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## Joe McDonald is named parade grand marshal

By ROKSANA AMID

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The Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade, a longstanding tradition that brings the community together in a spirited celebration of Irish heritage, will take place on March 23. Joe McDonald, whose life and career have been deeply intertwined with both the Irish-American community and a diverse range of professional endeavors, has been named the parade's grand marshal.

McDonald, 54, who was born Eric Marc Barrett in Erie, Pennsylvania, was adopted as an infant by Joseph and Catherine McDonald of Bay Ridge, Brooklyn. Though he spent his early years in Brooklyn, he has lived on Long Island for the past 15 years, in Massapequa, West Hempstead and now Deer Park. His professional career has been as varied as his personal journey — encompassing journalism, web development, finance, and real estate — but his dedication to Irish culture has

Courtesy Roni Jenkins  
St. Patrick's Day Parade President Lisa Forgione, far left; Irene Abrams, aide to the grand marshal; Mary Moran; Grand Marshal Joe McDonald and Master of Ceremonies Robert Lynch celebrated their heritage at the annual Hooley, the grand Irish party, last Saturday.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

## An inspiring celebration of Black history at GCHS

By ROKSANA AMID

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Glen Cove High School came alive with music and celebration on Feb. 13 as students, faculty and community members gathered for a special Black History Month event. Organized by Angela Hall's African Diaspora class, this year's celebration embraced the theme "And Still I Rise," inspired by Maya Angelou's iconic poem about resilience and perseverance.

The event was intended to honor the achievements and contributions of Black people throughout history, and to

encourage attendees to embrace diversity and inclusion. It featured musical performances, historical presentations and a keynote speech by Eyerusalem Tewoldeberhan, a native of Ethiopia.

The program began with an introduction by members of the High School's chapter of the Rho Kappa Honor Society, which offered an educational look at key figures and moments in Black history. Then the high school's Select Chorale sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and "We Shall Overcome," setting the tone for an evening of reflection and celebration. The highlight of the

**D**on't dim your light to fit in.

**EYERUSALEM TEWOLDEBERHAN**  
Keynote speaker

night was the deeply personal address by Tewoldeberhan, who was born in Ethiopia during a time of war and famine. She shared the gripping story of her family's escape from hardship and their journey to a new life in the United States.

Tewoldeberhan recounted their harrowing experience

traveling for months through the African desert before arriving at a refugee camp. Thanks to her uncle's sponsorship, she was able to emigrate to California, where she encountered civil rights leaders, including members of the Black Panther Party. The experience shaped her understanding of justice and perseverance.

"The fight for liberation is not just a local battle; it's a global one," Tewoldeberhan said. "The best advice I ever received was to combine the best of my culture and the best of American culture to create something entirely new."

She was encouraged to honor her heritage while

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

# Portrait of a graduate' to shape success

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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The Glen Cove Board of Education introduced its Portrait of a Graduate initiative at its February 12 meeting, outlining a vision for the skills and qualities students should develop before earning their diplomas. Designed through months of community collaboration, the initiative aims to prepare students for college, careers, and civic life.

Superintendent Maria Rianna explained that the idea first emerged during a district shared decision-making meeting last year, where administrators, educators, and parents discussed how best to support students' futures.

"We always talk about how wonderful our students are, and the time I spend speaking with them is invaluable," Rianna said. "They provide so much insight into what we do, and their input was essential in developing this vision."

The district entrusted Susan Poulos, District Coordinator of Social Studies, and Bryce Klatsky, Principal of Connolly Elementary School, with leading the project. They sought to build a graduate profile unique to Glen Cove, rather than simply following state guidelines.

"As Dr. Rianna introduced us to the new graduation measures coming from

New York State, we realized we had an opportunity to define our own priorities," Poulos said. "We wanted to ensure our Portrait of a Graduate truly reflects the values and aspirations of our community."

The process began with student interviews, reaching all grade levels from kindergarten through high school. Klatsky noted that younger students provided fundamental answers—such as the importance of saying "please" and "thank you" and waiting in line—while older students spoke about skills like problem-solving and leadership.

"We asked students, 'What do you need to graduate and be successful? What qualities should a graduate have?'" Klatsky said. "Their answers gave us a great starting point."

To further expand input, the district distributed a Google survey, gathering 500 responses from students, parents, teachers, and local business leaders.

"We weren't just interested in what educators thought," Klatsky explained. "We wanted to hear from employers and community members who interact

with our graduates and understand the skills they need to succeed in the real world."

After analyzing the responses, the committee identified five core qualities that define a successful Glen Cove graduate: A self-advocate, someone who confidently expresses their needs and makes informed decisions. A versatile learner, a student who adapts and continues learning throughout life. An engaged citizen, an individual who participates in and contributes to their community. A critical thinker, a problem-solver who analyzes information effectively. Lastly, a collaborative communicator, a person who works well with others to achieve goals.

"These are the qualities that came up time and time again," Klatsky said. "We wanted to be sure we had something that was meaningful, manageable, and could guide student growth."

The next step was to create a visual representation of the Portrait of a Graduate. The district turned to Kristina Verney, National Honor Society arts advisor, who enlisted Nyan Pettit and

Georgina Dandaro, two student artists, to bring the concept to life.

"Nyan and Georgina spent hours discussing and deciding how best to capture our vision," Poulos said. "Their final design truly represents what we believe a Glen Cove graduate should be."

To help communicate the initiative, the district also developed an informational pamphlet, with design contributions from graphic artist Lisa Viscovich. The document will be distributed to students, parents, and community members to reinforce the district's educational priorities.

"We wanted something that wasn't just words on paper," Poulos said. "This should be a living, breathing part of our schools, guiding everything from curriculum to student development."

The Portrait of a Graduate will serve as a strategic framework for instruction, school programs, and student support services. The initiative reflects Glen Cove's commitment to equipping students with both academic knowledge and the critical life skills needed for success.

"Our hope is that every student who graduates from Glen Cove schools will embody these qualities," Rianna said. "This initiative will help ensure they leave our schools ready to take on the world."

**W**e wanted to be sure we had something that was meaningful, manageable, and could guide student growth.

**BRYCE KLATSKY**  
Principal,  
Connolly Elementary  
School



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# Day of service promote food dignity

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

At NOSH, service isn't just about distributing food—it's about breaking down barriers, fostering community, and teaching young people the power of giving back. On Feb. 8, NOSH hosted its fourth Day of Service, bringing together volunteers, families, and children for a day dedicated to food dignity and outreach.

Unlike traditional volunteer days, the NOSH Day of Service is unique in that it includes both volunteers and families who receive assistance, fostering an inclusive environment.

"We're really trying to make it not segregated between if you're a receiving family and you're a volunteer family," explained Courtney Callahan, NOSH's Director of Youth and Community Engagement and founding member. "In a lot of cases, there's not too much difference in what people have to work with financially. We really just want to be one big family."

The event, which has previously taken place on Thanksgiving, Christmas, and Martin Luther King Jr. Day, serves as a way to break the stigma surrounding food assistance and encourage young people to take ownership of community service. "Even kids who receive assistance from NOSH can still volunteer," Callahan said. "They're nonprofit entrepreneurs. They're taking part in something bigger than themselves."

A major component of the day was KFIP—the Kids Food Independence Program—which began last summer when NOSH faced a shortage of food donations while school meal programs were paused.

"The kids had just gotten out of school, and the federally funded breakfast and lunch program stops," Courtney explained. When she asked the kids what they were going to do about it, their initial reaction was disbelief: "They looked at me with the biggest eyes, like, 'Us?' And I'm like, 'Yes, your kids, you're here, and you have a heart for this.'"

Through KFIP, young volunteers decorated and packed hundreds of breakfast and lunch bags, ensuring families had extra support during school breaks.

"If three siblings come to NOSH most of the summer for breakfast and lunch and pick up our bags, that's probably contributing \$1,100 to their family food budget," Callahan noted. "That is substantial."

For sophomore Charlotte Decker, a member of Glen Cove High School's Key Club, the experience has been deeply rewarding. "The Key Club just started up again at my school, so for just this year, I've been going to some of the Days of Service that were offered," she said. "I like to give back to the community and help those who need it."

Decker, spent the day helping younger children decorate care packages for community members. "We were making these little heart craft things to send to the children's hospital," she said.



Photos courtesy Courtney Callahan

Volunteers at NOSH's Valentine's Day Day of Service proudly display handmade heart-shaped crafts, spreading love and positivity to seniors and children in hospitals.



Youth like Stephanie help to emphasize food dignity, kindness, and inclusivity.

