

Helping two youth ambassadors fund their mission to Ghana

By Lissa Harris

newsroom@oysterbayguardian.com

Laughing and flipping pancakes for a good cause is not what one would typically find a teenager doing on a Sunday morning. But that's exactly how the members of the youth group at the Village Church of Bayville recently spent their time. The kids, whose ages range from 14-17, were helping to raise money for two members of their group to do international mission work.

The Village Church of Bayville and the Carpenter Memorial United Methodist Church of Glen Cove are preparing to send two Youth Ambassadors in Mission (YAM) to Ghana. Jacob Lee, 16 from Bayville, and Amanda Ieraci, also 16, from Glen Cove, were chosen from a number of applicants to represent the United Methodist Church on a mission trip to Ghana from Feb. 17 to 27. The teens were chosen through an application process in which they had to write an essay explaining why they should be chosen and how they believed they would benefit from the experience. The Village Church of Bayville, which is also where the Glen Cove United Methodist Church congregation worships, held a pancake breakfast fundraiser on Sunday, Dec. 4 to help Lee

(Continued on page 4)



Mackenzie Henris, middle, an ambassador last year, is mentoring Jacob Lee, of Bayville, and Amanda Ieraci, of Glen Cove, who will be ambassadors in Ghana this year. Photos by Dana Harris



The youth group from the Village of Bayville worked hard at the pancake breakfast fund-raiser to help youth ambassadors Jacob Lee and Amanda Ieraci.

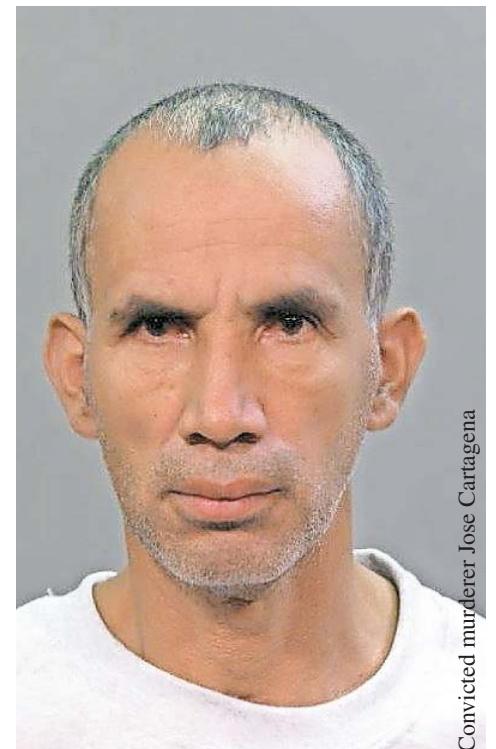
Glen Cove Man Sentenced to 18 Years to Life

Jose Cartagena, 56, of Glen Cove, who pled guilty to the murder of his ex-girlfriend in a parking lot, was sentenced to 18 years to life in prison on Dec. 12.

"This defendant senselessly murdered his ex-girlfriend and left three children without their mother," said Nassau County District Attorney Madeline Singas. "I thank the U.S. Marshals, Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Nassau County Police Department for returning him to New York so that he could face justice."

Cartagena, pled guilty to murder in the 2nd degree (an A-I felony) before Supreme Court Justice Angelo Delligatti on Nov. 2. He said he stabbed his ex-girlfriend, Yanira Estella Canjura Martinez, 32, multiple times in a Glen Cove parking lot on Glen Street on March 26, 2015, at approximately 3:15 p.m. Martinez, who had separated from the defendant a week earlier, was on her way to pick up her five-year-old daughter.

Cartagena, who fled the scene, was apprehended in Delano, California, on April 6, 2015, with the assistance of U.S. Marshals, ICE and NCPD.



Convicted murderer Jose Cartagena



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Santamaria wins best speller at Connolly

Connolly fifth-grader Lila Santamaria won her school's Scripps Spelling Bee contest on Dec. 8, competing against the top spellers in the competition.

Ten students took part in the bee after placing first and second in their individual class contests. During the competition, each student took turns spelling words from the Scripps spelling word list, that were presented to them by STEAM teacher Cheryl Carmody. The spelling bee was exciting to watch, especially when Cassian Gerasimenko and Santamaria went head to head during several of the rounds. That was before Lila

spelled the word "gnarled" correctly, winning the competition.

The other contenders included: Jessica Callaghan, Kate Clermont, Ava DeLuca, Serena Figliuzzi, Panagiotis Georgilis, Virginia Graziosi, Jeymee Gutierrez and Sophia Karathanasis.

The judges for the event were Connolly Principal Rose Sekelsky and AIS teacher Dora Ricciardi. Congratulations Lila Santamaria!

Photos courtesy of the Glen Cove City School District



Connolly School fifth-grader Lila Santamaria, who won the school's Scripps Spelling Bee, with Principal Rose Sekelsky, AIS teacher Dora Ricciardi and STEAM teacher Cheryl Carmody.

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Principal Rose Sekelsky, AIS teacher Dora Ricciardi and STEAM teacher Cheryl Carmody congratulated Connolly School's top fifth-grade spellers.



Fifth-grade student Cassian Gerasimenko won as the runner up in the competition.

