

GLEN COVE

HERALD

Gazette



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Ronny Reyes/Herald Gazette

BRIAN DEMASI, LEFT, and Simranjeet Singh play regular pickleball games at Stanco Park.

Their game is pickleball

Intergenerational sport thrives in Glen Cove

By **RONNY REYES**
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When he visited his parents in Florida five years ago, Eric Shuman, the activities coordinator for the Glen Cove Senior Center, was introduced to the sport of pickleball. Though he had 15 years of experience as a phys. ed. teacher and program director in the Great Neck School District, Shuman had never heard of pickleball, in which

players use special paddles to volley a Wiffle ball back and forth over a net, combining elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong.

Although the game seemed simple enough at first, Shuman found himself losing to his parents over and over again. “I really wanted to learn more about the game so I could beat them,” Shuman, 38, joked. “When I saw that they were offering it here at the YMCA, I signed up.”

Under the tutelage of Ron Menzel, a YMCA member, Shuman dived into the world of pickleball, and fell in love with the sport. He and Menzel became its leading advocates in Glen Cove. Shuman introduced it at the senior center, and spread the word to local parks, City Hall and neighboring towns. He eventually became an official ambassador for the USA Pickleball Association. And after three

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G.C. Village Square marks milestone

By **RONNY REYES**
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Exterior construction has been completed at 100 Village Square, in downtown Glen Cove, after more than two years of work. At a topping-out celebration last Friday, Joe Graziose, RXR Realty’s executive vice president of residential development and construction, said he was pleased to mark the milestone, as RXR continues work on two projects in the city that will create both residential and commercial space, one in Village Square and the other at Garvies Point.

“These developments are some of the largest projects on Long Island, and it’s amazing to oversee something that will reshape my own home for the future and for my grandchildren,” said Graziose, a Glen Cove native.

The \$53.9 million Village Square project, scheduled to open next March, is a 16,500-square-foot public plaza designed to help

revitalize the downtown area. The development, between School and Brewster streets, will feature 15,600 square feet of retail space and 146 studio apartments, 10 percent of them designated as workforce housing. There will be 171 parking spots, with 69 additional spaces to be reserved at the neighboring Brewster Street garage. RXR will make a \$207,000 one-time payment to the city for the garage parking.

It literally brings people into our downtown, and we invite them to make Glen Cove their home.

TIMOTHY TENKE
Mayor,
Glen Cove

Graziose added that there would also be a public walkway through the plaza, which would connect Garvies Point with the downtown area. The site, he said, was already the focus of attention from businesses interested in opening

there, including retail stores, banks, restaurants, coffee shops and fitness studios. Although tenants have yet to be chosen, developers said that they would look for businesses that fit and complement the downtown.

“This beautiful building will

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3



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Remembering the city's fallen on 9/11

BY RONNY REYES

rreyes@liherald.com

Michele Puckett-Formolo couldn't believe it when she heard that her father, John, had been killed during the Sept. 11 terrorist attack at the World Trade Center in 2001. Puckett-Formolo, then 16, was attending Glen Cove High School when she heard about the attacks. Her father was a sound engineer working at the North Tower that morning, so when Puckett-Formolo found out that a plane had struck the building, she wanted to think that he was somehow alright.

"I was in denial," Puckett-Formolo said. "I thought he went on an early break or he wasn't actually working there that morning, anything that would mean he wasn't up there."

Like thousands of others that day, Puckett-Formolo eventually learned that her father had indeed died at the WTC. John was one of four victims from Glen Cove — including Edward Lehman, Matthew McDermott and Joseph Zuccala — each of whom was honored by the city during the annual 9/11 Remembrance Ceremony at Pratt Park. As Mayor Timothy Tenke announced each victim's name, a bell was rung in front of the city's 9/11 Memorial, which commemorates the victims and the first responders at the WTC.

"What other day do we remember so vividly," Tenke asked. "This is a day to remember the victims, their families, the survivors and the first responders, many of whom are still suffering today."

Tenke added that the tragedy of the Sept. 11 attacks shouldn't fuel hatred and division in the U.S., a sentiment echoed by Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, who said she was with her two toddlers that morning when she saw the attacks on her television. DeRiggi-Whitton explained that while Sept. 11 was a day of solace, Sept. 12 represented a day when



Photos by Tab Hauser/Herald Gazette

GLEN COVE RESIDENTS gathered at Pratt Park to honor the victims of the Sept. 11 terrorist attack.

New York state and the country came together as one.

"We should remember Sept. 12 as the day we all hung our flags outside," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "We responded with unity that day."

She added that the nation still needed to come together for the first responders who rushed to find survivors at the WTC. More than 200 firefighters have died from WTC-related illnesses since the attacks and more than 70,000 are currently enrolled in the WTC Health Program. In July, the federal government signed a permanent extension of funding for the 9/11 Victim Compensation Fund.

As she helped Tenke place a wreath in front of the 9/11 Memorial, Puckett-Formolo said she enjoyed the ending of the ceremony that honored her father's life. Despite the grief and sorrow, Puckett-Formolo attends the ceremony every year.

"It's important to come together like this," she said. "It's about unity in our community, and that's special."



DOZENS OF THE city's first responders worked at the World Trade Center in the days, weeks and months after the attacks.

RXR to finish construction in March 2020

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

mark the gateway to downtown Glen Cove," said William DeCamp, senior vice president of Hunter Roberts Construction Group, which is working on the project.

As he watched the work at Village Square from his office in City Hall, Mayor Timothy Tenke reminisced about when some of the old buildings at the site stood nearly empty and blighted. A previous project to revitalize the area had stalled after seven years of work, he explained, and allowing RXR to take over construction, beginning in late 2017, proved to be a good move for the city. He said he hoped that new businesses and apartments downtown would bring renewed economic prosperity to Glen Cove.

"I'm extremely happy that the area is turning out exactly like it looked in their proposal and renderings," Tenke said. "There was an old way of thinking that said you needed to get people out of your downtowns" — which he described as a "death knell" for those areas. "But this

will bring people back," he added. "It literally brings people into our downtown, and we invite them to make Glen Cove their home."

Tenke also commended RXR's work at Garvies Point, where it is transforming 60 acres of land along Glen Cove Creek into a mixed-use site with 1,100 residences, 75,000 square feet of retail and office space and 28 acres of waterfront promenades and parks. The first phase of the \$1 billion project, now in its third year, includes the completion of more than 300 rental apartments in two buildings at Harbor Landing, expected by the end of the year. Graziore said that 30 leases were secured in the first two weeks after the leasing office opened for one of the buildings.