Beyond food distribution, the Day of Service includes crafting and community outreach projects. Volunteers created 100 handcrafted hearts for the Glen Cove Senior Center and another 100 for Penny's Flight Adaptive Academy, which supports children with cancer by helping them participate in activities like surfing and gymnastics. The event also featured crafting stations for younger children, food-packing tables for teens, and picnic tables for families to engage in service together.

With nearly 40 high school volunteers from Glen Cove, North Shore, Locust Valley, Chaminade, Friends Academy, and Portledge school districts, NOSH has fostered a culture of youth-led service.

"Our kids are so noble," Callahan said. "They know they want to live in a better world, and they know they can make it a better world—one kindness at a time."



The event, which promotes food dignity and community support, brought together youth like Andy Ye, Quincy Bartlett, Dimitrios and Daniel Schoude from various schools to create meaningful gifts for families in need.



Young volunteers at NOSH's Day of Service create heart-shaped crafts to spread love and cheer to those in need.

# Bruce Kennedy to be honored at fundraiser

By LUKE FEENEY

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Sea Cliff Village Administrator Bruce Kennedy had only one request for his 25-year-old son, Alex, — go to the doctor.

Alex had lost 80 pounds in 18 months. Kennedy remembered telling his son, “Dude, this is not normal.” I’m scared. There is something not right.” He added that he told his son that he must get back to the doctor. Alex was told that he might be pre-diabetic at a follow-up doctor’s appointment.

Kennedy remembers missing a call from his son during a meeting the next day. Shortly after texting his son that he would call him after the meeting, Alex told his dad that he had gotten the results of his blood test back and had to go to the hospital immediately.

He would be treated for what turned out to be a severe episode of diabetic ketoacidosis stemming from Type 1 diabetes. Following the text from his son, Kennedy got into his car and began driving to Mount Kisco, where Alex was going to graduate school and working full-time. “It was scary as hell,” Kennedy added.

Kennedy has been named the honoree of the 19th annual Cooking for a Cure fundraiser for the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation on April 9, at the Crescent Beach Club in Bayville.



Courtesy Bruce Kennedy

Sea Cliff Village Administrator Bruce Kennedy, left, and his son Alex, at a New York Mets game. Kennedy’s son was diagnosed with Type 1 diabetic in February 2023.

Throughout its run, Cooking for a Cure has raised more than \$1 million for the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation, which leads the world in cure-focused research.

The 19th annual gala will feature live music by Craig and the Good Causes

and dozens of raffles and silent auction prizes. The dinner has taken on a more significant meaning for Kennedy due to his son’s diagnosis.

Following the diagnosis, Kennedy recalled the extreme anxiety he felt worrying about how his son would adapt to his condition.

Kennedy wondered if his son could function independently and if he needed to be following alongside his technology to monitor his sugar. Kennedy visited him three times a week to check in on him,

Type 1 diabetes is an autoimmune condition where the pancreas doesn’t make insulin or makes very little insulin. Insulin helps blood sugar enter the cells in your body for use as energy, according to the Center for Disease Control and Prevention.

Without insulin, blood sugar can’t get into cells and builds up in the bloodstream. High blood sugar is damaging to the body and causes the symptoms and complications of diabetes. It can take months or years before symptoms of Type 1 diabetes are noticed, according

to the Center for Disease Control. Type 1 diabetes symptoms can develop in just a few weeks or months. Once symptoms appear, they can be severe.

Type 1 diabetes symptoms include frequent urination often at night, feeling persistently thirsty, losing weight without trying, constant hunger, and blurry vision. Untreated diabetes can lead to serious, sometimes fatal, health problems; such as heart disease, stroke, kidney failure, and nerve damage. It can also cause vision loss, foot amputation, and even death

During the last two years, Alex effectively managed his diabetes while finishing his final semester of graduate school.

Kennedy had been familiar with the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation because of his friend, Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, whose daughter Amanda was diagnosed with the disease in October of 2000 and has lived with it since.

“I’ve been supporting the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation for years because of Delia,” Kennedy said. “I’m showing support for her, her daughter and my friend Tony Jiminez.”

Prior to Alex’s diagnosis Kennedy explained that he was familiar with the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation. However, following his son’s diagnosis, Kennedy recalls his immediate thought being “we need to fix this, there is potential for a cure. I have to do whatever I can do to ensure the Diabetes Research Institute Foundation raises the money they need to find a cure.”

While Kennedy appreciates the recognition, he believes that those most deserving is Type 1 diabetics. “The recognition should go to the people that suffer from diabetes,” he said. “Who get up every morning and do all the things they got to do despite the disease,”

Kennedy and DeRiggi-Whitton are both confident that a cure for the condition will eventually be found.

“I believe in my heart as a mother that they are going to cure it and that they have the technology to keep you healthy until there is a cure,” DeRiggi-Whitton said. “I really believe that they will cure it,”

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Bob and Laura created pet trusts in their own living trusts. After more searching and discussion, they chose Bob’s brother, Rich, to be the trustee, or manager, of the pet trusts, meaning Rich will oversee and keep account of the money allocated to care for Sampson and Delilah. Rich will also be the caretaker. The trustee and caretaker do not have to be the same person but often that is the arrangement.

According to their trusts, after Bob and Laura are both gone, they leave \$10,000 for each of their surviving pets. The trust money is to be used for the “proper medical care, support and maintenance” of their pets until the last pet dies. Then, the remainder of the money, called the “trust balance,” is distributed according to Bob’s and Laura’s wishes.

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# 6 McDonald will lead St. Patrick's Parade

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remained a constant.

A longtime member of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, McDonald has been instrumental in promoting Irish culture across Long Island. He played a key role in the growth of the Mineola division of the organization, and served on both its state and national boards as a webmaster. He also founded the Long Island Irish Fest, an annual event in Franklin Square that draws a crowd of thousands each year and raises significant funds for charitable causes.

**J**oe is a born fundraiser, and we know he'll do well for us.

**ANDY STAFFORD**  
Vice president,  
Parade Committee

Hopefully, knock on wood, I'll be the president come June — unless someone runs against me," he added with a chuckle.

Though McDonald doesn't live in Glen Cove, his contributions to the Irish community extend far beyond his own neighborhood. He previously belonged to AOH Division 8 in Glen Cove, and has supported the parade for years with his fundraising efforts.

"You don't necessarily have to be a Glen Cove resident to be the grand marshal," he said. "They pick somebody who's done something for the Irish community, which is why I was chosen. This is the only Nassau County AOH-run parade, and I think they wanted someone who could bring more attention to it from across the county."

Selecting the grand marshal is a careful process, with nominations submitted by AOH members before being narrowed down and voted on. "Any member can nominate a person for grand marshal," Andy Stafford, vice president of the Parade Committee, said. "The president — in this case, Lisa Forgione — reviews the nominations and brings it down to three finalists. Then the committee votes, and whoever receives the most votes is selected. If they decline,

significant funds for charitable causes.

"I've been involved with the AOH for 17 years," McDonald said. "I started the festival, worked on the national board, worked on the state board, and now I'm the vice president of Nassau County.



Adrienne Daley/Herald

Bagpipers marched proudly down Glen Street during last year's parade, filling the air with the sounds of traditional Irish music as the crowds cheered them on.

we go down the list to the next-highest vote-getter."

Stafford emphasized that while local involvement is always a plus, the committee also considers broader contributions to the Irish-American community. "Over the years, we've had a lot of grand marshals from Glen Cove, many of them being Hibernians," Stafford said. "But we also look at people who have done a lot for charities, or who have been active in the Irish community in general. It's not just about Glen Cove — it's about celebrating Irish heritage and recognizing those who've made an impact."

Beyond the honor of leading the parade, the grand marshal also plays an important role in fundraising. This year, McDonald has selected the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club as the primary beneficiary.

"The money raised from the parade goes back to charity, and we allow the grand marshal to pick one or more organizations," Stafford said. "Joe is a born fundraiser, and we know he'll do well for us."

McDonald's deep roots in fundraising and event organizing make him well

suited to the role. In addition to the Irish Fest, he has helped organize annual Irish dance competitions, known as feiseanna, for the past 50 years.

"The festival is more music-oriented, while the feis is focused on dancing," he explained. "But both bring people together to celebrate Irish culture."

Though his career began in sports journalism — he covered major events like the World Series, the Stanley Cup Finals, and golf's U.S. Open for NY Sports Day — he transitioned into real estate in recent years, and is now an agent for Berkshire Hathaway Home Services.

"I was a sportswriter for 15 years," McDonald said. "I covered the Mets, hockey, the U.S. Open every year. But when you get into your 50s, it gets a little tougher to be at a ballgame every single night."