Third Year for Snowy Village at City Hall

By Tab Hauser

If old fashion snow covered villages with ice skaters, trains, Victorian homes and pretty streets that look like they came out of a Norman Rockwell painting interest you City Hall Glen Cove is the place to be. Mrs. Coleen Spinello, wife of City of Glen Cove Mayor, Reginald Spinello has a Christmas tradition of building these sets (no city building permits required here) now for three years. This year she was assisted by Millie Sullivan, Judith Frederic and Maureen Hauser who laid down the streets with a few dozen pretty homes, buildings, cars, people and holiday lights to match. This 40-foot exhibit sits in front of the board table and can be seen until mid January.



Gold Coast Herald – December 15, 2016

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Helping two youth ambassadors fund their mission to Ghana

(Continued from page one)

and Ieraci pay for their trip.

Lee, a junior at Locust Valley High School, said that this trip could be life changing for him.

"My sister went to Cambodia two years ago," Lee explained. "She told me about all the friends she made on that trip and I wanted to have the experience too."

Lee has always been very involved in the UMC Youth Group, organizing games and activities for the UMC summer youth retreat on Shelter Island and volunteering to lead activities for the district youth throughout the year.

"Jacob is a natural leader," said Sarah Henris, of Bayville, the youth group leader for the Village Church of Bayville. "He was the perfect choice to be our youth ambassador."

Henris' daughter, Mackenzie, 16, was the youth ambassador last year and will act as a mentor to this year's ambassadors. "Last year we went to Bolivia and helped build a church, Mackenzie said. "We also organized bible school for the children in the village."

Mackenzie kept a journal and wrote in it everyday about her trip to Bolivia last year. She has shared her journal entries with this year's ambassadors so they can better understand their own upcoming mission trip.

Ieraci, a junior at Glen Cove High School is hoping to deepen her faith through service to those less fortunate.

"I want to experience places outside of New York, anyplace that's different from here," Ieraci explained. "I think helping others will really help me get in touch with my faith."

Although they won't know exactly what type of work they will be doing until they arrive in Ghana, Ieraci and Lee know that they will gain experiences and knowledge that they wouldn't get at school. But in order to go they have to raise at least 50 percent of the trip's expenses. The money will be raised through fundraisers such as the pancake breakfast, a car wash, and individual donations. The district UMC church will also contribute to the trip's expenses. The two ambassadors must also bring a suitcase filled with schools supplies to be



donated to the local school in Ghana.

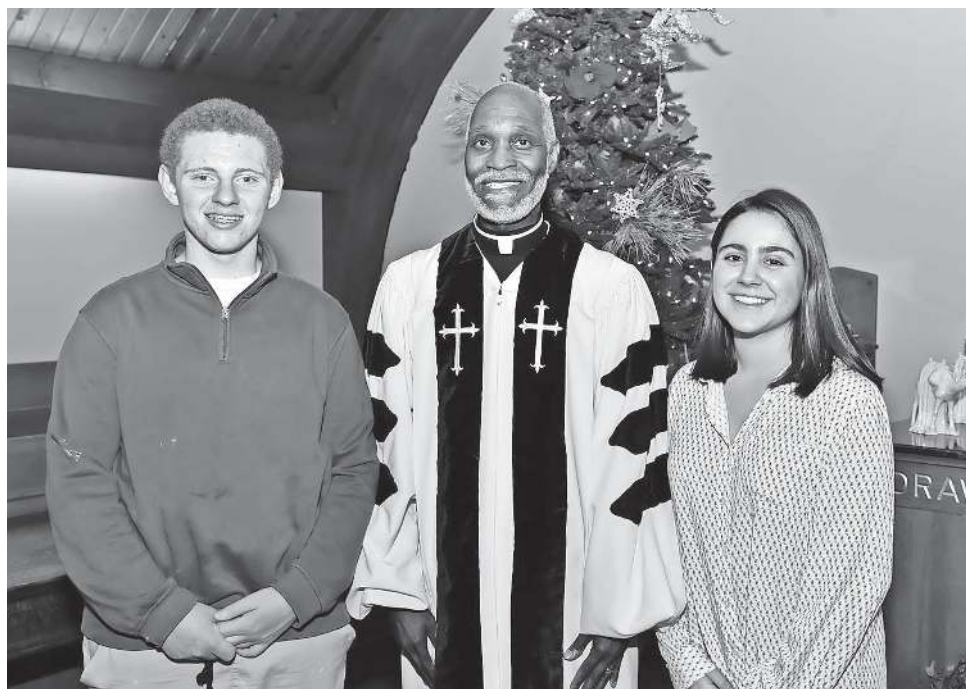
Pastor Johnny L. Caesar leads both the Bayville and Glen Cove UMC congregations. He said that in all his years in the ministry he has never met two teenagers as committed to their faith as Lee and Ieraci. "I'm so proud of these two young people," the Reverend said, "to have both a Bayville and Glen Cove youth be chosen as ambassadors is an immense honor."

Sarah feels confident that the teen ambassadors will rise to the challenge of being in a new country and culture. The church's current youth group, she says, is a tight-knit group focused on community service. The youth group has organized a variety of service projects this past year including a recent toy drive for SCO Family of Services located in Sea Cliff, N.Y.

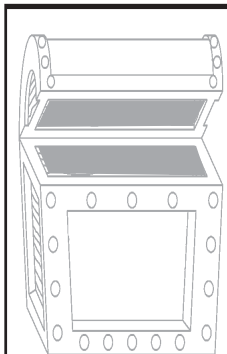
"This group is very mission centered," Sarah said, "Jacob and Amanda will really get to bring out their natural leadership skills during their trip to Ghana."

