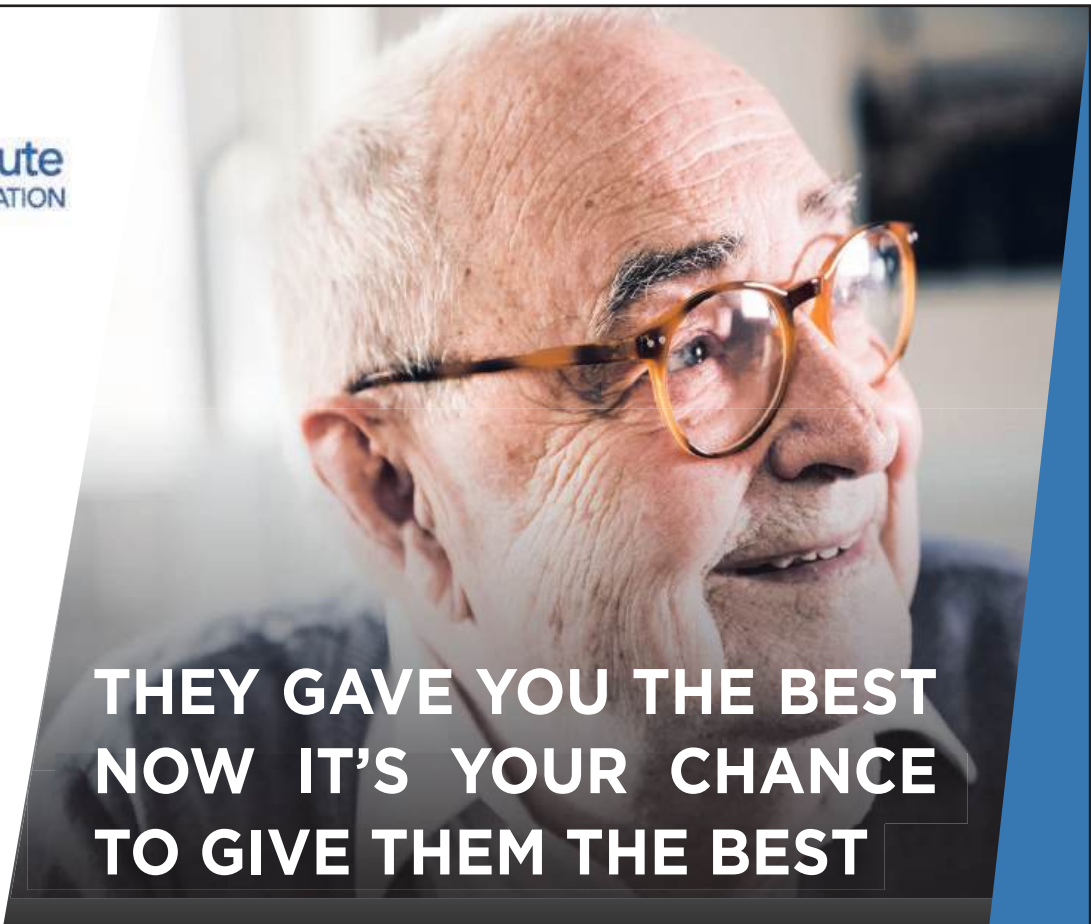
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Suozzi reappointed to Ways and Means

The Democratic Steering & Policy Committee announced that Congressman Tom Suozzi has been reappointed to the House Ways and Means Committee, the chief tax-writing panel in Congress. Suozzi will serve as the only Democrat from New York on the panel.

“I am deeply honored to be reappointed to the House Committee on Ways and Means,” said Suozzi. “This is not just an opportunity to serve my district but a chance to champion the priorities that matter most to hard-working families, particularly the urgent need to restore the SALT deduction.”

During his prior service the House passed three separate Suozzi bills to restore the SALT deduction with bipartisan support. Unfortunately, the bills died in the Senate.

The Ways and Means Committee is the only Committee authorized explicitly in the U.S. Constitution of 1789 and, therefore, the oldest Committee in Congress.

The Committee’s jurisdiction includes taxation, trade and tariffs, Social Security, Medicare, and other key areas of federal economic policy.

“This appointment strengthens my ability to deliver real results for my constituents,” Suozzi said. “Whether it’s advocating for the restoration of the SALT deduction, promoting economic growth, or defending Social

Security, I am committed to fighting for policies that uplift hard-working families and strengthen our communities.”

The 2017 Republican tax law that capped the State and Local Tax deduction, denying millions of homeowners their full IRS deduction on the taxes paid to their state, local, and school taxes, is set to expire at the end of 2025.

In 2017, Suozzi said, “The legislation sponsored by then President Trump and the Republican majority was a ‘punch in the gut’ to middle-class families throughout Long Island and Queens” and that his district was home to over 250,000 families that benefit from the SALT deduction—the most in the nation.

Suozi has been a national spokesperson and leader of the bipartisan effort to restore the full SALT deduction, calling it an unfair burden on taxpayers who already shoulder significant state and local taxes.

“SALT had been a staple of the federal tax code for more than 100 years. It was one of the six original federal tax deductions when the income tax was first established in 1913,” Suozzi explained. “Congress realized that it was inherently unfair to penalize Americans by requiring them to pay taxes on taxes they had already paid. It’s double taxation.

—Will Sheeline



Tab Hauser/Herald

Martin Luther King Jr. day serves as an opportunity for community members to reflect on the principles of racial equality and nonviolent social change.

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr’s legacy

The City of Glen Cove is commemorating the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. on Jan 20, 2024, under the theme, “We Are Stronger Together.”

The day begins at 8:45 a.m., at the First Baptist Church in Glen Cove. From there, the parade will proceed to Finley Middle School, where a commemorative program will start at 9:15 a.m. The program will feature inspiring speeches, performances, and reflections that celebrate Dr. King’s enduring message of unity, justice, and equality.

This annual event, organized by the Martin Luther King Jr. Commemora-

tive Commission and directed by Sheryl Goodine, highlights Dr. King’s vision of a united community working toward justice and inclusion.

In the spirit of service, attendees are encouraged to bring non-perishable food items to donate to NOSH, a local food pantry and delivery service. This act of kindness reflects Dr. King’s belief in uplifting one another through collective action.

For more information, contact Roni Jenkins at Roni.Jenkins@glencoveny.gov.

—Roksana Amid

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Danica Roerden/Herald photos

Kris Rice, left, and Frank Ferrara, right, preformed Killing Me Softly by the Fugees at Glen Floors.