McDonald founded NY Sports Day, a website he ran for 16 years before he sold it in 2020.

"I always wanted to be a sportswriter," he said. "It started from a message board that I inherited, and I built a website around it. From there we got credentials and started covering games. It

was an incredible experience, but everything has its time."

He remains passionate about community involvement and cultural preservation. Being named grand marshal isn't just an honor for him — it's a recognition of years of dedication to Irish heritage.

"It's a great honor," he said. "But it's an honor that fits into the whole St. Patrick's season. Once March 24 rolls around, the page gets turned, and you look at the pictures on Facebook — it's all memories."

The parade, founded in 1989, is the premier celebration of Irish heritage on Long Island. It takes place each year on the Sunday after St. Patrick's Day and draws thousands of spectators to downtown Glen Cove. It will begin assembling at noon, near Finley Middle School, on Forest Avenue and Dosoris Lane, then step off at 1 p.m. and make its way through the city's historic Village Square before ending at Glen Street and Pearsall Avenue.

An after-parade party will take place at St. Patrick's Parish Hall, a lively conclusion to a day filled with music, dance and community spirit.

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# GCHS hosts celebration of Black history

February 20, 2025 – GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

embracing the opportunities that America had to offer, and she developed a passion for history and geography. That fueled Tewoldeberhan's decision to join the U.S. Army, in which she served for six years, taking advantage of the opportunity to travel and to further her education. Despite the many obstacles she faced, Tewoldeberhan was determined to succeed in her new home country.

"Your individuality is your superpower," she told the audience. "Don't dim your light to fit in. Keep rising, keep pushing, and keep believing in your own story."

Assistant Principal Ursula Moorer emphasized the importance of recognizing and celebrating cultural heritage. "Events like this bring awareness and appreciation for the different people who walk the face of the earth," Moorer said. "When one group is celebrated, all groups win. This doesn't have to be done in isolation — we can highlight all cultures and still uplift one another."

Glen Cove High senior Alana Barnes, a student in Hall's African Diaspora class, reflected on what celebrating Black History Month means to her.

"As a Black girl, this has really made me reflect on my own journey," she said. "It's empowering to see how much has been overcome, and how much more we



The Glen Cove High School Select Chorale sang "Lift Every Voice and Sing" and "We Shall Overcome."

can still achieve."

Junior Makayla Chestnut said that the African Diaspora class had changed her perspective. "It teaches us about the African experience throughout American history, and the achievements of Black people," she said. "I've realized

that not everything in Black history is about struggle — our accomplishments have shaped society in so many ways,"

Chestnut was particularly struck by learning about Emmett Till, the 14-year-old boy who was lynched in Mississippi in 1955, after he was accused of offend-



Photos courtesy Glen Cove City School District

Eyerusalem Tewoldeberhan spoke of her experience fleeing Africa for a new life in the United States.

ing a white woman.

"I didn't realize how something so horrible could happen just because of race," Chestnut said. "It made me think about how laws and justice have been different for people of color. Learning about this makes me want to do better, to keep pushing forward and to rise above the obstacles."

## OBITUARY

# James A. Goolsby Jr.



Passed away on Monday, January 27, 2025 at age 84 after battling several severe medical conditions. He was a resident of Huntington for 29 years and prior to that resided in Bayville and Roslyn Heights. He loved life and never lost hope for his recovery.

Jim was predeceased by his first wife Karin and his daughter Elizabeth. He is survived by his present wife, Molly, son James, III, twin sister Jane of Seattle, Washington, nieces Nancy (Greg) & Betsy, brother Peter (Alene) of Lillington, NC, and nephews Tom and Alex.

In 1970 he joined the Roslyn Highlands Fire Department, rising to the rank of Chief of Department and later a Trustee of the Company and Trustee of the Exempts Association. Jim was on scene at several major fires in the area and was one of the participants at the Avianca plane crash. Over the years Jim became known as "larger than life" and was often addressed as "The Legend" by other members of the department.

In 1994 Jim accepted the position of Building Inspector and New York State Code Enforcement Officer for the Incorporated Village of Bayville, a position he held for over 20 years. He was well-respected by the residents and staff alike, and always did his utmost to resolve the issues that came before him.

Jim was an avid fly fisherman, enjoying annual trips to Roscoe, New York and the Outer Banks, NC. In the winter he often went upstate to hunt

deer and turkey. It was not unusual to see him out and about on his Harley Low Rider off to Bear Mountain, Rhode Island or Maryland with his special group of biker buddies.

A celebration of Jim's life will be held on Saturday, March 1, 2025, 2pm to 6pm (Department service 5pm) at Roslyn Highlands Fire Department, 270 Warner Avenue, Roslyn Heights, NY. In lieu of flowers, it was Jim's request that a donation be made to one of the following: Wounded Warrior Project at P.O. Box 758516, Topeka, Kansas 66675-8516, Tunnel to Towers, 2361 Hylan Boulevard, Staten Island, NY 10306 or St. Jude's Children's Hospital, 501 St. Jude Place, Memphis, TN 38105. Arrangements made by Roslyn Funeral Home, Roslyn Heights, NY.



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- Huntington: Marissa Dicipinigaitis | [marissa.dicipinigaitis@ymcali.org](mailto:marissa.dicipinigaitis@ymcali.org)
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Roksana Amid/Herald photos

Couples of all ages gathered to reaffirm their commitments in a heartfelt ceremony featuring a reading of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *How Do I Love Thee?*

## Couples rekindle romance at City Hall

Glen Cove City Hall was filled with love and celebration on Feb. 14 as Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck officiated the city's inaugural Valentine's Day Vow Renewal Ceremony. Couples of all ages gathered to reaffirm their commitments in a heartfelt ceremony featuring a reading of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's *How Do I Love Thee?*, a slideshow of wedding photos, and personal insights from the mayor, who shared wisdom from her own decades of marriage. Organized by the city's special events committee, the event provided a romantic and community-centered experience, complete with music, light refreshments, and commemorative certificates. "We wanted to create a special moment for couples to celebrate their love," said Roni Jenkins, public relations officer for the Mayor's Office. "It's about love, laughter, and community."

—Roksana Amid



Elana and Logan Blumenfeld shared a photo from their wedding day 11-years-ago for the slideshow at city hall.



Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck shared wisdom from her own decades of marriage.



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# Immigration policies spark anxiety on L.I.

By SCOTT BRINTON

Special to the Herald

First in a series of stories on immigration through a partnership between Herald Community Newspapers and Hofstra University.

Sergio Jimenez, of Amityville, an activist with an immigrant rights coalition that includes the Workplace Project in Hempstead, was recently approached by an acquaintance with an unusual proposition: The man asked whether Jimenez would take over his car payments.

The Honduran man had had enough of the Trump administration's treatment of the immigrant community, and planned to return to his home country. He needed someone to assume his car payments rather than abandon the vehicle.

"He's going back to Honduras because he can't stand all this suppression," Jimenez said.

Jimenez spoke during a nearly two-hour-long conversation on Feb. 5 that the Herald hosted at a restaurant down the street from Hempstead Town Hall, attended by 15 immigrants and advocates from the local community and beyond. They came to discuss President Trump's immigration policy, with its increased focus on identifying and deporting undocumented immigrants.

To protect its owners' privacy, the Herald is not naming the restaurant.

Trump, Jimenez said, is ignoring the potential economic impact of tens of thousands, perhaps millions, of undocumented and documented immigrants returning to their home countries, either because they are forced or choose to. If a growing number of immigrants leave, the economy will suffer, he said.

Immigrants comprise a third of Nassau County's workforce and a third of its small-business owners, and New York's immigrants, documented and undocumented, pay more than \$3.1 billion annually in state and local taxes, according to the New York Immigration Coalition.

Nadia Marin-Molina, co-executive director of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, which has an office at the Freeport Workers Justice Center, said she believes the Trump administration aims to "make people's lives miserable and to scare people, to terrorize people into leaving themselves, because they can't deport everybody that they say they're going to deport."

As of Feb. 3, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security reported nearly 8,800 arrests of immigrants from 121 countries, with almost 5,700 deportations and removals since Trump took office. As of 2022, an estimated 11 million undocumented immigrants lived in the U.S., 3 percent of the population, according to the American Immigration Council.

Many immigrants were already on edge and thinking of returning to their homelands before Trump's increased enforcement, according to Deyanira Barrow, who immigrated to the U.S. 35



Courtesy Scott Brinton

An increasing number of immigrants are considering returning to their home countries because of the Trump administration's "suppression" of immigrant rights, according to Hempstead-area activists. Advocates and 15 immigrants gathered to talk with the Herald on Feb. 5.

years ago following the Nicaraguan civil war from 1978 to 1990.