Donations for the youth mission trip to Ghana are being accepted at the Village Church of Bayville, 9 Mountain Avenue Bayville, NY 11709.

Several parishioners from the Village Church of Bayville and the Glen Cove United Methodist Church enjoyed a pancake breakfast fund-raiser held to benefit two youth ambassadors trip to Ghana.



Pastor Johnny L. Caesar is proud of youth ambassadors Jacob Lee and Amanda Ieraci.



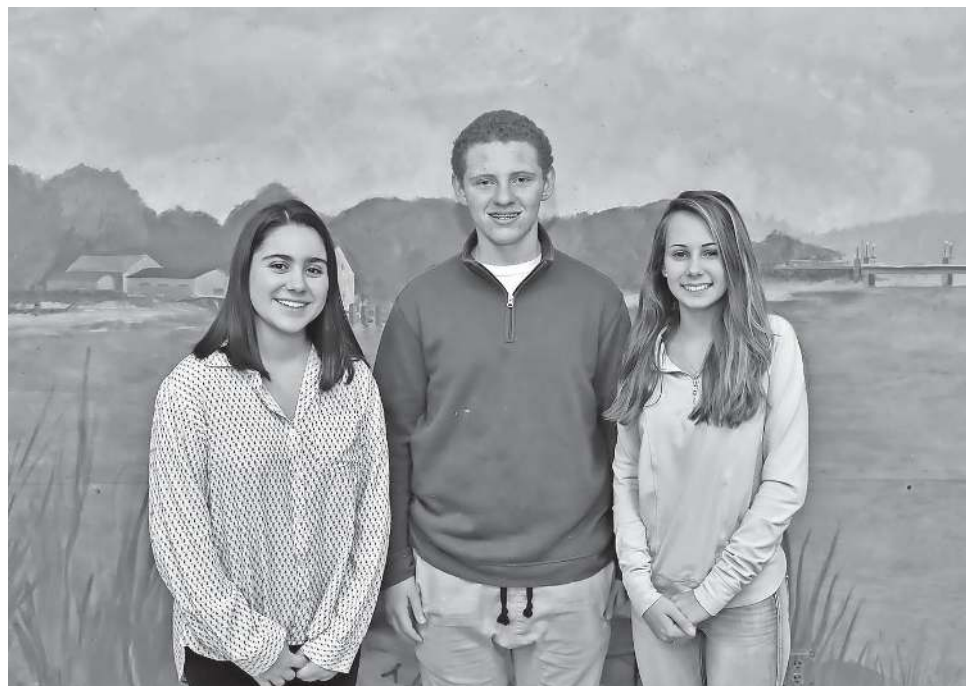
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Amanda Ieraci (left), Jacob Lee and Mackenzie Henris at the fund-raiser.

A new leader for L.I. Catholics

Barres named fifth bishop of Rockville Centre Diocese

By Brian Kacharaba

bkacharaba@liherald.com

Expressing his desire to bring together a diverse community and spread the mission of the Catholic Church, the Rev. John Barres was introduced as the fifth bishop of the Rockville Centre Diocese at the Monsignor Kelly Parish Center near St. Agnes Cathedral on Dec. 9.

Barres, who was the bishop of Allentown, Pa., for the last 7½ years, will succeed Bishop William Murphy in leading one of the country's largest dioceses, with 1.5 million Catholics in Nassau and Suffolk counties.

Murphy, 76, served as the bishop since 2001. The Code of Canon Law states that diocesan bishops must submit their resignations to the pope when they reach 75 years of age.

"It is my deep conviction that he will be a bishop for all of us without exception," Murphy said of Barres. "He has shared with me his love of youth and his care for the elderly. He has a keen sense of parish life and has a special expertise in education."

Murphy noted Barres's deep and abiding "love for the poor," saying that he would continue to lend full support to Catholic Charities as well as local Catholic hospitals and parish outreach programs.

The 56-year-old Barres was appointed by Pope Francis and named bishop by Archbishop Christophe Pierre, the U.S. apostolic nuncio, in Washington, D.C. on Friday. Barres will assume leadership during a Mass of Installation at St. Agnes on Jan. 31.

The connection between Barres and the community began almost immediately. He proudly entered the room side by side with a beaming Murphy, stopping to chat with 15 students from St. Agnes Cathedral School on his way to the lectern.

He asked the children their names, shook their hands and inquired about their interests. Barres told the basketball players about his days as a point guard at Princeton and the musicians in the group that their performances were a sign of praising God.

"I felt like I could relate to what he was saying about what he was like when he was a child and what he said about how he would play sports and how it really helped him in his religious days," said seventh-grader Brooke Cassatto.

Barres was eloquent and engaging during his introductory speech. He joked about his basketball abilities before expressing how "humbled and moved" he was by his appointment.

"As your bishop, I very much look forward to serving each one of you, each one of our ecumenical and interreligious brothers and sisters and every single person who lives in the Diocese of Rockville Centre," he said. "I look forward to experiencing and celebrating with you the cultural diversity of our diocese."