"For that to happen in the first 14 days tells you just how much people want to live in Glen Cove," Graziore said. "Garvies Point and Village Square are going to recharge and bring vibrancy to the local economy."



Tab Hauser/Herald Gazette

WITH THE EXTERIOR construction done this month, Village Square would be completed by March 2020.



Photos by Tab Hauser/Herald Gazette

CHRISTIAN FLORO DIVED into a pool to rescue a 73-year-old woman trapped in her car.

Man jumps into pool to rescue trapped senior

Glen Cove resident Christian Floro was in his house on Tuesday when he heard a loud crash at the corner of Elm Avenue and Rellim Drive. When he looked outside his window, Floro stared at the bizarre sight of a Mercedes Benz with a woman at the wheel crashing through his neighbor's fence and driving right into the backyard pool.

"And I heard her screaming, so I came outside, ran over here and jumped in and grabbed her," Floro said.

Glen Cove Police Detective Lieutenant John Nagle said that the 73-year-old driver had gotten into an accident at the intersection and continued to accelerate, driving through a bush and fence on Rellim Drive. Her foot stayed on the accelerator as the car veered left onto Elm Avenue, where she eventually crashed through the fence and into the pool.

The woman was stuck in the car as it sank, Nagle added, and he thanked both Floro and Manny Grella, another civilian who responded to the accident, for their quick action.

"Christian jumped in there, went in through the back seat and pulled her out of there," Nagle said. "He really is a hero."

Police and emergency responders arrived at the scene shortly afterward. The woman was taken to a nearby hospital, where she was treated for minor injuries. The driver of the other car involved in the accident had no major injuries.

Nagle said that Floro would be presented with a civilian award at next year's Memorial Day ceremony in recognition for his action.

Tab Hauser contributed to this story.



AFTER GETTING INTO a car accident at the corner of Elm Avenue and Rellim Drive, the senior driver kept accelerating and crashed through fences on both streets.

CRIME WATCH

■ A male, 29, of Brentwood, was arrested on Sept. 10, on Kemp Avenue, for menacing and criminal contempt.

■ A male, 24, of Bayville, was arrested on Sept. 10, on Glen Street, for DWI, operating an unregistered moving vehicle on the highway, operating a moving vehicle with improper plates, operating a moving vehicle without an inspection certificate and other vehicle and traffic law violations.

■ A male, 35, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Sept. 12, on Landing Road, for criminal possession of a controlled substance, unlawful possession of marijuana

and aggravated unlicensed operation of a moving vehicle, as well as open warrants for the First District Court.

■ A male, 24, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Sept. 13, on Glen Street, for grand larceny.

■ A male, 19, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Sept. 13, on Clement Street, for criminal possession of a controlled substance and unlawful possession of marijuana.

■ A male, 27, of Glen Cove, was arrested on Sept. 14, on Cedar Swamp Road, for open container of alcohol.

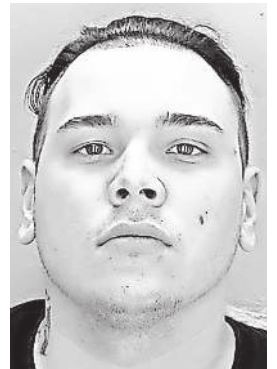
People named in Crime Watch items as having been arrested and charged with violations or crimes are only suspected of committing those acts of which they are accused. They are all presumed to be innocent of those charges until and unless found guilty in a court of law.

Police seek G.C man for Harbor Patrol burglary

Nassau County Police Department has issued an alert for a Glen Cove man wanted for allegedly burglarizing the Glen Cove Harbor Patrol headquarters last year.

Back in February 2018, Police said Elvin Bowman, 24, broke into the headquarters building on Shore Road. Video evidence connected Bowman to the crime scene and he was arrested shortly afterwards on Feb. 6. Bowman is wanted by the police department and the Nassau County Court for burglary by illegal entry with the intent to commit a crime. He was described as 5-foot 9 and weighing about 200-pounds. He has black hair and hazel eyes.

Police ask that anyone with information about Bowman's reach out to detectives at (516)-573-7524. All callers will remain anonymous.



Elvin Bowman



1-800-244-TIPS

Nassau County Crime Stoppers

The public is asked to call Crime Stoppers if they have any information about any crimes.



GLEN COVE
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HOW TO REACH US

Our offices are located at **2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530** and are open from 8:30 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

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THE WEEK AHEAD

Nearby things to do this week



Post 336 anniversary

Join the Glenwood Landing Post 336 for its 100th anniversary and officer installation dinner at the post on Sept. 21 at 6 p.m. at 190 Glen Head Road, Glen head. A brief ceremony will be followed by a full sit down dinner with an open bar. Reservations are requested. (516) 671-6347.

The Glenn Palermo Blues Band

The Glenn Palermo Blues Band is a combination of the best musicians in New York who specialize in the blues. They will be playing Delta Blues, Chicago Blues, Blues from New Orleans and Boogie Woogie at the Glen Cove Senior Center on Sept. 25 at 6 p.m. It will be a fun night of dancing, singing and finger tapping at 130 Glen St., Glen Cove. (516) 759-9610.



It's time to put your garden to bed

Proper care of one's landscape in the fall is important. This program at the Bayville Library will offer some pointers on what how to ready your garden for winter. Presented by a Cornell Cooperative Extension master gardener at 7 p.m. on Sept. 26 at 34 School St., Bayville. (516) 628-2765.



Theatrical showcase

Music director-composer Andy Roninson, the 2019 Jonathan Larson Grant winner, is the featured performer at this year's Larson Legacy Concert at Adelphi University's Performing Arts Center, on Sunday, Sept. 22, at 3 p.m. Roninson, along with a cast of musicians and vocalists, will perform songs from his podcast "Take a Ten," as well as new material from musicals in the works. The Larson Legacy Concert Series celebrates the legacy of

Adelphi alumnus Jonathan Larson '82, creator of the Pulitzer Prize-winning musical "Rent." Info: (516) 877-4000 or www.aupac.adelphi.edu.



'Fall Wildflowers' Walk

Take in the vibrant colors and delicate scents of wildflowers during a nature walk through Muttontown Preserve's miles of nature trails, in East Norwich, on Sunday, Sept. 22, 10 a.m.-12 p.m. Enjoy fall's beauty with the help of an experienced guide, while strolling along paths and fields, including some spectacular views in the main field. Registration is required. Info: (516) 571-8500.