Theft is often why "our people say, no, no, I'm going back to my country. They know some people spend a lot of money for nothing," Barrow, a Workplace Project activist from Baldwin Harbor who owns a cleaning business, said. An attorney might charge \$3,000 to \$5,000 to process an immigration claim and provide no services, she added.

## Local cooperation with ICE?

According to the National Immigration Law Center, on Jan. 20, his first day in office, Trump signed executive orders calling for, among other measures:

- A recommitment to mass detention of undocumented immigrants.
- Potential punishment of municipalities that act as "sanctuaries" for them.
- A DHS review and audit of federal grants and contracts with non-governmental agencies that aid them.
- Possible reinstatement of country-based immigration bans.
- An examination of Temporary Protected Status designations that allow immigrants fleeing violence and natural disaster to remain in the U.S.
- Expansion of the expedited removal policy that allows the federal government to deport undocumented immigrants without their day in court.
- Authorization for local municipalities to act as immigration enforcement agents.

This final point was most disconcerting for a number of the immigrants interviewed by the Herald. They wonder whether local governments, such as the villages of Freeport, Hempstead and

Westbury, and area school districts might cooperate with Immigration and Customs Enforcement.

County Executive Bruce Blakeman, a Republican, signed an agreement with the Trump administration on Feb. 4 that deputized county police officers to carry out immigration enforcement in tandem with ICE.

Blakeman's policy has received bipartisan support. Freshman U.S. Rep. Laura Gillen, a Democrat, issued a statement on Feb. 6, saying, "Violent criminals with no legal right to be here should be deported in accordance with the law. Nassau County detectives now being able to work directly with ICE agents on targeted enforcement against known noncitizen criminals will help keep Long Islanders safe."

Whether local governments and school districts will cooperate with ICE is an open question. Last month, Hempstead Board of Education President Victor Pratt told Newsday, "We will continue to comply with federal mandates, and the law is the law, whether we agree with it or not."

That prompted the immigrant rights organization LatinoJustice PRLDEF to respond. "Allowing ICE into our schools or working with this federal agency jeopardizes the safety, rights and well-being of the district's student body," Lourdes Rosado, the group's president and general counsel, said.

Hempstead Schools Superintendent Susan Johnson posted a message on the district website last week to reassure concerned parents and students: "We understand that there are concerns circulating in our community regarding the presence of Immigration and Customs Enforcement. During these times, it is important to know that our schools are safe spaces where all children are valued, protected and supported."

No village or school district could be reached by phone for comment at press time.

## 'The struggle continues'

"We are in a dire situation, as I see it," Jimenez said. "Part of it is the lack of cohesion in the community. There's no one representing, working with us, except organizations" like the Workplace Project.

The immigrant community was very active politically during the 1980s, "but then somehow the community fell asleep, and we remain sleeping," Emilio Alfaro Ruiz, national advertising director for La Tribuna Hispana, a Hempstead-based Spanish-language newspaper, said. "It's a state of mind. We have to tell the people that the struggle continues."

Elected leaders of both parties have disappointed the immigrant community, Ruiz said, adding, "We always hope the Democrats will do more." In particular, he said, the community had hoped that President Barack Obama, with a Democratically controlled Congress from 2009 to 2011, would push through comprehensive immigration reform, but that never happened.

Many immigrant activists have grown tired of the fight, Ruiz said. As they see it, the "politicians don't give a damn about us," he said, "and I'm going to do my own business — self-care."

Miguel Alas Sevillano, a community organizer with the Workplace Project and a Salvadoran immigrant, said the organization is holding a workshop series to help immigrants understand their rights under the law. "We prepare people in the community how to act in case ICE comes to our homes or our workplaces or any public area," Sevillano said.

To learn more about the workshops, call (516) 565-5377.

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# Flu surges in 'under-vaccinated' population

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

Anna Sequoia had never had the flu before. At 79, the Glen Cove resident thought she knew what to expect when she developed a sore throat while on a Caribbean cruise last week. But by the time she got home, the illness had taken a frightening turn.

"By the third night, I could barely sleep because of the coughing," Sequoia recounted. "The coughing was so horrible my chest really hurt."

Sequoia, who has asthma, went to an emergency room after struggling to breathe. "I told them that I was short of breath," she said. "I immediately told them that I had been out of the country. They always want to know that. And at that point, everybody put masks on."

Doctors diagnosed her with the flu and prescribed multiple medications, including Tamiflu, prednisone and a nasal decongestant. They also told her to use a nebulizer every four to six hours to ease her breathing. Now recovering at home, she remains shaken by the experience.

"I was scared, actually," she said. "It's frightening to me that people are walking around now without masks."

Flu cases in New York have surged to more than 53,000, with Long Island recording 11,862 cases in a single week — the highest in at least two seasons. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported that flu-related doctor visits nationwide are at a 15-year high. The CDC estimates that, so far this season, 24 million Americans have had the flu, resulting in 310,000 hospitalizations and 13,000 deaths.

In New York, flu activity has reached its highest level in years. The number of flu-related doctor visits



Courtesy Metro Creative

**Health officials continue to stress the importance of vaccination as the number of flu cases remains high.**

climbed 7 percent in the first week of February, approaching levels last seen during the 2009-10 flu pandemic.

Dr. Bruce Farber, chief of epidemiology at Northwell Health, said this year's flu is being driven by low vaccination rates and changes in the virus strains.

"Flu seasons vary year by year, depending upon minor drifts in the virus," Farber said. "Secondly, the population is under-vaccinated. Flu vaccination rates are much lower than they have been in years previous

... And then, of course, the matchup of the flu vaccine to this year's strains is also always a prediction, at best."

In New York, flu vaccination rates among children ages 6 months to 17 have dropped from 60 percent in 2020 to 49 percent this season, according to the CDC. Public health officials stress that the vaccine reduces the severity of illness and the likelihood of hospitalization, even if it doesn't prevent infection entirely.

Health officials expect flu cases to remain high for several more weeks. "Rates have been very high the first week of February. They're just starting to level off and fall," Farber said. "It usually remains at high levels of infection for about eight to 10 weeks, and then slowly declines."

Officials track the flu's spread through hospital admissions, flu test positivity rates and emergency room visits.

The Nassau County Department of Health stressed the importance of flu vaccinations in an email to the Herald, noting that it is not too late in the season to get protected. In addition to vaccination, health officials recommend frequent hand-washing, covering coughs and sneezes, and disinfecting frequently touched surfaces to reduce the spread of the virus. Those who are not feeling well should stay home from work, school and social gatherings until they have been fever-free for at least 24 hours without medication.

Those who need help finding a vaccine can call the county health department, at (516) 227-9697.

With between 20,000 and 60,000 flu-related deaths expected annually, Farber stressed the seriousness of the illness, particularly for vulnerable populations. "People should realize that this disease is responsible for a lot of mortality every year," he said. "It's not a cold."



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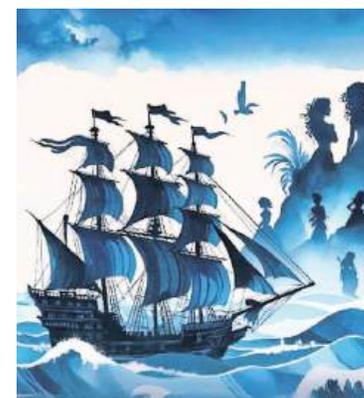
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# STEPPING OUT



## The Pirates of Penzance

Shiver me timbers! Book your passage to the Madison Theatre when Molloy University's renowned CAP21 Musical Theatre Conservatory, stages the classic musical, accompanied by the South Shore Symphony. Sail away to the whimsical world of Gilbert & Sullivan's beloved operetta, where a merry band of parading pirates — led by their Pirate King — clash swords and nightsticks with the bumbling Bobbies on the shores of Cornwall. The story revolves around Frederic, who was apprenticed by mistake to a band of tenderhearted pirates. He meets the daughters of Major-General Stanley, including Mabel, and the two young people instantly fall in love. With its humorous blend of romantic entanglements and memorable melodies, this delightful production promises an evening of laughter and theatrical magic.

Friday through Sunday, Feb. 21-23, times vary. Tickets start at \$35. Madison Theatre, Molloy University, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. Tickets available at [madisontheatre.org](http://madisontheatre.org) or (516) 323-4444.



Director Billy Bustamante, whose credits include Broadway and off-Broadway, brings his flair to the Madison Theatre's latest production.