A native of Larchmont, N.Y., Barres recalled trips to Jones Beach with his family when he was a child and Nassau Coliseum with his youth basketball team to watch Hall of Famer Julius Erving play for the New York Nets of the now-defunct American



Peter Belfiore/Herald

Pope Francis has named Bishop John Barres to lead the Diocese of Rockville Centre, one of the country's largest dioceses

Basketball Association during the 1970s.

His father worked for the bishop at the Propagation of the Faith in New York City, and Barres became an ordained priest of the Diocese of Wilmington in 1989. He began his priesthood as an associate pastor at churches in Newark, N.J. and Wilmington, Del. After further study in Rome, he served as vice-chancellor and then chancellor of the Wilmington Diocese.

Pope John Paul II named him a "Chaplain to His Holiness" in July 2000, with the title of "Monsignor." Pope Benedict XVI named him a "Prelate of Honor" in November 2005.

"I have a passion for parish life and will always have the heart of a parish priest," he said. "I am looking forward to experiencing the vibrant, welcoming new evangelization parishes of the diocese and reaching out together as Eucharistic riches of the divine mercy to the wonderful and beautiful inactive Catholics in our midst."

Barres was ordained a bishop and installed as the fourth bishop of Allentown on July 30, 2009. He was the first priest ordained a bishop in the Diocese of Allentown.

There, he called on all parishes to establish their own Parish Pastoral Councils, and he supported efforts of pastors, teachers and parents to strengthen Catholic schools, according to the Rockville Centre Diocese's announcement.

Barres became emotional as he thanked the priests and parishioners of Allentown, at one point needing almost 20 seconds to compose himself during his thought.

"You will always be in my heart, my memories, my prayers and my Masses as I remember our days of holiness and mission together," he said as his voice slightly cracked.

Barres addressed the St. Agnes students on several occasions during his speech, looking right at them as he spoke.

"I am ecstatic about your futures in Jesus Christ and the way you, in the words of Pope Francis, shake up the church and the world with your enthusiasm and desire to dedicate your lives to Jesus and the mission of the Catholic church of the world," he told them. "I cannot wait to meet you and I cannot wait to serve you."

Barres said a short-term goal is to "really listen deeply to the people of God here" and to do so in a compassionate way and that his greatest hope is for everyone to be open to the Holy Spirit and to be "raised to a heroic level of sanctity."

Murphy said he will continue to act as a consultant whenever Barres needs him and is looking into other endeavors next year.

"I'm very excited that he's coming," he said of Barres. "I understand when John got a little emotional. I'm going to miss it, but I couldn't have been surrounded by better people."

Scott Brinton contributed to this story.

Who is John O. Barres?

- Born on Sept. 20, 1960, in Larchmont, N.Y.

- Parents Marjorie and Oliver were Protestant ministers who converted to Catholicism.

- Earned degrees from Princeton and New York universities and studied theology at Catholic University.

- Confirmation name is Francis, after Francis of Assisi.

The diocese's five bishops

Walter P. Kellenberg 1957 to 1976

John R. McGann 1976 to 2000

James T. McHugh 2000

William F. Murphy 2001 to 2016

John O. Barres 2016 to present

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Deck the halls with boughs of hol-ly, Fa la la la la la la la la.
See the blaz-ing Yule be-fore us, Fa la la la la la la la la.

Tis the sea-son to be jol-ly, Fa la la la la la la la la.
Strike the harp and join the cho-rus, Fa la la la la la la la la.

Don we now our gay ap-par-el, Fa-la, fa-la la la la la.
Fol-low me in mer-ry mea-sure, Fa-la, fa-la la la la la.

Troll the an-cient Yule-tide car-ol, Fa la la la la la la la la.
While I tell of Yule-tide trea-sure, Fa la la la la la la la la.

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Obituaries

Mary Tedesco

Mary Tedesco, 99, of Glen Cove, N.Y. died on Dec. 12, 2016. Beloved wife of the late Joseph. Loving mother of Concetta Pacini (Gianfranco). Dear sister of Alba Carbone (Ottavio). Adored grandmother of Antoinette (Peter), Dina (Jack), Maria (Joey) and John (Jennifer). Cherished great-grandmother of Peter, Cristina, Allie, Joey, Jack, Jenna, Julia and Mikayla. Also survived by nieces, nephews & friends. Visitation was held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. Mass will be at the Church of St. Rocco on Friday at 10 a.m. Entombment Holy Rood Cemetery. www.DodgeThomas.com

Robert F. Hoebich

Robert F. Hoebich, 55, of Locust Valley, N.Y. died on Dec. 9, 2016. Beloved son of Jane E. Hoebich and the late Edwin F. Hoebich. Loving brother of Christopher, Maureen Pickering (George), and Patrick. Proud uncle of Brian and Jessica. Also survived by loving relatives and friends. Visiting is at Oyster Bay Funeral Home, 261 South Street, Oyster Bay, N.Y., Friday 3 to 5 p.m. and 7 to 9 p.m. Funeral Mass St. Boniface Martyr Church, 12 Main Street, Sea Cliff, N.Y. on Saturday 10 a.m. Interment is private. www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com

John B. Pace

John B. Pace, 92, of Glen Cove, N.Y. died on Dec. 11, 2016. He was a WWII Navy Veteran. Beloved husband of Rose. Devoted father of Gary (Gloria) and Wendy (Ed) McColgan. Loving grandfather of Brian. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation was held at McLaughlin Kramer Megiel Funeral Home. Mass was held at the Church of St. Patrick. Interment Locust Valley Cemetery. In lieu of flowers contributions in his name may be made to St. Jude Children's Hospital Memphis TN.