Christina Daly/Herald Gazette

GLEN COVE SENIOR Center Director Carol Waldman, a pillar of the city, will retire in November.

Glen Cove Senior Center director plans to retire

Glen Cove Senior Center Director Carol Waldman will retire from her post as the center's head in November. Waldman, 66, who has led the senior center for 18 years, has been the dynamo that empowered Glen Cove's senior community and was also the Herald Gazette's first-ever Person of the Year in 2017.

Waldman first joined the senior center after moving to Sea Cliff in 1991. She started part-time as the program coordinator where she created fun activities for seniors to enjoy. As she loved creating art, music and dance activities at the center, Waldman became a critical part of its operations and was eventually hired as the executive director in 2001. By 2005, Waldman created the Glen Cove Senior

Activity Generational Endowment, or SAGE, Foundation, a nonprofit that raises funds for the programs at the senior center. The following year, she and the City Council teamed up to host the inaugural Glen Cove Senior Day celebration, which honors the city's senior citizens and the work being done at the senior center.

"Carol is a gift to the city," Glen Cove City Mayor Timothy Tenke said during this year's Senior Day on Sept. 7. "The senior center is a dynamic facility where seniors have a place to go and socialize."

Outside the senior center, Waldman runs an antiques business with her husband, John, called Back Road Collections, which is housed in their Connecticut farmhouse.

Regency to host Mini Walk

The Regency Assisted Living at Glen Cove will host a Mini Walk for Alzheimer's event on Sept. 21, at 1:30 p.m., at 94 School St. The one-hour-long event would close half of School Street as seniors and their families walk to benefit the Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center. The event will also feature a walker wash and decoration booth, music, crafts temporary tattoos and refreshments.

The Regency's Executive Director of Corporate Relations and Events Amy Amato said that the event was perfect for The Regency's Safe Harbor Memory Care facility. Safe Harbor acts as a self-contained neighborhood within The Regency that specializes in Alzheimer's and dementia care.

"This is the first one Mini Walk we're hosting, but we're hoping to be able to do another one in the future," Amato said.

The Regency is a licensed assisted living residence in downtown Glen Cove.



Courtesy Alzheimer's Association/Flickr

GENCY WILL HOST an Alzheimer's walk on Sept. 21.

HERALD SCHOOLS

District to hold tours for bond vote

The Glen Cove City School District Board of Education discussed the upcoming bond vote during a Board of Education meeting on Sept. 11.

The bond, estimated at \$76 million, would be split into two propositions and help address overcrowding at Deasy and Connolly, relocate two classrooms that are in the basement at Landing and Gribbin up to compliance with the American with Disabilities Act. It would also provide finances for security and classroom upgrades. Monica Alexandris-Miller, the vice president of the board, said that while Proposition 1 could be passed alone, Proposition 2 couldn't be passed without the former. She added that the school would be ramping up its efforts to educate residents in time for the vote come Oct. 22.

"Flyers with the information will be available at every school event, and voter guides will be mailed out to all residents within the coming weeks," Alexandris-Miller said.

The district will also be holding tours of its school buildings in October. After school tours will be available at the Deasy Elementary School on Oct. 2 and at the Connolly, Landing, Gribbin, Robert M. Finley and Glen Cove High School on Oct. 10. Tours are 45-minutes long and start at 6 p.m.



Photos Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

GLEN COVE CITY School District Superintendent Maria Rianna, right, and Monica Alexandris-Miller, vice president of the Board of Education, discussed the upcoming bond vote on Sept. 11.

School spirit reignites through uniforms



THE GLEN COVE High School marching band played the national anthem wearing their new uniforms.

As they played the national anthem to open a Glen Cove City School District Board of Education meeting, the Glen Cove High School Marching Band showed off their brand new uniforms on Sept. 11.

District Superintendent Maria Rianna said the uniforms were acquired through the help of Danielle Fugazy, president of the Glen Cove Education Foundation. Through the group's fundraising efforts, the school was able to afford not only new uniforms for the marching band, but also for the cheer squad. Rianna said he hoped that the new uniforms would help reinvigorate school spirit throughout the community and welcomed everyone to attend the district's annual Homecoming Parade on Oct. 12.

Sea Cliff legislative intern wants to move the future

BY MIKE CONN

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Social justice advocacy has been a huge part of Sophie Blumenthal's life for as long as she can remember. She has always felt a need to push for equality among all people, wanting to meaningfully affect change on a wide scale. At 16 years old, she's on a faster track to doing so than people twice her age as the field director of Legislator Josh Lafazan's high school internship program.

Sophie, who lives in Sea Cliff, found out about Lafazan's internship program in 2017 after her parents, Noah and Beatrice, met the then-candidate, an independent from Woodbury, at a Democratic Club of Hempstead Harbor meeting. They figured Lafazan's push toward getting teenagers involved in his campaign was a perfect opportunity for their daughter, despite her not having even entered high school yet.

"We knew how politically minded Sophie was at the time," said Noah, "so we took a business card and brought it home to [her] and she took it from there." He said this was especially true after the 2016 presidential election, the results of which his daughter felt were a consequence of the injustices existing in the United States today.

Sophie jumped on the opportunity without much hesitation, and began canvassing, calling constituents and knock-



Courtesy Sophie Blumenthal

SOPHIE BLUMENTHAL, RIGHT, has worked closely with Josh Lafazan during her three years in his office.

ing on doors on behalf of Lafazan's campaign.

Now a junior at North Shore High School, Sophie served as the field director of Lafazan's high school internship pro-

gram this past summer. She oversaw between 50 and 60 interns as they planned policy, operated the legislator's social media accounts and created events for him to host, among other responsibilities.

"Transformative," was how Sophie described her experience working with Lafazan's office. "It really opened my mind to the entire worlds of politics and the realm of what is possible," as politics are no longer a "far away issue" for her.

Lafazan described Sophie as precocious and dedicated to making her beliefs a reality. "She is the most ahead of her time teenager I've ever met," he said. "Oftentimes I forget how young she is."

As she moves forward with her life and career, Sophie said she wants to find herself in politics and to study political science in college. She said she understands that compassion, empathy and kindness can be beneficial tools in the world of politics and wants to put emphasis on people's positive qualities when working with them.