## Those 'wild' days

The stage is set for a steamy Prohibition tale at Molloy's Madison Theatre

By Danielle Schwab

It's "the party to end all parties" and everyone's on the guest list. You're invited to travel back to the decadent world of 1920s Prohibition-era Manhattan when the roaring musical production of Andrew Lippa's "The Wild Party," arrives on the Molloy University campus shortly, March 7-9.

Audiences can expect a lively show filled with vibrant jazz and eclectic guests — also some uninvited "surprises" — that's sure to keep the joint buzzing.

Observing the talented young performers involved with Molloy's renowned CAP21 Musical Theatre Conservatory, guided by Director-Choreographer Billy Bustamante, you'll surely be thinking: 'Let's raise the roof, let's make a scene!'

Set in the Roaring Twenties, it tells the tale of two vaudevillians, Queenie and Burrs, as they throw the party to end all parties. Jealousy and decadence abound in this spicy concoction whose tasty musical stew of jazz, blues, gospel, and Tin Pan Alley sounds remarkably contemporary.

Vaudeville dancer Queenie, (played by senior Jessica Olexy) and her intense partner Burrs (senior Cade Eller) host an evening of delight only to see it spiral into chaos with every twist and turn.

"At this party, everyone has a secret and something to hide. This show explores what happens when those secrets and the masks — that we all wear — get ripped off," Bustamante says.

Based on Joseph Moncure March's 1928 poem of the same name, the award-winning off-Broadway musical wowed audiences with its look into love in a messy and exciting fashion when it debuted 25 years ago.

While the narrative poem is almost a century old, Lippa's adaptation brings a modern take to the story, blending the captivating allure of the 1920s with a modern feel.

"The music is a lot more contemporary and eclectic, all while being rooted in jazz. There are some really exciting pop, Latin and contemporary musical theater elements in the score," Bustamante says. "The nature of the music allows audiences today to engage with the story and see themselves in the characters' experiences in a really impactful way."

From larger-than-life dancing sequences such as "Juggernaut," to soulful reflections as in "What Is It About Her?," the production traverses the range of human emotions and complicated identities those vaudeville entertainers of that era.

"All these people at the party are people who don't belong in other places. The nature of what it meant to be a vaudevillian performer was you were uplifted and applauded at one moment and then not allowed certain restaurants or rooms at the next," Bustamante explains.

"At its core, it's something really beautiful. But on the other hand, these are all damaged people because of the lives that they've had to leave, and that sets the stage for an evening where a lot can really go down."

This isn't the first time that Bustamante has helmed the story. In fact, he was involved with a different musical adaptation of the famous poem, created by Michael John LaChiusa.

His resume includes acting in productions such as Broadway Theatre's "Miss Saigon" in addition to his directorial turns in "Here Lies Love" (assistant director) and Stephen



- Friday through Sunday, March 7-9; times vary
- Tickets start at \$35; available at [madisontheatre.org](http://madisontheatre.org) or the box office at (516) 323-4444
- Molloy University campus, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre

Sondheim's "Here We Are" (choreographer). Now Molloy's theater students can benefit from his talents.

"I have history with this story," Bustamante says. "I directed an off-Broadway production of the other version back in 2016, so this feels like a full circle moment, getting to explore this story again through different writers."

There's even a "show within a show" musical number, "A Wild,

Wild Party," a favorite of senior Angelo Domingo, who appears as a party guest, the rambunctious boxer Eddie.

"It was the number that introduced me to the show, and it has just a very fun, infectious vibe," Domingo says.

For the cast of 25, this production is an opportunity to hone their performing skills before going forward professionally.

"The [CAP21] program teaches you a lot about how to be an individual in theater. Because we're in New York, you get the experience of [being with] working professionals who are working on Broadway, Off Broadway and developing musicals," Domingo continues.

"I've grown in more ways than I thought I ever would. And when it comes to my training, I achieved things that I thought would take way longer to achieve already."

So get ready to head to the theater — it's time to join the party.

"I hope that our audience can leave "The Wild Party" feeling entertained, but at the same time a little educated and with a deeper understanding of themselves," Bustamante says.

"And our version of the show can really help ask the question of our audience: 'What masks serve you, and what masks might you be ready to let go.'"

*The Wild Party contains mature themes.*

Photos courtesy Madison Theatre

Angelo Domingo and Mariposa Boyd step lively on stage.



## Czech National Symphony Orchestra

Recognized as one of Europe's first-rank symphonic ensembles and renowned for its versatility, the Czech National Symphony Orchestra brings its current U.S. tour to Long Island, under the baton of music director Steven Mercurio. Dynamic guest soloist Maxim Lando, an American pianist and winner of the 2022 New York Franz Liszt International Competition, joins CNSO. He and violinist Sandy Cameron perform beloved works from the Romantic repertoire — Jan Václav Hugo Vorišek's Sinfonia Re Maggiore, Felix Mendelssohn's Violin Concerto in E minor, Op. 64 and selected works from Antonin Dvorák, including Piano Concerto in G minor, Op. 33 and Czech Suite.

Saturday, Feb. 22, 3 p.m. Tickets start at \$35. Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville. Tickets available at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or [tillescenter.org](http://tillescenter.org) or (516) 299-3100.

# THE SCENE

March 13

## Colin Jost

Live ... from Long Island ... it's Colin Jost! He appears on the Paramount stage, Thursday, **March 13**, 8

and 10 p.m. From Saturday Night Live to standup to his appearances in film, other TV ventures and even authoring a memoir, Jost is seemingly everywhere. He is currently in the middle of his 11th season as SNL's "Weekend Update" co-anchor, and his 20th as an SNL writer. His accolades are many: five Writers Guild Awards, two Peabody Awards and 15 Emmy nominations for his writing on "SNL." Jost and his Weekend Update-mate Michael Che have hosted special editions of "Weekend Update" on MSNBC during the 2016 Republican and Democratic national conventions as well as co-hosted the 70th Primetime Emmy Awards in 2018.

Also, in 2024 they executive produced and co-hosted Peacock's first live comedy event, "Colin Jost and Michael Che Present: New York After Dark," which featured an evening of surprise drop-in performances from stand-up comedians. As a writer, Jost has been published multiple times in the New Yorker and has contributed to the New York Times Magazine, among other endeavors. In 2020, Jost debuted "A Very Punchable Face." A New York Times bestseller, the memoir is a series of essays that documents pivotal moments in Jost's life, including growing up in Staten Island in a family of firefighters, commuting three hours a day to high school, attending Harvard while Facebook was created and more. And in 2024, he even appeared as a correspondent from Tahiti for NBC Sports for the surfing competition at the summer Olympic Games, plus last year he was featured entertainer of the 2024 White House Correspondents Dinner. \$129.50, \$119.50, \$89.50, \$79.50, \$69.50, \$59.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or Ticketmaster.com or ParamountNY.com.



## On stage

Adelphi University Performing Arts students present the musical adaptation of "The Spitfire Grill," Wednesday through Sunday, **Feb. 26-March 2**. Based on the 1996 film by Lee David Zlotoff, this is a heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance and family. It follows a troubled young parolee yearning for a fresh start who follows her dreams to Wisconsin, based on a page from an old travel book, only to find a small town with a gritty heart aching with longing and regret.

Unexpectedly discovering the healing power of community while working at the Spitfire Grill, Percy reawakens the entire town's capacity for rebirth, forgiveness and hope. Set to a melodic folk-inspired score, it's a joyous celebration of human kindness. \$30, with discounts available for seniors, students Adelphi alumni and staff. Adelphi University Performing Arts Center, 1 South Ave., Garden City. (516) 877-4000 or Adelphi.edu/pac.



## In concert

Jupiter String Quartet returns to Adelphi University Performing Arts Center, Friday, **Feb. 28**, 8 p.m. The intimate group of violinists Nelson Lee and Meg Freivogel, violist Liz Freivogel (Meg's older sister), and cellist Daniel McDonough (Meg's husband, Liz's brother-in-law) are brought together by ties both familial and musical.

The ensemble brings its well-honed musical chemistry to three works shaped by bold musicality and deeply meaningful thematic inspirations, including Warmth from Other Suns by Carlos Simon; String Quartet No. 3, Glitter, Doom, Shards, Memory by Shulamit; and String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat Major, Op. 130 with the Grosse Fuge by Ludwig van Beethoven. 1 South Ave., Garden City. (516) 877-4000 or Adelphi.edu/pac.

## In concert

The influential proto-punk/garage band The Dictators performs at My Father's Place, Sunday, **March 2**, 7-9 p.m. My Father's Place at The Roslyn, 1221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. For tickets/information, visit MyFathersPlace.com or call (516) 580-0887.