Epifania Reyes

Epifania Reyes, 91, of Glen Cove, N.Y. died on Dec. 8, 2016. Loving mother of Madeleine Giraldi Manuel, Janette Witschel and Javiel. Cherished grandmother of eight. Visitation was held at McLaughlin Kramer Megiel Funeral Home, 220 Glen Street, Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542. (516) 676-8600.

John F. Hoffman

John F. Hoffman, 97, of Sea Cliff, N.Y. died on Nov. 25, 2016. He was a proud graduate of Kings Point Merchant Marine Academy class of 1944 and WWII Navy Veteran. Beloved husband of the late Mary. Loving father of Jack (Penny), Christopher (Sue) and Jane Hoffman. Cherished grandfather of Hayley, Krista, Luke, Elle and Bryce. He will be buried privately at the Grand Army Cemetery, Summit Hill, PA. Further information at Whitting Funeral Home, 300 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Head, N.Y. 11545 www.whitting.com

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Great Book Guru

- Ann DiPietro

*Dear Great Book Guru,
So many fun things to do this weekend in Sea Cliff – lots of parties, cookie swaps, and on Sunday at 5pm the lighting of the new Menorah on the Village Green! Any good books to recommend for a busy holiday celebrant?
Loving the Holidays*

Dear Loving the Holidays,
I have just finished a short, beautifully written and very disturbing book: THE SPINNING HEART by Donal Ryan. Set in a rural Irish village as the economy crashes in 2008, this debut novel tells the stories of a community whose world has gone awry. A local construction company- the prime source of employment for the village- goes bankrupt and its corrupt owner flees the country. His family, his workers, and their children face this new impoverished reality with varying degrees of grace and bitterness.

Each chapter is told by a different character so by the end of the book we have heard from twenty- one villagers with their stories revealing starkly contrasting views of the same events. We hear a six-year old girl's concerns about parental strife, her parents' fears of economic ruin, an aging patriarch's shame at his son's illicit dealings, the son's unspoken plea for forgiveness.... This is a work of enormous beauty, some humor, and offers a great insight into the Irish psyche- highly recommended!



Here Comes Santa Claus

Words and Music by Gene Autry and Oakley Haldeman

Moderately
Sua higher

Here comes San-ta Claus, Here comes San-ta Claus Right down San-ta Claus Lane.
Here comes San-ta Claus, Here comes San-ta Claus Right down San-ta Claus Lane.

Vix-on and Blitz-on and all his rein-deer are pull-ing on the rein.
He does-n't care if you're rich or poor for he loves you just the same.

Bells are ring-ing, chil-dren sing-ing; All is mer-ry and bright.
San-ta knows that we're God's chil-dren; That makes ev-'ry-thing right.

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Family donates mural to Glen Cove Hospital



Glen Cove Hospital rehabilitation patients now have a seascape mural to focus on during physical therapy exercises thanks to the Mink family.

Glen Cove Hospital rehabilitation patients will now have a beautiful seascape mural to focus on during physical therapy exercises thanks to the Mink family.

Frederick Mink was cared for at Glen Cove Hospital in his final days of lung cancer and his daughters were so appreciative of the compassionate care he received that they worked with Splashes of Hope to donate a mural for the hospital's rehab unit. Splashes of Hope, a nonprofit, create paintings for health care facilities to brighten the patient and visitor experience. The mural sponsored by the Mink Family was matched by funding from Splashes of Hope's Bay Cruise in

honor of Frederick Mink, who was Man of The Year in 2015. The family business, FM Brush Co., provided the Splashes of Hope artists' with paintbrushes of all shapes and sizes to create the mural.

"Having this mural will help our rehabilitation patients focus on their goals, which may even include walking around a beautiful scene like the one depicted on the wall, and hopefully better and more quickly achieve those aspirations," said Susan Kwiatek, DNP, executive director of Glen Cove Hospital. "We are very grateful to the Mink family for this donation and Splashes of Hope for their wonderful work."

North Shore Kiwanis and Key Club support Healing HeadBands Program

The North Shore K Family has joined hands with the Healing Headbands Program for 2016-2017. The Key Club will join with the program for their single service project for 2016-2017. The North Shore Kiwanis Club, the parent club for the NS Key Club, has also joined hands with this group. They've also invited the founders for Healing Headbands, Barbara Grapstein and Joanie Accolla, to a Kiwanis Club meeting.

Grapstein and Accolla are friends from Sea Cliff who joined together to form this

nonprofit organization. This non-profit organization, which was created two years ago, was formed to create colorful head coverings to bring joy to people who are battling cancer and other serious illnesses. These headbands are paired with special laughter exercises to help people laugh . . . not to make people laugh!

Together the K Family is "banding for a cause" as we move forward in our new year of service.



North Shore Key Club officers James Mastakouris and Robert Sharkey presented a check for \$620.00, from a recent fundraiser, to Joanie Accolla and Barbara Grapstein. Joined in this presentation was current Kiwanis President Merrideth Brosnan.