Downtown Sounds rings in the New Year

On New Year's Eve, Glen Cove brought an exciting twist to its annual celebrations with the first-ever Downtown Sounds Music Crawl, moving the popular concert series indoors to transform local businesses into vibrant music hubs. Organized by the Glen Cove Downtown Business Improvement District, the event offered residents and visitors a chance to enjoy free live music in a cozy setting while supporting local establishments. Performances spanned multiple venues, starting with Mark Newman and Naomi Margolin at Downtown Café and The Liverpool 2 at La Famiglia at 5 p.m., followed by Frank Ferrara and Kris Rice at Glen Floors, the Jose Trombone Trio at Tocolo Cantina, and Jack Licitra with Kerry Kearney at Jalisco. The night wrapped up with the Livestock Acoustic Duo at La Bussola and DJ Siren at Meritage Wine Bar, which also hosted a champagne toast at midnight. By creating a festive "crawl" atmosphere, the event encouraged attendees to explore restaurants and bars, supporting businesses outside the usual summer concert footprint. The Music Crawl offered flexibility and fun, ensuring a lively and memorable start to the new year.

—Roksana Amid



The Liverpool 2 preformed at La Famiglia. Jamie Bateman, left, and Joe Refano, right, played When will I Be loved by The Everly brothers.



Al Desimone, left, and Carmela Emerson, right, both came to Glen Cove from Bayside Queens. Janet Bateman, center, traveled from Centereach to watch her friends perform.



Mark Newman and Naomi Margolin kick off Glen Cove's Downtown Sounds Music Crawl with a soulful performance at Downtown Café.



Fred Guarino, Jan Guarino and Alvin Batista helped to organize the Downtown Sounds New Years Eve Music Crawl.



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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Roksana Amid/Herald

The Marker restaurant is located at 111 Lattingtown Rd, Glen Cove.

The Marker opens with ribbon-cutting

The Marker restaurant, located at 111 Lattingtown Rd., in Glen Cove, hosted a grand ribbon-cutting ceremony to celebrate its official reopening after extensive renovations. The event, attended by local officials, business leaders, and community members, marked a new chapter for the dining establishment, known for its picturesque views of the Long Island Sound. Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck, accompanied by members of the City Council, proudly joined in cutting the ribbon, symboliz-

ing the restaurant's reintegration into the vibrant local dining scene. Guests enjoyed a tour of the revamped interiors, showcasing a blend of modern elegance and coastal charm. Representatives from the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce commended the restaurant's contribution to the city's economic and social fabric, emphasizing its role as a gathering spot for locals and visitors alike.

-Roksana Amid



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'She brought fresh ideas to every session'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

Olympics, but chose to focus on her education. She graduated from New York University with a degree in social work, a choice that reflected her commitment to helping others.

She married Morton Rubin, and together they built a life filled with family, travel and service. After living on a naval base in Quonset, Rhode Island, during World War II, the Rubins moved to Glen Cove in 1957. When they found a home with a fireplace and dishwasher, they knew it was the right one. The couple were charter members of the Glen Cove YMCA, and Rubin swam there regularly for over 65 years. Even in her 103rd year, she still enjoyed the pool.

Rubin became a teacher after Emily started sixth grade. She earned a master's degree in education from Adelphi University and spent 23 years teaching, primarily third grade, in the North Shore School District.

"Teaching was her calling," Richard Rubin, her son, said. "She had a way of connecting with children, understanding how to guide them without stifling their individuality."

Richard recalled how his mother drew inspiration from the poet Kenneth Koch's techniques for teaching poetry, encouraging her students to write and illustrate their own works.

Rubin's son Musa reflected on her extraordinary parenting skills. "She

knew how to set boundaries while letting us explore who we were," he recounted. "When I was in kindergarten, I wanted to ride my bike to school even though it wasn't allowed. She went to bat for me because she trusted I was responsible enough."

Rubin's impact extended beyond the classroom. As president of the Friends of the Glen Cove Public Library, she championed education and community engagement. Two years ago, the organization established the Carol Rubin Award, a \$500 scholarship for a graduating Glen Cove High School senior, in her honor.

Carol Waldman, former executive director of the Glen Cove Senior Center and a friend of Rubin's for over 30 years, described her as "one of the wisest women" she had ever met.

"Carol always said that wisdom comes from common sense and meaningful experiences," Waldman said. "She embodied that wisdom in everything she did."

Rubin took part in lectures, cultural programs and discussion groups at the Senior Center. At 103, she was the oldest participant in the Walk with a Doc program, and suggested topics for health discussions.

"She brought fresh ideas and energy to every session," Waldman said. "She was unstoppable."

Rubin's resilience was evident

throughout her life, especially after the sudden death of her husband, Morton, on a cruise in South America in 2005. Despite her heartbreak, she continued to explore the world and immerse herself in arts and culture. Weeks before her death, she visited the Nassau County Museum of Art, and explored every exhibit.

"She wanted to see everything, and stayed until the museum closed," Richard Rubin said.

"In fact, during her difficult last few months, I asked her, 'What will you miss after you've died — will you miss the world?'" her son added. "She said, 'I've seen the world.'"

Even in her later years, Rubin remained fiercely independent. She moved to the Regency Assisted Living facility, in Glen Cove, last September to simplify her life, and continued to stay socially active.

Her milestone birthdays were occasions of joy and reflection. She celebrated her 90th, 95th, 98th and 100th birthdays at restaurants run by her close friend Jeannine DiMenna. Rubin visited Jeanine's American Bistro when it opened in September.

"She joked that she wanted a 98th birthday party just in case she didn't make it to 100," Richard recalled with a smile.

By all accounts, Rubin approached aging with grace and optimism, viewing



Roksana Amid/Herald

Carol Rubin and Carol Waldman chose a fitting activity for a discussion of the benefits of walking and the Walk with a Doc program.

life as an opportunity for growth and connection. "Even as she faced changes and losses, she never operated from a place of regret," Waldman said. "She focused on what she could gain from each day and what she could give to it."

A memorial service celebrating Rubin's life will be held on April 13. The location is to be determined.

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STEPPING OUT



Enchanted moments on ice

Step inside an epic adventure with Anna, Elsa and the Madrigal clan

By Karen Bloom

Welcome the New Year in true Disney style. The latest Disney ice extravaganza arrives at UBS Arena in Elmont ready to enchant families once again. This time around the spotlight is on two of the newest tales — beloved by Disneyphiles in the Disney canon: “Frozen” and “Encanto.” Audiences can share in the special joy of these captivating adventures when Disney On Ice’s glides into UBS Arena, now through Jan. 12.