## 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.

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**Family theater**

Long Island Children’s Museum welcomes families to its stage, Friday and Saturday, **Feb. 21-22**, 11 a.m and 1:30 p.m.; also Wednesday and Thursday, **Feb. 26-27**, 10:15 a.m. and noon. It is 3017 in this futuristic, musical retelling of “Cinderella.” She’s now a space engineer looking to revolutionize space travel. When the Prince holds a space parade, Cinderella saves it by helping fix the Prince’s spaceship.

But first, she’ll have to keep her evil stepmother from throwing a wrench in her plans! \$11 with museum admission (\$9 members), \$15 theater only. Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or licm.org.

**Kiwanis Club meets**

The Kiwanis Club holds an in-person meeting, Thursday, **Feb. 27**, 6:30-8:45 p.m., in the Community Room of the Glen Cove Public Library. The meeting is open to members and guests interested in learning more about the club’s community service initiatives. 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove.

**International Women’s Day Program**

The City of Glen Cove celebrates International Women’s Day with a special panel discussion, “Female Firsts,” Monday, **March 3**, at 6 p.m. at Glen Cove City Hall. The panel includes Rear Admiral Melissa Bert, the first female Judge Advocate General and Chief Counsel of the U.S. Coast Guard, and former Rep. Kathleen Rice, the first female Nassau County District Attorney. Glen Cove Councilwoman

Silverman moderates the discussion, which will highlight the experiences and achievements of pioneering women in leadership roles. Open to all. For more information, visit glencoveny.gov. 9 Glen St.

**Art explorations**

Converse, collaborate and create at Family Saturday, **Feb. 22**, noon-3 p.m., at Nassau County Museum of Art’s Manes Education Center. The drop-in program continues, Saturday, 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. On view through June 15. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.



**Knitting/Crochet Club**

Meet up with other knitters or crocheters, at Glen Cove Public Library, Fridays, 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.

**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.



**Hempstead House tour**

Sands Point Preserve is the backdrop to explore the elegant Gold Coast home that’s the centerpiece of the estate, Sunday, **Feb. 23**, noon-1 p.m. and 2-3 p.m. Visit the grand rooms inside the massive 50,000-square-foot Tudor-style mansion, the former summer residence of Gilded Age financier Howard Gould and later Daniel and Florence Guggenheim. Tours are limited in size and tend to sell out. Arrive early to purchase tickets. \$10. Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road. For information, visit SandsPointPreserve-Conservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901.

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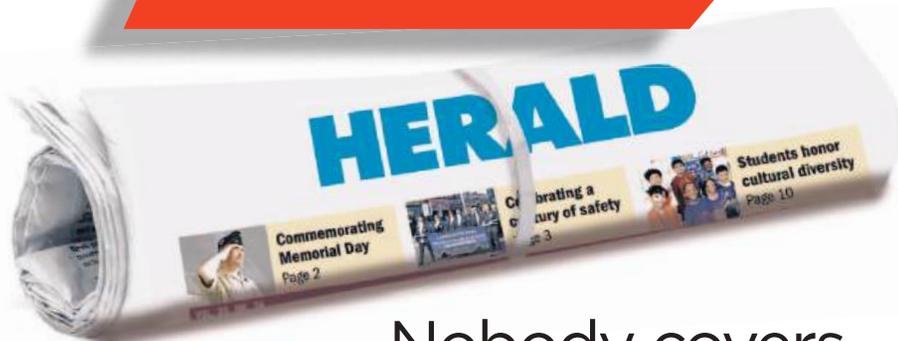


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## NEWS BRIEFS



Roni Chastain/Herald

Marsha Silverman, far left, Capt. Cynthia Robson, Geraldine Hart and Dana Arschin took part in the fourth Female Firsts panel at City Hall. The annual event encourages women to share their stories and advice on how to succeed in male-dominated industries.

### Female firsts panel at City Hall March 3

The City of Glen Cove will celebrate International Women's Day with a special panel discussion, Female Firsts, featuring two trailblazing women: Rear Admiral Melissa Bert and Kathleen Rice. The event, set for March 3, at 6 p.m. at Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen St, Glen Cove, and will highlight the achievements of groundbreaking women in leadership roles.

Rear Admiral Melissa Bert, the first female Judge Advocate General and Chief Counsel of the U.S. Coast Guard, will share insights from her distin-

guished career, including her role in founding the U.S. Coast Guard Women's Leadership Initiative. She will be joined by Kathleen Rice, the first female Nassau County District Attorney, who later served four terms in Congress representing New York's 4th congressional district.

Moderated by Glen Cove Councilwoman Marsha Silverman, the discussion aims to inspire and empower attendees by showcasing the perseverance and impact of these pioneering women.

### G.C. district search for new Superintendent

The Glen Cove City School District has officially launched its search for a new Superintendent of Schools, with plans to appoint a leader by July 1, 2025. The search follows the announcement that Maria Rianna, who has served as Superintendent since 2013, will retire effective June 30.

To facilitate the selection process, the Glen Cove Board of Education has engaged District Wise Search Consultants (DWSC) to oversee the search and gather community input. As part of this effort, the Board is inviting district residents to attend a community forum on March 4, 2025, at 6:30 p.m. in the Middle School Library. Those unable to attend in person can join via Zoom or by calling 1-646-558-8656 (Meeting ID: 852 9711 9013).

The purpose of the forum is to collect feedback from community stakeholders about the qualities and priorities they believe the next Superintendent should possess. The insights gathered will be compiled into an anonymous report for the Board of Education to consider as they develop a candidate profile.

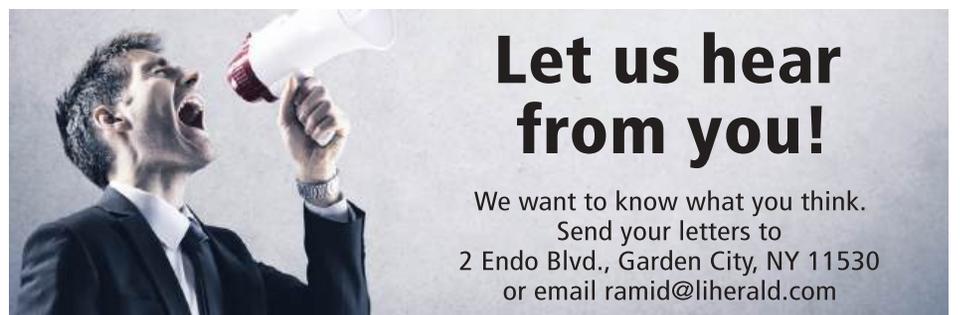
In addition to the forum, a confidential email address, [gcsupsearch@districtwisearch.com](mailto:gcsupsearch@districtwisearch.com), has been established for residents to submit input privately. Emails will be accepted until March 6, for inclusion in the report, though any received after the deadline will still be forwarded anonymously to the Board.

The Board is also encouraging residents to participate in an anonymous online survey designed to assess the characteristics of effective school superintendents. The survey, conducted by DWSC, is available on the district's website at [glencoveschools.org](http://glencoveschools.org) and ensures confidentiality for all respondents.

The selection of a new Superintendent is a critical decision for the future of Glen Cove's schools. The Board of Education is urging all stakeholders—parents, students, faculty, and community members—to participate in this process to help shape the leadership of the district for years to come.

For more details, visit [glencoveschools.org](http://glencoveschools.org).

—Roksana Amid



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2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530  
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# Gala Honors Changemakers in G.C.

The Black History Month Gala brought together community leaders, advocates, and supporters for an evening of celebration and reflection on February 8 at Metropolitan Caterers in Glen Cove. Hosted by I Am My Sister, the elegant affair honored Black changemakers with the prestigious Legacy Awards, recognizing their contributions to education, philanthropy, community development, and entrepreneurship. Guests enjoyed a cocktail hour followed by a gourmet dinner and an inspiring keynote address that highlighted the richness of Black culture and history. Special performances captivated attendees before the night concluded with music and dancing. Proceeds from the event will support I Am My Sister's initiatives, empowering youth and fostering community growth across the region.

-Roksana Amid



Dance has long been a powerful form of storytelling, resistance, and joy in Black history, from African tribal dances to the evolution of jazz, hip-hop, and modern choreography.



Joanne Yee/Herald photos

Steve Smith played the saxophone, a defining instrument in genres pioneered by Black artists.



Leah Johnson and Lela Watson helped organize the gala.

Sofia Yagudov, Finley Middle school president of I Am My Sister club, spoke of the organization's impact on the district.