"My greatest hope for my kids is that they're happy," Noah said. "So, I could tell a story about hoping she will run for office or do some great political thing and that may well be what happens, but my greatest hope for her is that she pursues something she's passionate about and she does work that makes her happy."

Lafazan made it clear that he has the utmost confidence in Sophie's future success in politics. "I just hope she saves a cabinet position for me when she's president," he said.

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HERALD SPORTS

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WILL SCAROLA

North Shore Senior Football

A THREE-SPORT STANDOUT for the Vikings, Scarola will look to help lead the football squad to the Nassau Conference III playoffs after it missed making the cut last season. In 2018, the two-way starter (slot receiver/cornerback) and special teams contributor found the end zone seven times and totaled 800 all-purpose yards. He'll serve as a captain this year. Committed to Hofstra University to play baseball, Scarola is also a key member of North Shore's basketball team and has earned honors in all three sports.

GAMES TO WATCH

Thursday, Sept. 19

Girls Volleyball: Glen Cove at Lawrence 4:30 p.m.

Friday, Sept. 20

Girls Soccer: Great Neck South at Glen Cove 4:15 p.m.

Girls Tennis: Glen Cove at Clarke 4:30 p.m.

Girls Soccer: MacArthur at North Shore 4:30 p.m.

Girls Swimming: North Shore at Freeport 4:30 p.m.

Girls Tennis: Wheatley at North Shore 4:30 p.m.

Field Hockey: Oyster Bay at North Shore 4:45 p.m.

Girls Volleyball: Carey at North Shore 5 p.m.

Saturday, Sept. 21

Field Hockey: North Shore at Seaford 10 a.m.

Girls Soccer: Glen Cove at Jericho 12 p.m.

Football: Wantagh at North Shore 2 p.m.

Football: V.S. North at Glen Cove 2 p.m.

Boys Soccer: Glen Cove at Plainview 7 p.m.

Monday, Sept. 23

Girls Tennis: Glen Cove at Carey 4:15 p.m.

Girls Volleyball: North Shore at Bethpage 4:30 p.m.

Girls Tennis: North Shore at Herricks 4:30 p.m.

Boys Soccer: North Shore at Floral Park 4:45 p.m.

Glen Cove fit to be tied

By J.D. FREDA

sports@iherald.com

Glen Cove boys' soccer boasts a talented roster in 2019. Through five games, including three conference battles, it hasn't lost. The issue is, the Big Red hasn't won, either.

"We have five draws through five games," coach Brian Smith said. "Obviously, that doesn't sit well with any of us."

But, there is a silver lining in the games played for the Big Red thus far this year. In every single contest where a goal was scored by either side, Glen Cove led at one point of the match. While that points to some correction needed late in games, the more telling conclusion is the team has the ability to score, defend, and compete with anyone in its conference.

Glen Cove's most recent draw came Monday at Hewlett in a 2-2 game where Luciano Tuo and Josue Fuentes netted goals for the Big Red. Smith saw improvement, but noted where further development has to be made.

"We were getting better possessions, seemed to be able to utilize our strengths and were touching the ball very well," Smith said. "But the other team played well, and although we are improving there are still some things we need to tighten up."

Even with teams that have winning records within the conference, Smith feels like his squad has the capabilities to play with any of them, and it has. In a 0-0 tie on Sept. 13, Glen Cove tied Bellmore JFK, a team with no losses and a win on the season. Glen Cove kept it to without a goal, but couldn't capitalize on its own opportunities.

"We're improving overall," Smith said. "We're fit. Although we're shorter than both teams, we're not getting beat in the aerial game. We're doing a good job resetting, passing with purpose, we hold on to the ball well and employ a good touch, but we need to utilize our touches better and avoid fouls."

Glen Cove has to finish .500 or better for a shot at the playoffs, and the talented core of this team has the ability to get it there.

Nikolas Vidal is a clinical finisher that ranked in the top goal scorers in the county two years ago. He has four goals through five games. "He is a sublime talent, a



Ron Manfredi/Herald

SENIOR NIKOLAS VIDAL is off to a torrid scoring pace with four goals in Glen Cove's first five games, all of which finished in a draw.

why he gets man-marked by at least two, sometimes three defenders game to game."

Center back Yunior Velazquez was also lauded by his coach. "He is smart, poised, has a great touch, and knows when to attack," Smith said. "He's been playing great."

Defensive midfielder Michael Battle is a great, athletic addition to the Big Red's

a lightning quick pace.

Moving forward, Smith understands the touch competition that lies ahead. "We play in a very competitive conference where teams are filled with athletes that are going to compete with us," Smith said. "It is up to us to progress to be the team I know we are capable of being."

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HERALD NEIGHBORS

Glen Cove cleans up the coast

The City of Glen Cove hosted International Coastal Cleanup Day at Pryibil Beach and Morgan Memorial Park on Sept. 14. The annual event, which began more than 30 years ago, celebrates coastal communities around the world coming together to clean up the litter along their respective shorelines.

During this year's event, more than 30 residents gathered at the Glen Cove site, along with a team of scuba divers, to fill up trash bags with cigarette butts, Styrofoam, spent fireworks, food wrappers, glass bottles and other garbage. Glen Cove Mayor Timothy Tenke, who helped host the event in the city, said it was important for residents to volunteer their time to make sure Glen Cove's waters and beaches remain clean.

"We are a beautiful, waterfront community, and I love when the community comes together to volunteer like this," Tenke said. "The coastline of Glen Cove is our biggest asset and we must strive to protect it."



Photos by Tab Hauser/Herald Gazette

DIVER BOB HECHT, above, emerged from the waters off Morgan Memorial Park with a rusty pipe during International Coastal Cleanup Day on Sept. 14.

VOLUNTEER DIVERS, FROM left, Kellee Fras, Joe Caraccia, Danny Osnato, Larry Hochman, Edward Tolver and Christopher Mitchel, left, readied themselves to glen the waters.

RESIDENTS SPREAD OUT to clean up the beach, bottom-left, at Morgan Memorial Park.

DAN HERNANDEZ, LEFT, put trash away, top-left, with the help of Irene Lucarella, left, and Coleen Spinello.



COMMUNITY CALENDAR

Thursday, September 19

AARP Smart Driver

Gold Coast Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 9 a.m. This course is designed for NYS licensed and insured drivers. Participants must show proof of current AARP membership at the time of registration to pay a non-refundable \$20 fee. Non-members pay a non-refundable \$25 fee. One check per person, payable to AARP. Attendees should bring a brown-bag lunch to class. (516) 759-8300.