Families will be transported into two of Disney’s most popular films as the world of Anna, Elsa, Mirabel, and the Madrigal family unfolds up close. These adored characters are, of course, joined by Mickey and his crew. Along with Minnie, Donald and Goofy, audiences will sing-along to everyone’s favorite songs interpreted through world-class skating, aerial acrobatics and dynamic special effects.

As always, the atmosphere is electric from the get-go. From the opening segment with Mickey and the gang, we quickly arrive in Arendelle to the delight of all the “Annas” and “Elsas” in the audience. Olaf, the lovable snowman who likes warm hugs and all things summer, narrates the story everyone knows so well. Artful skating (what could be more fitting?) transports families to the snowy kingdom to be a part of Anna’s adventure to find Elsa, whose icy powers unleashed an eternal winter. Kristoff and Sven take audiences along as they encounter wintry conditions in a race to bring back summer.

Elsa’s solo segment skated to “Let It Go” is among the highlights of the show’s first half. “It’s a big moment,” says Rebekah Johnson, who — off ice at this point — is exhilarated by the audience response.

At age 19, Johnson is experiencing the Disney magic for the first time as a performer. She joined the cast in September as an ensemble skater and couldn’t be happier.

Skating since she was two-years-old, the St. Paul, Minn.-based Johnson says “I always knew I was meant to be a show skater.”

Like her many castmates, she’s embraced Disney from a young age.

“I’ve always loved the princesses and ‘Frozen,’” she enthuses. “I’ve dreamed about skating for Disney for so long.”

From her first Disney On Ice experience as a young child to revisiting the spectacle as a teenager more recently, she knew this was where she belonged.

“When I saw the show again, I thought ‘this is so cool.’ I still dreamed about being a princess.”

While Johnson is not quite there yet, she’s relishing every moment as the youngest member of the cast and every moment on ice.

“I’ve wanted to skate for Disney for so long,” she continues. “It’s all very surreal, but it’s real!”

After a very Frozen adventure, the show’s second half takes everyone to a vibrant town in the mountains of Colombia where we meet the Madrigals, that extraordinary family who live in



- Now through Sunday, Jan. 12; times vary
- Tickets start at \$35, pre-show character experience also available for a fee; purchase at ticketmaster.com or disneyonice.com or in person at box office
- UBS Arena, 2400 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont

a magical casita in a wondrous, charmed place called an Encanto. Mirabel tells the tale of her amazing family and her journey to save the casita — her enchanted family home — alongside her sisters: Isabela, whose perfection radiates with her ability to make plants grow and flowers bloom with every step, and Luisa, with the gift of super strength that she uses to help her village move buildings and reroute rivers.

For the first time live, everyone can witness Tia Pepa, who can control the weather with her emotions; her husband Felix; their daughter Dolores, with her gift to hear; and Bruno, the mysterious and misunderstood Madrigal family member whose visions foretold the future.

“I’m especially partial to ‘Encanto,’” Johnson says. “It’s so upbeat, high energy, that everyone [in the audience] gets so excited.”

And, of course, We Don’t Talk About Bruno.

Here audiences especially respond to the aerial segment, which showcases the skaters’ acrobatic skills above the ice, along with plenty of ice dancing.

“It looks magical,” Johnson says.

And that’s the timeless Disney mantra: “Anything can happen if you just believe.”

In the end, audiences leave with the understanding that everyone has their own gifts, magical or not, and being true to yourself and loving those around you is what makes you special.

Or as Johnson puts it: “Magic is inside all of us.”

At the end, special appearance from Mulan and Li Shang, Belle and Prince Adam, Ariel and Eric, Aladdin and Jasmine, Miguel from Coco, and Moana celebrate that iconic Disney “magic” in a rousing finale.

Photos courtesy Feld Entertainment

Photos: Dreams do come true when the royal sisters of Arendelle are joined by the Madrigal family in a ice spectacle that fully brings both films to life.



Yacht Rock Revue

The kings of ‘70s tribute hit the road with an authentic throwback to the era. Yacht Rock Revue, hailed by Rolling Stone as the “world’s premier soft-rock party band,” invites listeners on a nostalgic voyage through the ‘70s and ‘80s sun-soaked melodies. The Atlanta-based 10-piece ensemble blends impeccable musicianship with a deep reverence for the genre. Their original album “Escape Artist” is a bold homage to this iconic sound. YRR continues to captivate audiences nationwide with their infectious energy and unabashedly joyous performances. Since their humble beginnings in 2007, YRR has emerged as pivotal in revitalizing yacht rock, sharing stages with icons and garnering a devoted following of “Anchorheads.” Whether performing in intimate venues or rocking arenas, their concerts promise an immersive musical journey that celebrates the timeless allure of smooth grooves.

Friday and Saturday, Jan. 10-11, 8 p.m. \$55, \$40, \$30, \$25. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com.



Smooth Dre’s Rhythmic Odyssey

Experience the pulse of Brooklyn hip-hop with Smooth Dre and his crew. A renowned figure in Brooklyn, he’s carved a niche in the hip-hop world with his unique style and profound lyrical narratives. Known for blending classic beats with rich, contemporary rhythms, Smooth Dre delivers music that resonates with authenticity and depth. His journey from underground circuits to mainstream stages has been marked by a steadfast dedication to his craft and an unwavering commitment to his roots. Smooth Dre’s influence extends beyond music; he is a cultural icon who embodies the spirit of hip-hop in every aspect of his life. Dive into a night of relentless beats and lyrical storytelling with Smooth Dre, a maestro of urban soundscapes, with his friends.

Saturday, Jan. 11, 8 p.m. \$70. Molloy University, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. (516) 323-4444 or madisontheatre.org.

THE \$ SCENE

Jan. 10

Baking session: Sourdough for beginners

Calling all bakers! Participate in a fun sourdough workshop, open to all skill levels, at Hive Market and Gallery, Friday, **Jan. 10**, 6-8 p.m. Learn to make three-ingredient sourdough bread, explore tasty discard recipes, and master starter maintenance. Perfect for ages 14 and up. You'll leave with a sourdough kit and jar of active starter. A fun hands-on baking experience for everyone. Registration required. Register online at hivemarketob.com or call (516) 588-9400. 100 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay.