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GLENWOOD WATER DISTRICT NOTICE TO HOLD ANNUAL ORGANIZATION MEETING

Notice is hereby given that the Annual Organization Meeting of the Glenwood Water District will be held on the Wednesday January 4th 2017 at the Glenwood Water District Office, 6 Third Street, Glenwood Landing, N. Y. at ten o'clock am.

Dated: December 12, 2016
Kenneth S. Uihlein
Glenwood Landing, N. Y.
Commissioner, Secretary
880592

INVITATION FOR BIDDERS

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that sealed bids will be received by the City of Glen Cove Purchasing Agent, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542 until 11:00 a.m. on December 23, 2016 at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud and the contract awarded as soon thereafter as practicable for:

BID NO. 2016-014R
SWEEPER VACUUM
GLEN COVE GOLF COURSE

The Specifications and Bid Documents may be obtained at the Office of the Purchasing Agent, City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, N.Y. Contract Documents will be available beginning on December 15, 2016. Each bid must be made on the proposal form prepared for this work and in the

manner designated therein. The bid shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to the Purchasing Agent of the City of Glen Cove and marked on the outside with the name and address of the bidder, and the words "SWEEPER VACUUM, GLEN COVE GOLF COURSE - BID NO. 2016-014R".

The Contractor will be required to complete the form of "Evidence of Successful Completion of Similar Projects" included in the proposal.

The successful bidder must comply with all State and Federal Statutes relating to labor and Workers' Compensation.

The City reserves the right to reject any and all bids received, to waive any informality in the bids received and to accept that bid which in its judgment best serves the interests of the City.

Nancy Andreiev, Purchasing Agent

City of Glen Cove, New York

DATED: December 15, 2016

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Congratulations to the North Shore High School Cast and Crew of Distracted

On Friday, Nov. 18th and Saturday Nov. 19th, the North Shore Masquers' presented *Distracted*, a provocative and poignant play that asks us: Why it is so hard in our world to pay attention to what really matters? Many, many thanks to the cast, crew, and faculty that worked so hard to put this authentic play together at North Shore High School.

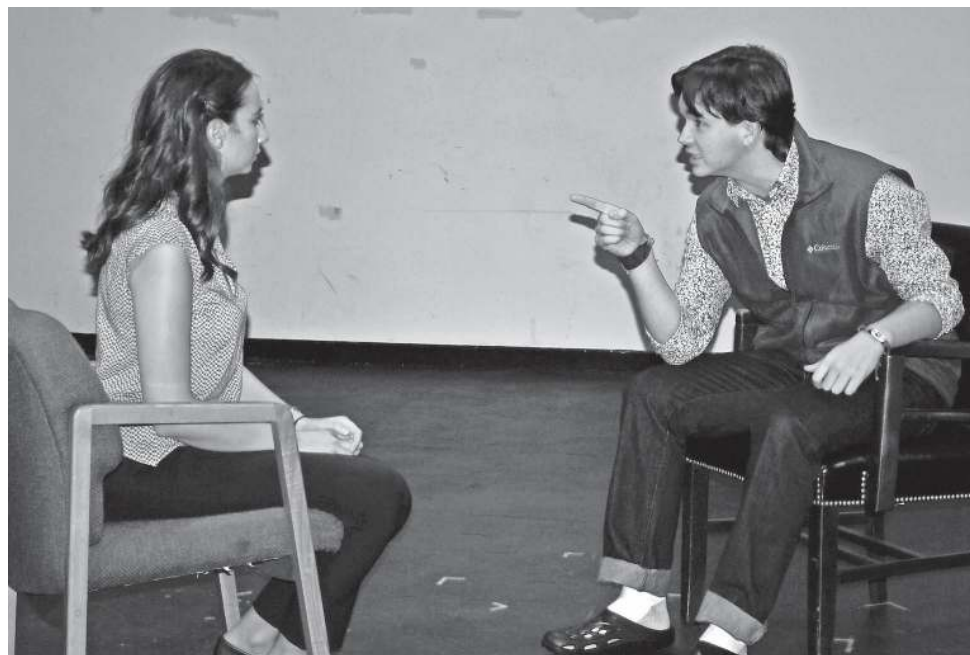
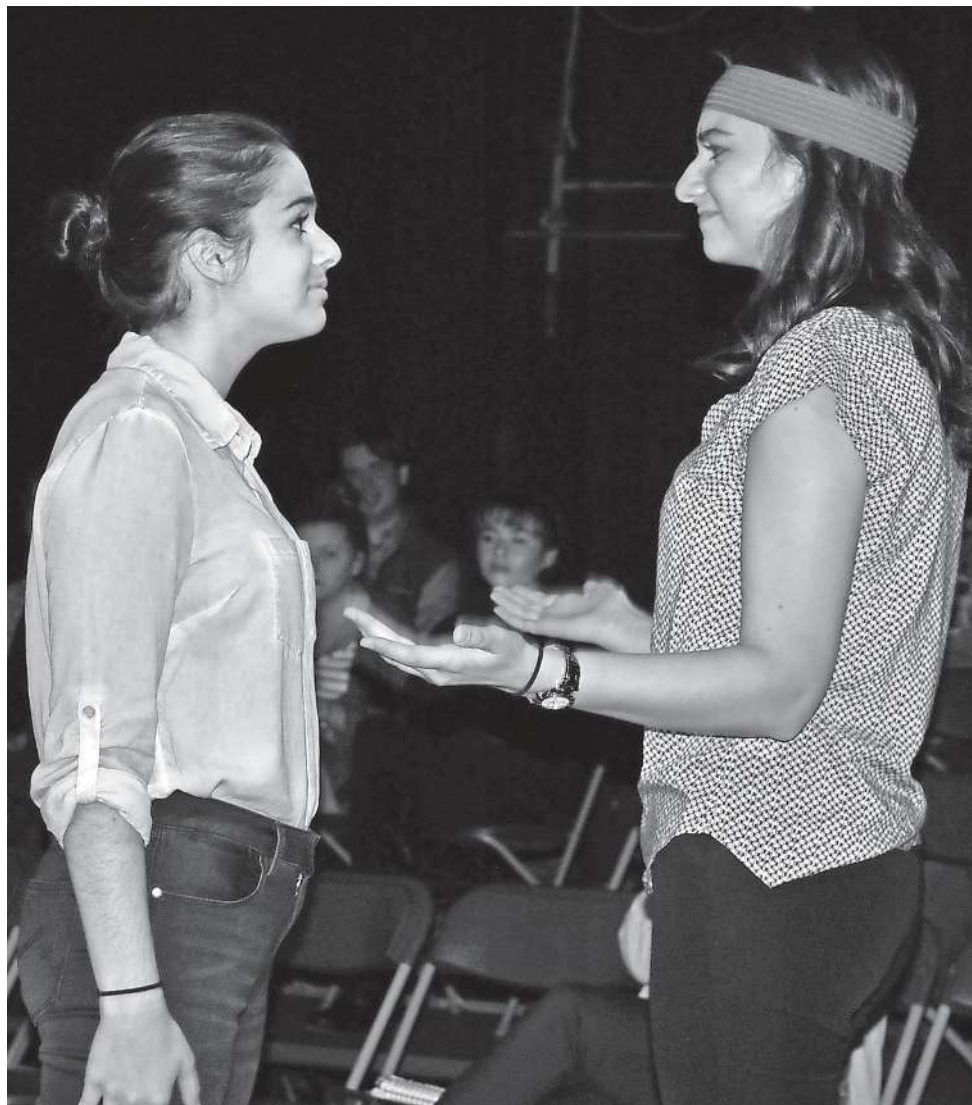
A standing ovation goes to the cast including: Cameron Capello (Mama), Michael MacDonnell (Dad), David Swett (Jesse), Haley Lerner (Dr. Zavala), Sonja Rose Bogolubov (Mrs. Holly), Olivia Bross (Dr. Waller), Joseph Doyle (Dr. Daniel Broder), Caroline Schwib (Sherry), Elizabeth Zarb (Vera), Stephanie Goglia (Natalie), Nicoletta Royal (Dr. Jinks), Marianna Oropallo (Carolyn), Peter Tzotchev (Dr. Karnes), Danielle Smith (Nurse), Madeline Podaras (Waitress), and Gabriel Dranow (Allergist). Congrats to the crew including: Michael Kleba (Director), Caroline Scheibe (Costume Design & Instruction), Rob Wiesmann and Michael Russo (Lighting Design), Benjamin Benfield (Set Design and Supervisor), William Laderer (Sound Design), and Peter Warzer (Media and Projection Advisor).