Friday, September 20

Bilingual Birdies

Glen Cove Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, 10:30 a.m. Bilingual Birdies encourages cross-cultural awareness through foreign language and live music. Using music, movement, dance, puppetry and theatre-based games, children ages 3 through 5 will enjoy learning a new language. It's a perfect opportunity for young ones to expand their knowledge on the many languages the world has to offer. (516) 676-2130.

Ice cream science

Oyster Bay-East Norwich Library, 89 East Main St., Oyster Bay, 4:30 p.m. Children age 6 and up will experiment with the molecular nature of matter culminating in the production of a tasty crystallized concoction known as ice cream. (516) 922-1212.

Saturday, September 21

Sea Cliff outdoor market

St. Luke's Episcopal Church courtyard, 253 Glen Ave., Sea Cliff, 9 a.m. Shop from a selection of locally grown vegetables, fresh eggs, flowers, baked goods, local honey, plant-based prepared meals and snacks, jams, soaps and more. Weekly guest artists and craft vendors will also be on site. Ongoing every Saturday through Oct. 26. (516) 318-5487.

The Fall Garden

Glen Cove Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, 11 a.m. Join horticulturist Paul Levine as he shares information about the fall garden. He will bring and raffle off fall plants and discuss the best locations in the garden for each, as well as the best soil and fertilizer. (516) 676-2130.

Sunday, September 22

Make your own scrimshaw candle

Planting Fields Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay, 12 p.m. Scrimshaw is one of the oldest American folk arts and served as a pastime for sailors on long voyages. Children will make their own scrimshaw candle to take home. All supplies are provided. Parent supervision required. Free for members, \$5 for non-members. (516) 922-9210.

Monday, September 23

1970s era celebration

Glen Cove Senior Center, 130 Glen St., Glen Cove, 12 p.m. Spread some peace



Photo by Nakeem Grant/Herald

Golfing Through Sea Cliff

The zany golf event through the front and back lawns, hidden gardens, parks and passageways of the 136-year-old Victorian village is back. Participants should bring their own irons. A three iron and a pitching wedge are suggested. Participants will get true-flight practice balls, a map and a scorecard and will be assigned a hole to start. There are 24 par three holes for a par score of 72. There will be "Masters Green Jackets" for winning male and female participants, as well as other prizes. Participants can receive their supplies at the corner of Central and Sea Cliff avenues beginning at 8:30 a.m. (516) 662-2821.

and love while wearing a groovy 1970s outfit and listening to some classic tunes. (516) 759-9610.

Tuesday, September 24

Spelling bee

Glen Cove Senior Center, 130 Glen St., Glen Cove, 11 a.m. Participants can test out their spelling skills on the way toward earning a prize. (516) 759-9610.

Free senior IDs — Town of Oyster Bay

Bayville Free Library, 34 School St., Bayville, 12 p.m. Supervisor Joseph Saladino and the Oyster Bay Town Board invites residents to obtain free wallet-sized Senior IDs at the Bayville Free Library. The Senior ID includes name and date of birth, emergency contact information, a photo that is taken on site, and any allergies and or medical conditions. Individuals must be 60 years or older and a Town of Oyster Bay resident. Proof of residency can be a driver's license or piece of mail. (516) 628-2765.

Write an effective college app essay

Glen Cove Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, 7 p.m. A 60-minute seminar that explains all the do's and don'ts to make essays unique and reflect the writer perfectly. The specific three-step process will be demonstrated as well as the five golden rules that guarantee a stellar

essay. Q and A time will follow. Participants should bring paper to take notes. (516) 676-2130.

Adult preventative health

Bayville Free Library, 34 School St., Bayville, 7 p.m. Learn how primary care

doctors are able to protect, promote and maintain health and well-being in order to prevent disease, disability and death. Presented by Dr. Giancarlo DeCarolis, a Northwell Health physician who specializes in family medicine.



Courtesy Flickr

Mini-walk for Alzheimer's at Regency

Join the Regency Assisted Living at Glen Cove for a mini-walk for the benefit of the Alzheimer's Disease Resource Center on Sept. 21. The day will feature a warmup with Max Challenge of Glen Cove, walker wash and decorating, music, crafts, temporary tattoos and refreshments. Donations are suggested. The event kicks off at 1:30 p.m. at 94 School St., Glen Cove. (516) 674-3007.

(516) 628-2765.

Glen Cove City Council meeting

Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen St., Glen Cove, 7:30 p.m. Join the Glen Cove City Council as it discusses the most important matters going on in the city. Public participation will follow the agenda items. (516) 676-2000.

Wednesday, September 25

Siamese Mah Jong

Locust Valley Library, 170 Buckram Road, Locust Valley, 10 a.m. Siamese Mah Jongg is a brand new two-handed version of the game of Mah Jongg. It's stimulating, challenging, and lots of fun. Everyone who plays just loves the game. (516) 671-1837.

Emoji painting

Bayville Free Library, 34 School St., Bayville, 7:30 p.m. Children from kindergarten through third grade can paint their favorite emoji to hang up in their bedrooms. (516) 628-2765.

100 Years of Children's Books exhibit

North Shore Historical Museum, 140 Glen St., Glen Cove, 7 p.m. This new exhibit will help viewers remember favorite books and magazines that struck them and have stayed in their minds because of the story, the characters or the illustrations, celebrating popular children's and young adult reading of the last 100 years. Admission is \$10. Refreshments will be served. (516) 801-1191.

Thursday, September 26

Rosh Hashanah celebration

Glen Cove Senior Center, 130 Glen St., Glen Cove, 12 p.m. Celebrate the Jewish New Year with Cantor Gustavo Gitlin of Congregation Tifereth Israel. (516) 759-9610.

Friday, September 27

Free skin cancer screening

Glen Cove Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, 10 a.m. Thanks to the partnership of Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton and Greenberg Cosmetic Surgery and Dermatology, Dr. Steven T. Greenberg and Dr. Eve Lupenko-Ferrante, residents can receive a free skin cancer screening. Screenings are by appointment only. (516) 364-8200

Pizza making

Oyster Bay-East Norwich Library, 89 East Main St., Oyster Bay, 4 p.m. Children and teens grades 5 through 12 can make their own personal pizza piled high with toppings. Pizzas can be baked at home. (516) 922-1212

SummerStrings! Rock Fest concert

North Shore High School, 450 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Head, 7:30 p.m. Kid and teen rock orchestras perform music by artists including Queen, U2, The Eurhythmics, Toto and more. (516) 277-7000.