Knitting/Crochet Club

Meet up with other knitters or crocheters, at Glen Cove Public Library, Fridays, **Jan. 12**, 10 a.m.-noon. Whether you're new to knitting or you've been doing it for years, it's always more fun with friends! Start a new project or bring a current one. Participants should bring their own needles and yarn. 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. For more information call (516) 676-2130.



In concert

Plaza Theatricals' welcomes the New Year, with an Elvis tribute, Sunday, **Jan. 12**, 2:30 p.m. Ritchie Santa performs "Elvis Is In The House," keeping the King's legacy alive. Santa often shares how, even 47 years after his passing, Elvis connects people who might never have met otherwise. See the show at 700 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont. \$40, \$35 seniors. Elmont. For tickets, call (516) 599-6870 or visit PlazaTheatrical.com.

Oyster Bay Sewer District Meeting

Oyster Bay Sewer District next meets, Wednesday, **Jan. Jan. 15**, 7 p.m., at the District Office, 15 Bay Ave., Oyster Bay. For more information call (516) 922-4171.

North Shore BOE meets

North Shore Board of Education holds its first meeting of 2025, Thursday **Jan. 9**, 7:45 p.m., at North Shore Middle School, 505 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Head. For more information, call (516) 277-7801.

Jan. 19

Dave Atell

Start the New Year off with some laughs from one of stand-up comedy's best, when Dave Atell visits the Paramount stage, Sunday, **Jan. 19**, 8 p.m. An all-time-great joke writer, named one of the "25 Funniest People in America" by Entertainment Weekly, Atell is most at home in comedy clubs. He built a loyal following by barnstorming the country with his brand of off-color "very adult" humor, and his audiences got even bigger after his cult-favorite travel show, "Insomniac." Atell continues to be a presence on TV — including his hit Netflix specials "Hot Cross Buns" and "Bumping Mics" — while constantly writing new material and taking it on the road. Beginning his comedy career in the early '90s, Atell ascended through New York's stand-up ranks alongside the likes of Louis C.K. and Jon Stewart.



After a brief stint writing for SNL, Atell has headed several shows of his own. "Insomniac" followed Atell on late-night trips, tracking down and interviewing anyone who wasn't asleep for some reason (usually either night workers or drunk people), while "Dave's Old Porn...well, you can Google that one yourself." When not on the road, Atell makes regular appearances at the Comedy Cellar in New York City. \$59.50, \$49.50, \$44.50, \$39.50, \$29.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com.

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Jan. 11

Concert series

Join singer-songwriter Nini

Camps and Matthew Schneider on bass, for an evening of collaborative performance, hosted by Sea Cliff Arts Council, Saturday **Jan. 11**, 7 p.m. Grammy-nominated singer-songwriter Ari Hest kicks off the winter concert series with his soulful voice and evocative songwriting. Currently on tour with the Indigo Girls, Ari's career spans over two decades with releases like *Someone To Tell* and *The Break-In*.

Known for touring with icons like Martin Sexton, Suzanne Vega, and Ani DiFranco, Ari brings his signature blend of heartfelt melodies and introspection to Sea Cliff for a concert not to be missed. \$40. To purchase tickets and for more info, visit seacliffartscouncil.org. 86 Roslyn Ave.

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. 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. Register at glencovelibrary.org or call (516) 676-2130 for more information.



Musical seasons

Sands Point Preserve's historic mansions and waterfront grounds are the backdrop for the 2025 unique chamber music series, "Four Seasons in Music," Sunday, **Jan. 12**, 3 p.m. The duoJalal ensemble-in-residence led by Kathryn Lockwood on viola, with percussionist Yousif Sheronick, violinists Deborah Buck and Emma Frucht and cellist Caroline Stinson presents a German flavored. Celebrating Germany's rich history of extraordinary composers, including Bach, Mozart, Schubert and Brahms, to the less traditional, this concert will warm you up on a winter afternoon.

A reception follows. \$56, \$45 members. Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road. For tickets and information, visit sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901.

Jan. 25

Art explorations

Converse, collaborate and create at Family Saturdays at Nassau County Museum of Art's Manes Education Center. The drop-in program continues, Saturdays, noon-3 p.m. Get inspired by the art and objects in the galleries and then join educators to explore and discover different materials to create original artwork.

Kids and their adult partners connect while talking about and making art together. A new project is featured every week. While there, enjoy reading and play in the Reading Room, and contribute to The Lobby Project, a collaborative art installation. \$20 adult, \$10 child. Registration required. 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. Visit NassauMuseum.org for more information and to register or call (516) 484-9337.

On Exhibit

Nassau County Museum of Art's latest exhibition, the original "Deco at 100" coincides with the 100th anniversary of the 1925 Paris International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts (Exposition internationale des arts décoratifs et industriels modernes) which publicly launched the movement. The direct follow-up to the well-received 2023 exhibit, "Our Gilded Age," it comparably links the period's signature innovation in the decorative arts, Art Deco, to the fine arts.

The exhibit encompasses significant cultural advancements during Long Island's Roaring Twenties/Jazz Age movement, including votes, jobs, and the automobile for women, the beginnings of suburbia with commutation for work, and planned residential communities, which all defined the era, while the following decade brought economic reversals and the WPA program. Works by Louis Comfort Tiffany, Fernand Léger, Guy Pène du Bois, Gaston Lachaise, Elie Nadelman, and Reginald Marsh, among others, along with art deco stylists of poster art and graphics, and photography will convey the Art Deco spirit along with its furniture, decorative arts, and fashion.

Like "Our Gilded Age," the social scene of Long Island's Gold Coast, and its personalities — both upstairs and downstairs — will be portrayed, along with the ongoing relationship with the immediate urban context of New York with its skyscrapers and deco-styled architecture. Opens **Jan. 18**, on view through June 15. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.



Jan. 11

Fit As A Fiddle

Visit Long Island Children's Museum to celebrate Family Fit Lifestyle Month, Saturday, **Jan. 11**, noon-2 p.m. Families can make a take-home custom fitness game to get in tip top shape by having fun, at the drop-in program. For ages 3 and up. Free

with admission. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or licm.org.