And, bravo to the production and stage crew including: Julia LiVigni (Producer), Christopher Lau (Assistant Producer), Ambrose Pompea, Marianna Oropallo, Darcy Winter, Zena Kontorouhas, Katie Brottenberg, Gabriel Dranow, Peter Tzotchev (Assistant to the Director), Cassandra Schatz (Stage Manager), and assistant stage managers, Miranda Kivlen, Kate Sweeney, Jordyn Rivera, Nathalie Arias, Helena Yun, Hannah Crabb, Colin Sweeney, Kayla Bailey, Gena Vineis, Laurette Lisena, Matt Stanton, Demi



Otis, Katherine Hunt, Lindsey Golden, Lauren Carbonara, Zoe Malin, Jessica Weber, Danielle Ligure, Max Gibson, Kim Marchese, Elizabeth Oswald, Stavroula Solomos, and Amanda Woods.

Distracted performed at NS High School. Congrats to the talented cast and crew! Article and photos by Shelly Newman



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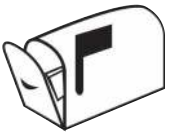
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Letters to the Editor



Sea Cliff Shuffle Not Over Yet

To the Editor:

The Incorporated Village of Sea Cliff over went an overhaul on Nov. 28, which left residents confused about what had just happened since the public was not invited to the proceedings. The board called for an executive session to reorganize and vote on a major governmental change. Mayor Bruce Kennedy stepped down as mayor after eight

years in office to become our villages administrator. That's all well and good but it does leave some questions to be answered. Why all the secrecy about making this transition take place? Why wasn't the job opening for a village administrator published according to municipal law? Transparency was sorely missing.

Joe Krupinski
Sea Cliff

BRIEFS

Glen Cove Rotary's Breakfast with Santa

The Rotary Club of Glen Cove will hold its annual Breakfast with Santa on Saturday, Dec. 17. Price includes a free photo and a gift from Santa for every child. Adults \$10, Children \$5 ages 4 to 12. Children 3 and under are free. Proceeds will benefit Glen Cove Scholarship and Community Services.