HAVING AN EVENT?

Submissions can be emailed to llane@liherald.com.



Courtesy Kiwanis Club of North Shore

KIWANIS PRESIDENT CESAR Sosa, left, presented a certificate of appreciation to Rai and Dr. Santhosh Paulus.

Accolades for Cycling For a Change

The Kiwanis Club of North Shore hosts various organizations that are invited to present a program throughout the service year. The purpose of these programs is to provide information on a variety of important topics to its members and Cycling For Change is one of these organizations. Its mission statement is to cycle, raise awareness and

fundraise to support organizations on the front lines of battling human trafficking. Kiwanis President Cesar Sosa presented a certificate of appreciation for their time and dedication to the dynamic duo of Dr. Santhosh Paulus and his wife Rai, founders of the Cycling For Change Organization.

Congressman honors a local hero

U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi presented an American flag that flew over the capital to Glen Cove's own William "Joe" Johnson, a World War II veteran and member of the famed Tuskegee Airmen.

Johnson and his family moved to Glen Cove in 1929 to escape racism in North Carolina. After graduating from Glen Cove High School in 1943, Johnson joined the Army Air Corps and eventually found himself flying with the Tuskegee Airmen, the nation's first black military avia-

tors who completed more than 15,000 sorties in Europe and North Africa and pushed for integration in the military.

"I loved flying, and the Tuskegee Airmen gave me a chance, just like everybody else," Johnson said. "It was my greatest adventure, and I am blessed to have been a participant."

After returning from the war, Johnson earned his college degree, raised a family in Glen Cove and became a supervisor at Grumman Aerospace.



Courtesy Office of U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi

WILLIAM JOHNSON, LEFT, shared his stories about growing up in Glen Cove and flying as a Tuskegee Airman with U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi.

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Bromante set to take NASCAR by storm

By MIKE CONN

mconn@iherald.com

John and Stacey Bromante's Locust Valley home has a fountain and coy pond in front, and a large pool and half a basketball court in the backyard. What really sets it apart, though, is its basement, which goes well beyond storage space, playroom or man cave. It is decorated with hundreds of trophies and medals brought home by their 16-year-old son Giovanni, and his personalized NASCAR race simulator.

Giovanni trains on this simulator, which has helped him prepare for his career in racing, which he is set to begin full time in February, now that he has officially signed with the Visconti Motorsports NASCAR team. He has been working toward this for years.

Born on Aug. 9, 2003, Giovanni was introduced to the world of racing at age 5, when his grandfather, car enthusiast Don Ronaldo, took him to the Nassau Coliseum for a kids' go-kart race. Stacey said that her son had already become an enthusiastic go-kart and dirt bike rider, so a race seemed like the perfect opportunity for him to showcase his skills. His family turned out to be right: He won it. Racing was in Giovanni's future.

He has spent much of the past decade either on the road or the racetrack, traveling across the country to one go-kart

race or another. It made for a rather unorthodox childhood, and Giovanni said he never had any friends aside from his father, who owns Bromante Landscape Design in Sea Cliff, who traveled with him nearly everywhere, and his fellow racers. While his sister, Gianna, and brother, Gianni, attended Locust Valley schools, Giovanni was home-schooled by tutors. It has been worth it, he said, because he has been able to work toward his dream.

John explained that his relationship with Giovanni was different from that of most fathers and sons, because Giovanni has been racing 42 weekends a year, traveling constantly, since he was 6. Thanks to the help of dedicated workers at his landscaping company, he was able to accompany his son on his trips. He described their relationship as a close

friendship.

"I became a race dad rather than his real father," John said. "I had to make sure that he was taken care of at the track, that he was eating properly, that he was waking up, that he was doing his exercising, so we had a very different relationship as a father [and] son."

As a child on the national go-kart circuit, Giovanni's travels were funded mostly by his parents. Things got a bit easier on them financially once the sponsorships started rolling in.

Giovanni made his biggest career leap in 2016, when he

won the Bojangles Summer Shootout, a legends car — small cars which made in the style of 1930s and 40s automobiles — race on a quarter-mile oval track on the Charlotte Motor Speedway in North Car-

olina. In 2017, he was offered a spot on the David Gilliland Racing team, driving in 12 races for the team throughout the southern U.S. until the end of the year. In 2018, he switched teams and began driving for Anthony Campi Racing, with which he stayed until his most recent signing with Visconti Motorsports.

Perhaps Giovanni's most significant victory came in March, when he won the Rattler 250 at the South Alabama Speedway in Kinston, Ala. and a cash prize of \$10,000. While many of his races up to that point were against people his age, in Kinston he beat drivers in their 30s, 40s and 50s as a 15-year-old. The victory attracted the attention of Visconti Motorsports, which signed Giovanni to a contract beginning next February.

"I felt like it was a relief, because I didn't know what I was doing next year," he said. "I could have done another season of super late model [used in lower national-level race series], but everything just lined up perfectly, and I just felt a relief that I'm going to be racing and I'm going to be moving up next year and just a step closer to my goal."

Giovanni is now on the cusp of that goal, which is to join the NASCAR Cup Series and step up to Generation 6 stock cars, modern NASCAR's most common model. The only thing holding him back is his age: Drivers need to be 18 to race

CONTINUED ON PAGE 137



Photo by Mike Conn/Herald Gazette

BROMANTE SPENDS A lot of time practicing on his NASCAR simulator.

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Photo by Mike Conn/Herald Gazette

GIOVANNI BROMANTE DRIVES racecars with other pros, but still needs a license to take his 1979 Camaro on the road.



Courtesy giovannibromante.com

THOUGH HE IS just 16, Giovanni Bromante's trophy case is growing more crowded by the day.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 12

on a superspeedway. Once he gets there, though, he wants to make sure people know that he is something special.

"I want to stick out," Giovanni said. "I don't want to be the normal NASCAR driver. I want to be the Giovanni Bromante — I want to be my own self in NASCAR."

Stacey said it was Giovanni's intense love for racing that made her confident

in his atypical course through childhood. "I saw the passion in his eyes when he raced that he meant business and what he did, he did it well," she said. "He just had a passion for it and a love for the sport and he was winning."

She also said she could not be more proud of him, and knows that where he is now is exactly where he needs to be on the path to fulfilling his dream.