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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Ed Lieberman hosts MLK lecture

By BRIAN NORMAN

bnorman@liherald.com

Former Sea Cliff Mayor Ed Lieberman has been providing educational lectures for local community members to help teach parts of history that they may not be familiar with. On Jan. 15, Lieberman will host a lecture at the Sea Cliff Library about the life and history of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Lieberman gave presentations on various historical topics including Theodore Roosevelt, Jackie Kennedy, the history of Flag Day, and most recently Vincent van Gogh. Lieberman said that idea for the presentations was pitched to him by officials at one of the assisted living homes on the North Shore, and he has continued with them since.

“When I left mayorship, I still was practicing law and being involved in the business association, but I found myself with a little more free time. One of the local assisted living homes asked me to come in and perform a lecture,” Lieberman said. “I am still doing that at many of the assisted living homes but, a few months back Camille Purcell (the library director) and I met, and I started doing some programs at the library as well.”

This presentation focuses on the life and legacy of King, one of the most prominent leaders during the civil rights movement. Lieberman said that he and Purcell collaborated to make a multimedia presentation to inform different generations about the teachings of King.

“Camille Purcell and I came together to put together a presentation on the life and words of Martin Luther King Jr.,” Lieberman said. “Growing up during the times of Martin Luther King, it was a very trying,



Courtesy Ed Lieberman

Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. was one of the most influential leaders of the civil rights movement.

and inspirational time, and there is a lesson to continuously be taught to both my generation and the younger generation, about the approach of King.”

The lecture will provide an in-depth origin of King, where his name came from, his youthful torment, his relationship with his grandmother, and his leadership in the Montgomery bus boycott.

“We will have a slide-show presentation featuring some live, appropriate songs from Frank Ferrara, as well as some actual recordings of King during the program as well,” Lieberman said. “It also turns out, due

to some scheduling conflicts, we will be doing the presentation on King’s actual birthday, so it seemed very appropriate that this presentation is happening on his actual birthday.”

King was a driving force behind the civil rights movement in the 1950s and 1960s. He led marches, gave speeches, and conducted rallies, fighting for desegregation, the right to vote, and labor rights for African Americans. Lieberman said that he remembers watching King as a child and thinks it is important to reflect on King’s words and ideologies.

“I was in my teenage years during the 1960s and followed King’s words and policies on television while I was growing up. On top of living through the times, I have watched many clips of King’s sermons as a pastor, and read many books about him,” Lieberman said. “I think it’s very appropriate that many people take a moment to reflect on what Martin Luther King had to say and had to offer as way of nonviolent approach to civil and human rights.”

Lieberman added that this event is important for members of the community to attend to remind people of the significance of Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Day, even saying he wishes kids could have school that day to learn about the civil rights leader even further.

“Unfortunately, like many of our holidays, sometimes the day seems to lose a significance. So, this presentation is important so that we don’t lose touch with what his message and goals were,” Lieberman said. “I’d rather kids have school on Martin Luther King Day, so that they have a full day of his significance, and not just a quick segment.”

The event will take place at the Sea Cliff Village Library on Jan. 15 at 4 p.m. To RSVP for the event, visit the library website at scinfo@seaclifflibrary.org.

Hochul vetoes Horseshoe Crab Protection

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

Local environmental organizations are decrying Governor Kathy Hochul’s Dec. 15 decision to veto the Horseshoe Crab Protection Act, legislation designed to curb the harvest of New York’s horseshoe crab population. Advocates warn the veto will exacerbate the already precarious status of these ancient creatures and ripple through the ecosystems that depend on them.

The act, which passed the New York State Assembly and Senate in June, sought to prohibit the harvesting of horseshoe crabs for commercial purposes. However, in her veto message, Hochul cited concerns from stakeholders and suggested leaving regulation to the state Department of Environmental Conservation.

“We’re hopeful that this isn’t the end of the conversation,” Lisa Cashman, associate director for the Coalition To Save Hempstead Harbor, said. “We believe that there needs to be a level of protection for the horseshoe crabs.”

“This was a gut punch,” said Christine Suter, director of Friends of the Bay, a nonprofit advocating for Long Island Sound’s environmental health. “Hochul received over 40,000 correspondences urging her to sign the bill, including a joint letter of support from 60 environmental organizations and one from Jane Goodall. To ignore that kind

of public outcry is really devastating.”

Horseshoe crab populations in New York have been declining steadily and show no signs of recovery, according to assessments by the Atlantic States Marine Fisheries Commission. Since 2019, the state has consistently been ranked as having a “poor” stock status for horseshoe crabs, a condition unique to New York along the East Coast.

Horseshoe crabs play a pivotal role in marine ecosystems, particularly as a food source for migratory birds such as the red knot. These shorebirds rely on horseshoe crab eggs to fuel their long journeys to Arctic breeding grounds.

“The decline in red knot sighting on Long Island is directly tied to the depletion of horseshoe crab eggs,” said Suter.

Cashman pointed out that while the crabs in Hempstead Harbor seemed to be doing relatively fine, but that horseshoe crabs’ role in local ecosystems should not be understated.

“Given the importance of this issue, and the importance of horseshoe crabs in the ecosystem, we’re choosing to stay optimistic,” Cashman continued. “We recognize that they have a really vital role in the biotech world, but we believe

it’s necessary to achieve some kind of compromise in future legislation.”

Additionally, the species faces threats from habitat loss and harvesting for bait. While New York does not allow horseshoe crabs to be harvested for bio-

medical purposes, their blood, which contains a valuable enzyme used to detect bacterial contamination, has driven overharvesting in other states.

Hochul’s decision to rely on the DEC for management has left environmentalists skeptical. She also claimed that the harvesting of their blood was essential for biomedical practices in the state, even though Suter asserts that that’s not the case.

“The DEC is understaffed, and with over 200 miles of coastline, enforcement of existing regulations is nearly impossible,” Suter said. “What’s interesting is that in New York, there is no allowance for harvesting horseshoe crabs for biomedical use.

The DEC permits the annual harvest of 150,000 horseshoe crabs, primarily for bait in eel and whelk fisheries. Advocates argue this number is unsustainable given the species’ late maturity, with individuals only reaching reproductive age at around 10 years.

We believe that there needs to be a level of protection for the horseshoe crabs.

LISA CASHMAN
associate director,
Coalition to Save
Hempstead Harbor

The DEC has recently implemented some measures, such as restricting harvesting during peak spawning events tied to lunar cycles. Still, Suter emphasized that without comprehensive enforcement, these regulations are insufficient.

“For humans to drive the extinction of a species that has survived five mass extinctions would be unforgivable,” said Suter, noting that horseshoe crabs have existed for 450 million years. “Humans have depended on them for our survival, so it really feels like we owe it to them to ensure theirs.”