## HERALD LGL1 0220 **PUBLIC NOTICES**

LEGAL NOTICE SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK COUNTY OF NASSAU WELLS FARGO USA HOLDINGS, INC. SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL CREDIT SERVICES NEW YORK, INC., -against- CARLOS SERNA, ET AL. NOTICE OF SALE NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Nassau on January 3, 2025, wherein WELLS FARGO USA HOLDINGS, INC. SUCCESSOR BY MERGER TO WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL CREDIT SERVICES NEW YORK, INC. is the Plaintiff and CARLOS SERNA, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee, will sell at public auction RAIN OR SHINE at the NASSAU COUNTY SUPREME COURT, NORTH SIDE STEPS, 100 SUPREME COURT DRIVE, MINEOLA, NY 11501, on March 18, 2025 at 2:00PM, premises known as 161 SAINT ANDREWS LN, GLEN CLOVE, NY 11542; and the following tax map identification: 23-3-1. ALL THAT CERTAIN

PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE CITY OF GLEN COVE, NASSAU COUNTY, NEW YORK Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index No.: 601974/2018. Pamela Sharpe, Esq. - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC, 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. \*LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES. 151601

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## OPINIONS

## Recalling the presidents I've met

**A**s we celebrated Presidents' Day on Monday, I thought back on presidents I've had the opportunity to meet over the years.

Except for my first meeting with Richard Nixon in 1967, before he was president, all of those meetings resulted from my involvement in politics.

In the summer of 1967, between my second and third years of law school, I worked as an intern in Nixon's Wall Street law firm. (The fellow intern I was assigned to work with that summer was Rudy Giuliani — who was then a liberal Democrat.) In addition to the chance encounters we had with Nixon in the hallway or elevator,

we interns had a long lunch discussion with him, during which he demonstrated his expansive knowledge of foreign and domestic issues. Surprisingly, he also displayed a certain shyness.

A quarter-century later, in 1993, the then former president was in Washington to address Republicans in Congress, where I told him how much I appreciated the long-ago internship. He was no longer shy, but seemingly at peace. The following year, I attended his funeral in

California.

President Gerald Ford was in the closing days of his 1976 campaign against Jimmy Carter when he spoke at a massive rally at the Nassau Coliseum. At a reception afterward, Ford was gracious and friendly, a class act. The next time I saw him was in 1998, at Sonny Bono's funeral in California.

I had just two brief encounters with Jimmy Carter, the first an introduction at Yitzhak Rabin's funeral in Jerusalem in 1995. The second was about 10 years ago, when I was on a Delta Shuttle, waiting to take off for Washington, when Carter got on the plane, recognized me, shook my hand and gave me a warm hello and a big smile — an awkward moment for me, since I had attacked him for something on national TV just the day before!

Except for a White House briefing for New York Republicans in 1987, my dealings with President Ronald Reagan consisted of handshakes and photos at political events in Nassau County and Manhattan. I was always struck by his sense of dignity and leadership. He never disappointed.

President George Bush 41 was the last of the old-school presidents, in the best sense of that term. He was very knowl-

edgeable and always respectful of his office. In addition to greeting him at political events before and after his presidency, I was invited, along with other newly elected Republicans, to meet with him in the Oval Office in his final days as president in January 1993. It was inspiring and memorable. He didn't have a word of regret or complaint. True stature.

Though President Barack Obama offered to appoint me ambassador to Ireland, my dealings with him were infrequent and businesslike. He was always polite, and always "no drama Obama."

My contacts with Joe Biden were when he was senator and vice president, primarily at social events in Washington. He was invariably cordial and humorous. Always greeted me with a big grin, and would kid me that Irish guys should always be Democrats. He was sharp; very different from how he was as president.

The presidents I spent the most time with were Bill Clinton, George Bush 43 and Donald Trump, all of whom are within two years of me in age. I worked closely with Clinton on the Irish peace process, traveling with him on his historic visits to Northern Ireland. I stood with him during his impeachment. He

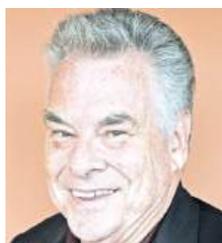
couldn't have been more gracious and friendly to my family. He and Hillary were the first to call the night my mother died. We remain friends.

I saw up close how dedicated the younger George Bush was to helping New York and defeating Islamist terrorism following the horrific Sept. 11 attacks. I was with him in the ruins of the World Trade Center three days afterward, and over the succeeding months and years was at numerous meetings he had with cops, firefighters and 9/11 victims' family members. A true patriot. Great sense of humor.

Donald Trump was and is one of a kind. He and I grew up in Queens at the same time. Though we lived in different Zip codes, one on one he was like the guys I grew up with, totally down to earth. Despite his public persona, he could be caring and concerned, like when he reached out to my daughter when she was sick, or when he invited my grandchildren to the White House. Most significantly, I'll always be appreciative of his visits to Long Island, where he led the effort to crush MS-13.

These are just some of the recollections from my front-row seat of the 10 men who led our nation over the past six decades.

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



**PETER KING**

## Somewhere, the Founding Fathers must be fretting

**A**s best I can remember when I was in fourth grade, we were taught that there are three branches of government — the legislative, the judicial and the executive. And we were taught that they were co-equals, with each possessing powers that the other branches couldn't interfere with.

To make it simple, our teacher stated that the legislative branch, represented by Congress, is responsible for making laws. The executive branch, headed by the president, enforces laws made by Congress and oversees federal agencies. The judicial branch, led by the Supreme Court, interprets laws and ensures that they comply with the Constitution.

In my lifetime, over many decades, I have seen how the wishes of our Founding Fathers were complied with. While I was too young to understand the maneuvers of President Franklin D. Roosevelt, when he stepped over the line, the

Supreme Court reversed a number of his actions. In blunt terms, he was told that some of his actions violated the Constitution.

Presidents Bill Clinton, George W. Bush and Barack Obama saw their controversial legislation overridden by a vote of three-fourths of Congress. And on quite a few occasions, the Supreme Court told Congress that it had violated the Constitution and its actions were null and void. That seemed to be in line with what I learned at Public School 26 in Brooklyn.

Having served in the State Assembly for 23 years, I am very much aware of how the systems work in both Washington and Albany. I have seen the Legislature in Albany flex its muscles and override the governor on many occasions. I have seen the courts tell the Legislature that it has stepped over the line and violated the state Constitution.

On Jan. 20, President Trump issued an avalanche of executive orders. Many of them have escaped public attention, because voters don't spend all their time watching the news and following politi-

cal issues. Some are consistent with campaign promises Trump made, but others clearly step on the toes of the 435 members of Congress.

Under Article I of the Constitution, Congress is given the sole authority to appropriate money for the operation of the government. There is no language that allows the president to impound funding authorized by Congress. The president campaigned on the promise of abolishing the U.S. Department of Education, but only Congress can dissolve a federal agency.

Some of the most challenging developments in the new Trump term are the actions taken by Elon Musk. He may have been given a blanket direction to cut government waste, but he is not allowed to abolish any federal agency that has been created by Congress. Musk has effectively shut down one agency already by restricting funding, but his powers will no doubt be challenged in the federal courts.

The biggest surprise to me, as a former state and local official, is how civil service protections are being totally ignored. Notices have been sent to thou-

sands of federal workers offering them buyouts with no guarantees that they will keep their jobs if they don't take them. Actions taken by the administration to force career employees out of their jobs defy what the civil service system is about.

The most eye-popping development is the failure of any Republican member of Congress to complain about the impact of the funding impoundments on their own home communities. Major cancer research hospitals in Louisiana, Ohio, South Dakota and Texas have made urgent cries about the loss of anticipated dollars. Special drugs for serious diseases can't be purchased without assurances that the money will be available. Rather than free up these dollars, the White House is focusing on efforts like halting the production of pennies that are popular with the public.

There seem to be no people in Washington who are echoing the voices of the Founding Fathers. That is our loss.

*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.*



**JERRY KREMER**

**W**e once learned that the White House, Congress and the courts were co-equals.

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**HERALD EDITORIAL****In civil discourse, everyone deserves respect**

In February we celebrate Black History Month, honoring the achievements, resilience and contributions of Black Americans throughout history. In March we recognize Women's History Month, acknowledging the pivotal role of women in shaping our society. Throughout the year, we take time to celebrate mothers, fathers, military veterans, educators, grandparents and others who have made an impact on our lives, and continue to.

These moments of recognition remind us of something fundamental: Every person, the members of every ethnic and demographic group, and those of every faith deserve R-E-S-P-E-C-T, as the great Aretha Franklin sang. Yet in today's world, respect often seems to be in short supply. This reality is magnified by the noise blasting from social media, the nonstop discourse on television and radio masquerading as news, and the constant barrage of opinions that seek to divide rather than unite.