"This is a beautiful progression for greatness," Stacey said. "... We push him, and he pushes himself."

As different as his life has been from others his age, there are still some things Giovanni needs to do just like every other teen. He went to his first driver's ed class after his interview

with the Herald Gazette, since he can't legally take his stylish 1979 Chevy Camaro or huge Ford F-250 pickup truck on the street just yet. He said he'd make sure to tell his instructor that he's not exactly like every other kid, although he would refrain from doing anything too crazy behind the wheel.

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VIEWFINDER

By MAUREEN LENNON

THE QUESTION:

Do you think the Mets will make it into the World Series?



I am pretty sure the Mets will make it into the World Series. They have talent but they need to use it the right way. I am very hopeful.

Hannah Wood
Business Owner



I love the Mets, and have been a fan for many years. The Mets are known as the comeback kids. I hope they get into the playoffs.

Susan Jaehe
Retired



The Mets are going to get into the World Series. Their scores have been down, and they have been up, and sometimes the Mets are just upside down. Hopefully they are on their way to the playoffs.

Diane Ross
Retired



The Mets have a possibility of playing in the World Series. Their hitting is ok but they have to play hard and win now. Their pitching has to be improved.

Todd Chichester
Retired



The Mets don't do it, they don't have a chance. They are three hitters short. They will get close again and lose in the end. This is what they do all the time.

Kevin Leonard
Retired



The Mets will not make it into the World Series. They will probably make it into the playoffs but not into the World Series. They need get better pitchers.

Alex Griffin
Fitness Instructor

PHOTOGRAPHERS WANTED

The Herald Gazette is seeking professional, experienced freelance photographers to cover a wide range of community events. Each assignment pays \$30. You must have your own vehicle and a DSLR camera.

If you are interested, please send 10-15 photojournalistic images to llane@liherald.com



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STEPPING OUT

Where to go, what to do, who to see

Adding candor to cabaret Stage and screen star Laura Benanti brings 'Tales from Soprano Isle' to Tilles Center

If you're lucky enough to see Laura Benanti in any of her upcoming concerts, she kindly requests that you leave your perceptions about cabaret at the door. The word "cabaret," she says, carries antiquated and serious undertones.

"It's very different from what our show is," she says.

The Tony Award-winning actress performs "Tales from Soprano Isle," on Saturday, Sept. 28, in the Krasnoff Theater at the Tilles Center for the Performing Arts in Brookville. The show, she says, is a continuation of a joke she made in her debut live album, "In Constant Search of the Right Kind of Attention: Live at 54 Below."

"[On that] I had said that sopranos are going to be belted off the face of the earth and set off to sea," Benanti says. "I joked that sopranos are becoming an endangered species, and I'm sort of carrying the torch."

In "Tales from Soprano Isle," Benanti will sing songs from her Broadway repertoire, including "My Fair Lady," "She Loves Me" and "The Sound of Music." She also shares humorous anecdotes she has experienced both on and off the stage and screen. Absent of the elaborate sets and costumes one would expect in a musical theater production, the stage set-up is simple — Benanti accompanied by her "brilliant" musical director, Todd Almond, on piano.

"It's very front-footed in comedy," she explains. "It's like stand-up but with singing."

Benanti's favorite song she performs in the show is Tori Amos' "Take To The Sky," during which she plays on a drum. "That catches people by surprise," she says.

Her favorite stories to tell are any involving the legendary Patti LuPone, whom she co-starred with in the 2008 Broadway revival of "Gypsy" and "Women on the Verge of a Nervous Breakdown."

"Tales from Soprano Isle" has been performed all over the world for the past couple of years in various forms, but one thing that remains constant is Benanti's effort to make her audiences feel at home.

"I want people to feel like they've just come over to my house," she says. "Even though I'm an actor, we're all just humans, and people seem to relate to the show; they relate to the candor."

The format allows Benanti to communicate with her audience and play off their reactions to certain jokes or stories, creating an experience that's less performative



Courtesy Laura Benanti

Broadway leading lady Laura Benanti shares her career highlights in her solo show.

and more collaborative. And while much of the show is structured, Benanti admits she spices it up with improvisations, depending on the crowd.

"People are surprised at how conversational it feels, which can be surprising because they're used to something a little more removed," she says. "Humor is a big part of who I am ... Of all the things that I do, this is my favorite."

For the past 22 years, Benanti has enjoyed a highly celebrated career on both the Broadway stage and the small screen. At 18 she was cast as Maria in the 1998



In addition to her stage roles, Benanti is also known for her on-screen appearances in "Supergirl," "Nashville" and "The Good Wife."

revival of "The Sound of Music." In her rendition as Gypsy Rose Lee, she snagged her first Tony. Most recently she portrayed Eliza Doolittle in Lincoln Center's acclaimed revival of "My Fair Lady."

Her television credits include recurring and guest appearances on "Supergirl," "Nashville," "The Good Wife," "Younger" and "Law & Order: SVU." She can also be seen playing First Lady Melania Trump on "The Late Show with Stephen Colbert" occasionally.

Last year, Benanti released "Singing You Home: Children's Songs for Family Reunification." The English/Spanish album features tracks from fellow Broadway greats such as Lin-Manuel Miranda, Josh Groban, Idina Menzel, Audra McDonald, and Kristin Chenoweth. A portion of the proceeds supports the Refugee and Immigrant Center for Education and Legal Services, which helps reunite and support families separated at the U.S.-Mexico border.

"It's so easy for us to all see each other as *other*, instead of finding common ground," Benanti says. "But here, for 90 minutes, we can communicate in a way that feels familiar, and realize we're more similar than we think we are."

Audiences will have two chances to see Benanti in "Tales from Soprano Isle" at the Krasnoff Theater — at 7:30 and 9:30 p.m. — on Sept. 28. Tickets can be purchased by calling the Tilles Center box office at (516) 299-3100 or online at www.ticketmaster.com or www.tillescenter.org.