The bill’s proponents also highlight its regional significance.

“New Jersey and Connecticut have already enacted protections for horseshoe crabs,” said Suter. “It makes no sense to protect them on one side of the Long Island Sound and not the other.”

Suter said advocates are also frustrated by what they see as Hochul’s prioritization of commercial fishing interests. According to Suter, the fishing industry has claimed there are no viable alternatives to using horseshoe crabs as bait, though alternative bait products and practices are under development.

Environmental organizations are regrouping to strategize their next moves. Efforts may include lobbying lawmakers to reintroduce the bill and raising public awareness about the ecological importance of horseshoe crabs.

“We need to circle the wagons and

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OPINIONS

Once again, there's a New Yorker in the White House

When Donald Trump is inaugurated as our 47th president the week after next, he will (once again) be the only president since Franklin Delano Roosevelt who is a born-and-bred New Yorker. Despite his recent relocation to



PETER KING

Florida, where he has presided from Mar-a-Lago like an overlord, Trump has never escaped his New York roots. This is important to New York and Long Island. I say this not because of any native-son pride, but because downstate New York has unique issues and chal-

lenges that can be best understood and addressed by a true New Yorker.

Like me, Trump grew up in Queens, but that's where the geographic comparison ends. He was raised in very upscale Jamaica Estates. I grew up in very blue-collar Sunnyside. Same time; different stations. Of course, that didn't stop

Trump from implying to people in Washington that he and I grew up together. So much so that non-New York members of Congress would ask me, "What kind of guy was he growing up?" And my misleading non-answer would always be, "Same as he is today."

Despite the very different economic aspects of our upbringings, Trump and I, in many ways, spoke the same language. I distinctly remember when he invited me to the White House in February 2017, a few weeks after his inauguration, for a routine bill-signing ceremony. As we spoke for just a few minutes, he gave a big smile and said, "It's great to hear that New York accent down here."

Several times when I was talking with him on Air Force One, when he was flying to Long Island to address the MS-13 murder spree, I felt as if I were speaking with just another guy on a Queens street corner, and had to keep reminding myself that I was talking to the president of the United States. (His

anti-MS-13 efforts succeeded in crushing the gang's reign of terror in Nassau and Suffolk counties.)

Probably the most relaxed I ever saw Trump was when he invited me to join

him at ringside for a night of UFC fights at Madison Square Garden in November 2019. The loud full-house crowd chanting "USA!" and giving him thumbs ups was a stark contrast to the Ukraine impeachment proceedings against him that were under way at the same time in Washington.

This year, his giant rallies at Madison Square Garden and the Nassau Coliseum were major parts of his winning campaign.

Trump also had friendships with Long Islanders such as former U.S. Sen. Al D'Amato, from his years in Washington, and Joe Mondello, who was Trump's attorney in several business transactions and was later appointed ambassador to Trinidad and Tobago by Trump. More recently, the president-elect has formed close friendships with County

Executive Bruce Blakeman, county Republican Party Chairman Joe Cairo and former Congressman Lee Zeldin.

Trump's brother Robert lived in Garden City for many years until he died in 2020. On a somber note, I was there last March when Trump came to the funeral home in Massapequa to comfort the family of murdered NYPD hero Jonathan Diller.

Over the next several years, New York will need the support and cooperation of President Trump to address critical issues, including illegal immigration, crime and drugs, health care for those who continue to be affected by the aftermath of the Sept. 11 attacks, aging infrastructure, congested traffic and high taxes. We will especially need him to fight off anti-New York elements in the Republican Party who have too often in the past clearly demonstrated their geographic bias. Together, whether Republican or Democrat, New Yorkers should work to find common ground with the president to make New York great again.

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

The challenge of being president in challenging times

We are entering a new year, in which there will be many challenges for all of us. But the biggest ones will be for President-elect Donald Trump, who is about to embark on a historic second term. We know what he will do on Inauguration Day, but the real



JERRY KREMER

question is what kind of president he will be when the history of his second term is written.

Trump made many promises to voters, and there is no doubt that he will fulfill many of them. Voters were clearly concerned about the immigration challeng-

es at the borders, and Trump has pledged to close them down and begin a program of mass deportations. Many voters were unhappy with the way our government works, and for better or worse, there will be changes.

The proposed appointees to the Trump cabinet are in most cases total unknowns when it comes to government experience. Thinking that his new

team will be able to function effectively is a big wish that may or may not come true. Many of the proposed cabinet members have never run any type of business, and in some cases their only qualification is that Trump likes them. That could be a recipe for disaster.

Aside from the promise to shut down the borders, the big Trump pledge was that he would do something about the high cost of things like eggs and other household needs. In the weeks since the election, he has made it clear that cutting down on such things as grocery costs is too difficult to accomplish.

Much of his presidency will be defined on Jan. 20, when he will sign a number of executive orders. Some may win broad public acceptance, but others may lead Trump voters to question whether they were the reason they supported him. The pledge to pardon Jan. 6 rioters pleased a small segment of the population, but freeing convicted thugs would send the wrong message in a country that prides itself on law and order.

Trump has pledged to dramatically

cut energy costs by embarking on massive oil and gas drilling programs. Whether that can have any effect is questionable, because the country experienced record oil and gas drilling in 2024, and creating extra product doesn't mean that prices will go down. We consumers know from experience that the oil and gas producers don't give any discounts to motorists or homeowners.

Some Trump voters have expressed a desire for our country to curtail any overseas relationships and to once again make the United States into an isolationist country. We went through that experience in the 1930s, when Adolf Hitler was beginning to map out his plan to control Europe and the rest of the world. Since those dark days, we, our friends and supporters have created NATO, and our country has assured our allies that we will defend them if any of our enemies attack them. Obviously, that means China or Russia.

There is no doubt that the Trump presidency will bring about many changes in the way our nation functions. History shows that every president makes some type of imprint on the

country. In many cases, he spends a lot of time trying to erase his predecessor's accomplishments, and Trump will devote a substantial amount of time to doing exactly that.

In the run-up to Jan. 20, he has talked about a takeover of Greenland and a seizure of the Panama Canal. Greenland still has strong ties to Denmark, which we can be sure isn't in the mood to give up a land mass rich in precious minerals and other raw materials. Panama controls the canal under a treaty entered into by President Jimmy Carter. Serious attempts to seize the canal would raise questions around the world about America's written word.