We can, and should, engage in constructive discussions on pressing issues such as climate change, education, housing, economic opportunity and social justice without resorting to dehumanization. It is possible to stand firm in our

beliefs while recognizing the humanity of those who see the world differently.

Diversity of thought is essential to a thriving society. Healthy debate strengthens our communities, fosters new ideas and leads to meaningful progress. But progress is only possible when conversations are grounded in mutual respect.

As we address the challenges facing our nation, we must acknowledge that the path forward is not always clear. Intelligent, clear-thinking people will advocate different solutions based on their experiences and beliefs. That is to be expected. But what should never change is our commitment to engaging with one another as individuals deserving of respect, regardless of our differences.

It isn't enough to simply argue about policies or demand that others see the world exactly as we do. True progress requires dialogue. It requires the humility to recognize that none of us has all the answers, and we must be open-minded enough to find solutions together, even when our collective problems seem impossibly difficult.

We must also reject the idea that disagreement makes those who disagree

into enemies. Too often, political and social divisions are deepened by rhetoric that seeks to demonize rather than understand. But a just and equitable society cannot be built on division. Rather, it requires the recognition that, despite our differences, we are all part of the same human family.

In the year ahead, let's recommit to fostering a culture in which mutual respect is not an afterthought, but instead a guiding principle. Let's teach our children — not just with words, but also with actions — that disagreement is not a reason to hate, but an opportunity to learn. Let's model the kind of civil discourse that allows communities to grow stronger rather than splinter apart.

Black History Month, Women's History Month and all the other days on which we honor those who have shaped our communities serve as indelible reminders of the R-E-S-P-E-C-T everyone deserves, every day. Despite the challenges we face, a just, equitable society remains within our reach — one in which opportunity isn't determined by race or Zip code, where debate isn't defined by hostility, and where respect is a cornerstone of its foundation.

**LETTERS****How about taking on property taxes, Jerry?**

To the Editor:

Re Jerry Kremer's op-ed in the Feb. 6-12 issue, "Cleaning the 2024 slate is comforting": While we don't share the same political philosophy, I respect Mr. Kremer's career and his accomplishments. He was known in Albany as a fellow who actually did the people's business.

His piece had a regular-guy ring to it. His protestations were mine, as were the laments. I no longer go to Yankee Stadium. I do get to Citi Field for a game or two, but the Mets are moving into the high-priced arena as well. I'll still go, but I do mourn the old days.

Supermarkets are on my canceled list. I have throwback moments at Costco now.

Jerry's recollection of the movies took me back to a story my father told me when I was a kid. The son of Sicilian immigrants who didn't have much, he told me that one day, as a 14-year-old, he found a quarter on the street. With that quarter he got a trolley ride, a hero sandwich and a triple feature. It was 1934, and a quarter got you somewhere in Brooklyn.

Jerry did skip over my major annoyance, property taxes. Last October, the Herald printed my op-ed, "Nassau is no county for old



men." I'll be 80 this summer, and my property taxes, which I've been paying for 47 years, are now north of \$30,000. I hope that in his editorial role, Jerry can advocate

for seniors who want to stay in their homes.

PHIL COMO  
Sea Cliff

## OPINIONS

# Working together when I can, resisting when I must

It has been a fast-moving start to my new term in Congress. In my New Year's Day essay in *The New York Times*, I promised to "try something different in how we deal with Trump," and to find common ground on issues that impact our communities.

I was sworn in on Jan. 3, and soon thereafter was reappointed to my seat on the powerful Ways and Means Committee and selected to serve as co-chair of the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus by my Democratic colleagues. I attended President Trump's inauguration on Jan. 20, and it's been a whirlwind ever since.



**TOM SUOZZI**

Some of my constituents are increasingly concerned about some of the president's executive actions, Elon Musk's role in his administration, the Jan 6 pardons, and more. Others are encouraging me to continue my efforts to foster bipartisan cooperation.

I will do both.

We have to both find common ground when we can, and fight back when we must.

We must do the difficult work necessary to address our constituents' con-

cerns about the border and immigration, inflation and the cost of living, public safety and quality of life. And that means working together.

To that end, I am honored to have been selected by my colleagues to serve as Democratic co-chair of the Problem Solvers Caucus this Congress. Rep. Brian Fitzpatrick, a Pennsylvania Republican, will serve as co-chair. The caucus is a bipartisan group of 50 members of Congress, Republicans and Democrats, committed to advancing common-sense solutions to the most pressing issues facing the nation. Each week, members meet to debate, exchange ideas and find common ground on those issues.

I have a long history with the Problem Solvers Caucus. Just days after being sworn into Congress in 2017, I joined as a founding member and soon became vice chair. Joining the caucus at its founding was a natural continuation of my long-held philosophy of public service: For over 30 years, from my time as mayor of Glen Cove, to Nassau County executive, to serving in Congress, I have believed that progress comes through bipartisan cooperation and problem-solving, no matter how difficult.

Americans are frustrated by partisan bickering, legislative gridlock, and politicians who prioritize scoring political points over delivering real solutions. They want action, and it is our duty to deliver.

This Congress is narrowly divided, with Republicans holding a razor-thin majority. To get things done, bipartisan cooperation will be essential, and the Problem Solvers Caucus has the experience and commitment to make that happen.

While I have and always will champion working together, we must still be vigilant in guarding against constitutional overreach. When I learned that Elon Musk and a handful of unvetted college-aged kids had gained access to sensitive taxpayer data, I called on my Ways and Means Committee colleagues to speak out, to demand transparency and answers as to how the administration plans to keep your information safe.

When I learned that chaotic funding freezes had prevented the Great Neck/Manhasset Head Start program from accessing funding critical to its daily operations, I convened the leadership of the Department of Health and Human Services. Thankfully, we were able to ensure that funding was made available

for Head Start programs in our district and prevent an imminent closure of the Great Neck/Manhasset program.

When I learned that the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention had taken down information on disease treatment as well as vaping, alcohol and other drugs, I met with the Levittown Community Action Coalition to combat the chaos and confusion caused by the president's executive order.

When I learned that Musk was targeting National Institutes of Health funding, jeopardizing critical scientific research at labs across my district, including Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory and the Feinstein Institutes for Medical Research, I made sure to voice my concerns. These cuts would threaten America's global leadership in scientific research and discovery, and hurt lifesaving progress on novel treatments and innovative models used by doctors and scientists worldwide.

My philosophy is simple: I will work with anyone who genuinely wants to solve problems and improve the lives of the American people, but I will never abandon my values. I will work hard to represent all my constituents as I endeavor to seek common ground, using common sense, for the common good, while opposing any efforts that undermine our Constitution.

*Tom Suozzi represents the 3rd Congressional District.*

**W**hen I heard that Elon Musk was targeting NIH funding, I spoke up.

## LETTERS

### There's good news about younger readers, Randi Alarmed at Blakeman's 'outrageous behavior'

To the Editor:

Re Randi Kreiss's recent column, "When was the last time you read a book?": I was happy to be informed about Randi's impressions of the reading habits of children and young adults. This is a subject that I have a firsthand knowledge of.

Over the past 10 to 15 years, I have observed a tendency among my paying customers, most of whom are, in fact, 16 to 30 years old. Most come to me to fill a gap in their knowledge of classics, science fiction, general fiction, mystery and other literary genres. It seems that high schools and colleges assign them books that are online, but those who come to me seem to prefer hard copies. For me the trend is notable and rewarding, and boosts my hope that reading physical books, particularly classics, has not lost its luster in our over-technological, disgustingly over-computerized society.

AMNON TISHLER  
*Booklovers Paradise  
Bellmore*

To the Editor:

I am alarmed at the lack of alarm in Nassau County in response to County Executive Bruce Blakeman's outrageous behavior.

First he organized an independent local armed security force, and denied it was a "militia." It actually fits the dictionary definition of a militia, which means Blakeman is either uninformed or disingenuous — or both.

Then he declared that the *New York Post*, a tabloid owned by Rupert Murdoch, is the official publication of Nassau County, because Blakeman doesn't like the leanings of *Newsday*, which, for better or worse, has been a Long Island-centric publication for decades.

Both moves are autocratic and partisan, and both are indefensible — but the public outcry has been muted, at best. I believe we need to react to — and reject — this sort of overreach, which I do not believe represent either the feelings or the interests of many Nassau County residents.

RICHARD SCHWARZ  
*Bayville*

### FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



At Ogden Elementary School's Father-Daughter Masquerade Ball — Valley Stream

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