Holiday ornament craft at Garvies Point

Garvies Point Museum and Preserve is offering kids an opportunity to create a holiday craft on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. The museum is at 50 Barry Drive, Glen Cove. The cost is \$5 per participant. For further information, call (516) 571-8010.

Leonard Cohen Shabbat

Congregation Tifereth Israel, 40 Hill Street Glen Cove, a center for Jewish Life, will present a tribute to Leonard Cohen, his po-

etry and music at a Shabbat service on Friday, Dec. 23 at 7:30 p.m. Oneg Shabbat to follow. The event is free to the public. For further information call (516) 676-5080.

Legal Alert from Glen Cove BID

The U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Service has issued an updated I-9 form that employers must start using by January 22, 2017. The updated form is intended to reduce common errors on the form and to make the form easier to complete on a computer. More information on the I-9 form as well as the forms themselves can be found on at www.uscis.gov/i-9central.

Village of Upper Brookville Public Meeting

The Board of Trustees of the Incorporated Village of Upper Brookville will hold a public meeting at the Annex on the grounds of the Planting Fields Arboretum on Monday, Dec. 19 at 6:30 p.m.

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Mayor's Column

By Glen Cove Mayor Reginald Spinello

With the holidays fast approaching, I'd like to take a few moments to reflect on this year's accomplishments and to provide updates on important city projects and programs.

Highlights from 2016

Sale of Garvies Point property benefits Glen Cove's economy

We finalized the sale of the environmentally remediated property at Garvies Point to RXR Realty on Nov. 22. The remediation of this former superfund site marks the completion of a project 20 years in the making. It signifies the beginning of a billion dollar redevelopment program that will provide our community with 28 acres of public open space, waterfront parks and esplanades, restored wetlands and residential apartments and condominiums. A development of this magnitude was made possible through the hard and enduring work of many people in our community and we are grateful for the support we've received from federal, state and county agencies, the Glen Cove School District, the Glen Cove Library, and perhaps

most importantly the residents of our beautiful Glen Cove.

Restoring this property to our tax rolls through this development will produce more than 1,000 pre and post construction jobs. Of particular note is the fact that Phase 1 of the project will include all of the public amenities and park areas.

Upgrade in city's financial ratings

I am pleased to report that Moody's Investors Service has upgraded Glen Cove's bond rating from stable to positive. The evaluation by Moody's cited improved budgeting practices in 2015, which led us to a surplus of \$1.5 million. Immediately following that good news, it was reported in the Annual Municipalities in Stress Report released by the New York State Comptroller's office that Glen Cove had dropped two stress levels from significant stress to susceptible to financial stress — the lowest of the stress ratings. In the coming year, after 10 years of payments, the city will make its final payment on our \$12.8 million deficit-financing bond. Our fiscal health keeps improving!

Cost management

You may have recently read a Newsday re-

port that we are also working hard to manage our city's expenses. I'm happy to let you know that between 2014 and 2015 we were able to reduce city payroll costs by 5 percent, which was achieved by the voluntary separation incentive program I introduced in 2014. Through our work with the CSEA and the PBA, we were also able to reduce police overtime by 17 percent in 2015 and staff overtime costs by an additional 3 percent. With thanks to the commitment of our Glen Cove community, we recently celebrated the first anniversary of Single Stream Recycling and are pleased to announce that recycling increased by more than 30 percent at a cost savings to the city of \$120,000 due to our reduction in municipal solid waste.

Refreshing our parks

From a brand new Pickle Ball court and the renovation of the basketball and tennis courts at Stanco Park, to the city's first dog park at Dennis Brian Murray Park, our efforts to "Refresh Our Parks" is moving forward with great energy. Thanks to the generosity of Glen Cove Hospital, we have a new children's playground at Pryibil Beach and this spring, we will begin a two-phased

restoration of Morgan Memorial Park's lower restrooms — both interior and exterior. At Big Ralph Park, our community garden has doubled in size, and improvements to the facility's gardenscapes have enhanced the beauty of that park.

What's next?

Downtown Glen Cove should experience a significant increase in foot traffic with the arrival of AMC Movie Theatres to our downtown in the summer of 2017. We are also looking forward to seeing the start of a new development at the Village Square. The Village Square project (which is privately owned property), was recently sold to a developer who has the ability to turn this area around. The project will begin in 2017.

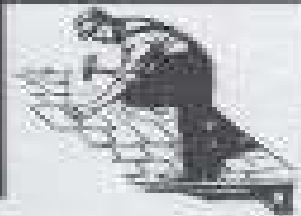
These are exciting times for our city. We are finally able to close the door on all of the impediments that have stood in the way of progress for so many years. Glen Cove is on the move! New growth, new jobs and a revived city are all on the way. We look forward to, and wish all of our residents, a prosperous New Year.

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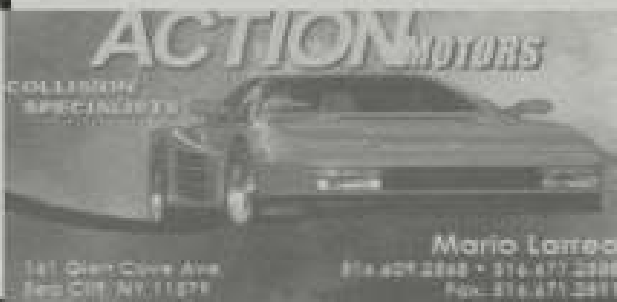
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