Four years go by fast, and as the clock ticks, historians assess the accomplishments and mistakes of every president. We hope there will be many positive changes from a Trump administration, and that America will be a better place after his tenure ends. That's my wish for 2025 and beyond, and, I'm sure, everyone's hope.

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

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HERALD EDITORIAL**Feeling under siege? Combat the chaos.**

Are you still emotionally shaken by the violent, seemingly random acts that occurred shortly before we turned the calendar and again on New Year's Day?

On Dec. 22, a woman was burned alive on a Brooklyn subway train. On New Year's Eve, a man was critically injured when he was pushed into the path of an oncoming subway train in Manhattan.

On Jan. 1, the year just hours old, we awoke to the news of multiple deaths and dozens of injuries when a pickup truck plowed into a crowd of revelers on Bourbon Street in New Orleans. Later that morning, a Tesla Cybertruck detonated outside a Trump Hotel in Las Vegas, killing the driver and injuring seven others. And four gunmen opened fire outside a nightclub in Queens that night, injuring 10.

When these kinds of headlines intrude into our lives, we may feel as though the world is unraveling. The ripple effects are profound: Lives are lost or forever changed, public spaces are emptied, and once-reliable joys like festivals, parades and football bowl games are relegated to the realm of unimportance.

This sense of being constantly on edge is exhausting. But amid the grief and uncertainty, there are ways to process our emotions, respond constructively, and help ourselves and others find solace and strength.

What should we do?

When violence or tragedy strikes, the

first imperative is safety. Avoiding high-risk situations and being vigilant in public spaces are more important than ever.

We must also safeguard our emotional and psychological well-being. Start with staying informed, but not letting yourself be overwhelmed. The 24-hour news cycle has a way of amplifying fear, and while information is crucial, it's equally important to recognize when it's time to step back. Be selective about your sources of information, and balance the hard truths of current events with stories that remind you of the good in humanity.

It's also essential to strengthen our communities. Feeling under siege isolates us, making us retreat into individual fear. But fear is best countered collectively. Reach out to neighbors, join local groups or participate in civic events that promote unity.

Advocate for solutions. Moments of crisis are not always random acts of chaos; they are often symptoms of systemic issues, whether it's gun violence, mental health crises or deep societal divisions. Supporting policies and groups that address these root causes — and working constructively with people whose opinions differ on the issues — is one way to reclaim a sense of agency in a world that feels out of control.

How should we feel?

The emotions stirred by these tragedies are complex and valid. There's fear, anger, sadness and sometimes even guilt

— guilt over feeling powerless or for wanting to escape the constant barrage of bad news. It's important to allow yourself to feel these emotions without judgment.

Be resilient. Focus on what you can control. Small, deliberate acts — reaching out to a friend, writing to a policymaker or simply stepping outside for a walk — can help restore a sense of balance. While we may not be able to prevent every tragedy, we can control how we respond to them.

How can we help?

Be present. Show up for others. Simple gestures, such as offering an attentive ear or a comforting word, are appreciated.

Help the people who are directly affected. Donate to relief funds, volunteer at community centers or contribute to organizations addressing the systemic causes of violence and instability.

Share stories of courage, kindness and resilience. Elevate these stories — not in an effort to persuade others to ignore the pain, but to remind you and them that even in the darkest moments, light filters through.

Feeling under siege doesn't mean we are powerless. It means that we are called to action — both in our personal lives and in our communities. We are called to care for one another, to demand better from our leaders, and to work toward a future in which safety and joy are not fleeting privileges but shared realities.

LETTERS**Advocating for child care in New York**

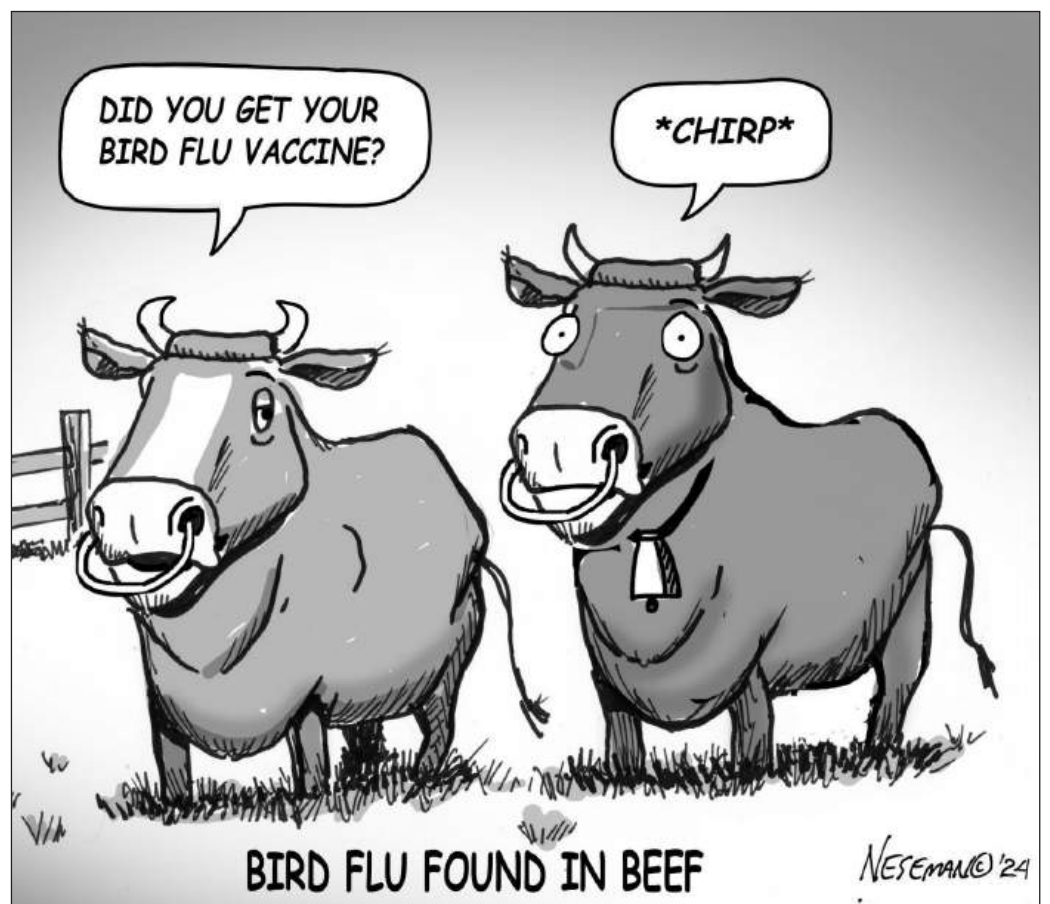
To the Editor:

The year ahead will be filled with uncertainty and opportunity. Our leaders in New York must create the conditions necessary for every child to thrive, while safeguarding our state's safety net.

We must demand full funding for our child care and public education systems, ensure that every family has a home and access to health care, guarantee clean air and safe environments, and protect every immigrant. We must demand that our state takes a bold position and does not waver from it. Most important, we must demand that the ultra-wealthy and extremely profitable corporations pay their fair share, because that's the key to funding the essential services that help everyone succeed.

For too long, corporate politicians and their wealthy donors have put their interests ahead of the needs of our public schools, child care and working families. It's time for a change.

Here's what we're fighting for to make this



OPINIONS

Let's resolve to work together for the common good

President-elect Donald Trump and the Republican Party campaigned as the party of change. It worked. With control of the presidency, Congress and the Supreme Court now in Republican hands, the questions remain: Will Republicans eschew my-way-or-the-highway? And will Democrats move beyond resistance? If they really want



**TOM
SUOZZI**

to help fix what ails us, both parties need to embrace bipartisanship and common sense for the common good.

Some of the president-elect's more unconventional cabinet appointments and his, and the GOP congressional leadership's,

approach to the recent budget negotiations — which almost resulted in another shutdown — hint at a concerning trajectory. Despite their narrow majority in the House, certain extremist lawmakers seem more focused on ideological divisions than on fostering collaboration across party lines.

The electorate rejected the leftward turn that some in my party have taken — on things like border policy, defunding the police, and promoting identity politics instead of searching for com-

mon ground — and so do I. As a common-sense Democrat who won in a district that Trump also won, my New Year's resolution is to continue to reject extremism and reach across party lines to get things done.

But GOP extremists are misreading their victories as an all-encompassing mandate. Trump secured the presidency with less than half the popular vote, Republicans barely retained the House, and the Senate is still far from the filibuster-proof majority required for unilateral policymaking.

The election was not a mandate for one-party rule. Instead it was a mandate for action on critical issues like border security, immigration reform, economic recovery, and balanced cultural values. Making progress on these fronts demands bipartisan cooperation. This year should be marked by both parties' efforts to prioritize securing the borders, comprehensive immigration reform, inflation control and cultural compromises rooted in mutual respect.

The divisive rhetoric must give way to a fresh approach. Since Trump's political rise almost a decade ago, his every move has been scrutinized, criticized, and attacked, yet he continues to garner support. Americans are fatigued

by endless blame games. They want leaders who work together, find common ground and solve problems.

Some members of my party are doubling down on resistance, framing themselves as opposition warriors against the incoming administration. That's not the right approach. While resistance has a role — in the past, I opposed efforts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act and deport Dreamers — governance demands more than just opposition. True leadership involves building coalitions, articulating a clear vision and proposing actionable solutions.

Take immigration as an example: We must secure the border and deport criminals, but that's only part of the equation. Reforming the asylum system, modernizing legal immigration and creating pathways to legalization for Dreamers, temporary protected status recipients and farm workers are equally vital. These efforts should respect the rule of law, uphold family unity and strengthen our economy. We must also treat people like human beings.

For Democrats to remain credible, we must balance resistance with constructive policy proposals. Focusing solely on opposition risks branding us as obstructionists rather than solution-oriented leaders.

Moving forward, we must rebuild the middle class, increase the minimum wage, harmonize environmental goals with affordable energy solutions, strengthen Social Security, Medicare and the child tax credit, and respect religious values and individual rights. This requires leadership in both parties — leaders willing to break free from the ideological extremes. Extremists have paralyzed bipartisan progress and intimidated too many politicians who have been afraid to reach for common ground.

The recent election was a wake-up call. Americans are done with partisan gridlock; they're demanding pragmatic leadership. It's time to reject extremism and embrace collaboration rooted in common sense.

As for me, in 2025 I will continue fostering relationships across the aisle, guided by a simple principle: I'll work with anyone willing to solve problems and serve the public, but I won't compromise my core values.

This moment presents both a challenge and an opportunity. By prioritizing bipartisan efforts, Republicans and Democrats can make 2025 a better year for us all. The stakes are immense, and the nation is watching. Let's remember that the job of elected officials is to represent the people they serve and not their party. Let's fix this!

Tom Suozzi represents the 3rd Congressional District.

Democrats must balance resistance with constructive policy proposals.

LETTERS

happen:

Tax the ultra-wealthy and corporations. New York has the public dollars we need, but only when we pass legislation that makes millionaires, billionaires and highly profitable corporations pay their fair share. The Invest in Our New York campaign shows how we can raise revenue to support our schools, affordable child care and working families. By ensuring fair taxation, we will finally provide the support our kids, educators, and child-care workers have needed for far too long.

A fairer, stronger future for all. Every child needs access to a high-quality education, no matter their background. But we can't make that happen without a state budget that prioritizes equity. The Invest in Our New York campaign offers a blueprint for raising the public dollars needed to fund our education and child-care programs. It's time for a state budget that focuses on the well-being of all New Yorkers — not just the wealthiest.

Your voice is crucial to making these changes a reality. Join us for Child Care Advocacy Day, on Jan. 28, and AQE Advocacy Day, on Feb. 4. Together we can ensure that the 2025 budget prioritizes public education, early care and

learning, and universal child care, so that all of New York's children have the resources they need to succeed.

Let's make 2025 the year we secure a more just and equitable future for every New Yorker.

ZAKIYAH SHAAKIR-ANSARI
MARINA MARCOU-O'MALLEY
*Co-executive directors,
Alliance for Quality Education NY*

He'll miss 'Blue Bloods,' too

To the Editor:

Re Peter King's column, "Like many other devotees, I'll miss 'Blue Bloods' dearly (Dec. 19-25): I agree with you, Mr. King: "Blue Bloods" will be missed. It was very well acted and written. What really bothers me is that CBS would not reconsider, despite strong ratings and even stronger outcry about the show ending.

How about another network taking the show, or even better, HBO? It would have worked. It's a shame that it ended its run this way.

TONY GIAMETTA
Oceanside

FRAMEWORK by Alexis Morledge



At Blarney Castle — but did he kiss the stone? — County Cork, Ireland



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