— Alyssa Seidman
aseidman@liherald.com

ON STAGE

Tom Cotter

Breakout star comedian Tom Cotter, of "America's Got Talent" fame, brings his high-energy, rapid-fire stand-up to the local stage. Cotter has taken the comedy scene by storm since finishing as runner-up and becoming a household name from Season 7 of NBC's hit talent showcase. In January 2019, Cotter was again invited back to the AGT stage — this time to perform against the best of the best "Got Talent" performers from other years and



around the world in "America's Got Talent: The Champions." In one of the most talked-about sets of the entire competition, Cotter received a standing ovation. He, of course, has plenty of other TV and radio credits, and is a popular headliner on the club circuit. Cotter also authored "Bad Dad: A Guide to Pitiful Parenting" (Willow Street Press) in February 2016, which is a collection of jokes, gags, one-liners and

WEEKEND

Out and About

pitiful bad advice for fed-up parents everywhere. It is this kind of versatility that has enabled him to excel in other areas of showbiz as well, always giving it everything he's got. As Cotter says, "If laughter is the best medicine, I yearn to be drugged." Friday, Sept. 20, 8 p.m. \$35-\$45. Madison Theatre, Molloy College, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. (516) 323-4444 or www.madisontheatre.org.

FAMILY FUN KidsFest

Old Westbury Gardens hosts an afternoon of family adventure at its annual KidsFest extravaganza. The event, geared to ages 3-10, features an extensive schedule of fun, educational activities sure to delight kids and their parents. Everyone is invited to participate in interactive lessons, arts and crafts and games, among other programming. Families will also enjoy a high-energy performance

by Latin Grammy Award winner Mister G, who is sure to get everyone up and dancing, beginning at 2:30 p.m. Explore over 20 interactive stations, including a 25' climbing wall, bulb planting, conservation water wheel, stick horse polo races, and more. Many Long Island organizations will also be participating, with hands-on activities and displays: Astronomical Society of Long Island, The Whaling Museum & Education Center of Cold Spring Harbor, Cornell Cooperative Extension, Garvies Point Museum & Preserve, Friends of the Hempstead Plains, New York State Department of Environmental Conservation, Westbury Arts, Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum, Bailey Arboretum, Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, Long Island Aquarium, and the Science Museum of Long Island, among others.

Sunday, Sept. 22, 12-4 p.m. \$12, \$10 seniors and students, \$7 children 7-17. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. (516) 333-0048 or www.oldwestburygardens.org.



ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Coming Attractions

Performances/ On Stage



Sunset Boulevard

Andrew Lloyd Webber's musical adaptation of the award-winning 1950 film about a faded star of the silent screen era, Thursday and Friday, Sept. 19-20, 8 p.m.; Saturday, Sept. 21, 3 and 8 p.m.; Wednesday, Sept. 25, 8 p.m. John W. Engeman Theater, 250 Main St., Northport. (631) 261-2900 or www.engemantheater.com.

Julian Lee and Cass Rose

The singers in concert, Thursday, Sept. 19, 8:30 p.m. Still Partners, 225 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. 200-9229 or www.stillpartners.com.

Mr. and Mrs. America

Andrew Dice Clay and Roseanne Bar on tour together, Thursday, Sept. 19, 8 p.m. With special guest Eleanor Kerrigan. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.

Music Jam

Bring an acoustic instrument and voice and join in or just listen, Thursday, Sept. 19, 7 p.m. Sea Cliff Library, 300 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. 671-4290 or www.seaclifflibrary.org.

Ann Hampton Callaway and Susan Werner

Cabaret star Ann Hampton Callaway and jazz singer-songwriter Susan Werner in concert together, Friday, Sept. 20, 8 p.m. Jeanne Rimsky Theater, 232 Main St., Port Washington (914) 361-9333 or www.landmarkonmainstreet.org.

Cornbread Jam

The band in concert, Friday, Sept. 20, 8:30 p.m. Still Partners, 225 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. 200-9229 or www.stillpartners.com.

Alibi

The band in concert, Saturday, Sept. 21, 8:30 p.m. Still Partners, 225 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. 200-9229 or www.stillpartners.com.



Star Wars Film Concert Series

John Williams' Oscar-winning score is performed live to the complete "Star Wars: A New Hope," Saturday, Sept. 21, 2 and 8 p.m. Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post, Rte. 25A, Brookville. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.tillescenter.org.



The Four Italian Tenors

The new Rome, Italy-based ensemble brings their inaugural U.S. tour to Tilles Center, on Sunday, Oct. 13, at 7:30 p.m.

Their concert, "Viva Italia!," salutes four great Italian tenors: Enrico Caruso, Mario Lanza, Luciano Pavarotti and Andrea Bocelli.

The Four Italian Tenors — Alessandro D'Acrista, Federico Serra, Frederico Parisi and Roberto Cresca — fuse their Italian wit and charm with romanticism, lyricism, dramatic flair and operatic style in a program of beloved Italian opera arias and songs.

Tickets are \$65, \$55, \$35; available at (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.tillescenter.org.

Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post, Route 25A, Brookville.

Lettuce

The funk band in concert, Saturday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m. The Space, 250 Post Ave. Westbury. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.thespaceatwestbury.com.

The Tribute

The Beatles tribute band in concert, Saturday, Sept. 21, 8 p.m. With special guest Brian Ripps. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com.

U-4Ria

The pop-soul group in concert, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2 p.m. Elmont Memorial Library Theater, 700 Hempstead Tpke., Elmont. 354-5280.

Colonel & the Mermaids

The psychedelic rock band in concert, with the Alex Jordan Band, Sunday, Sept. 22, 2 p.m. Still Partners, 225 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. 200-9229 or www.stillpartners.com.

T.J. Miller

The comedian on tour, Sunday, Sept. 22, 8 p.m. With special guest Dustin Chafin. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.



Rick Wakeman

The Yes frontman in concert, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 8 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com or www.paramountny.com.

The Hideaways

The blues band in concert, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 8 p.m. With special guest Peter

Mancini and the Hillside Airmen. My Father's Place at the Roslyn Hotel, 1221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. 413-3535 or www.myfathersplace.com.

Darlingside

The indie folk band in concert, Thursday, Sept. 26, 7:30 p.m. Jeanne Rimsky Theater, 232 Main St., Port Washington (914) 361-9333 or www.landmarkonmainstreet.org.

Liverpool Shuffle

The acclaimed Beatles tribute band in concert, with Walking Down Abbey Road, Thursday, Sept. 26, 8 p.m. My Father's Place at the Roslyn Hotel, 1221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. 413-3535 or www.myfathersplace.com.

For the Kids

Story Tots

investigate color, shape, form and texture with art activities based on a story, Friday, Sept. 20, 10-11 a.m. Listen to story books read aloud while exploring various art materials and processes. Story time is followed by an art project. For ages 3-5. Registration required. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. 484-9338 or www.nassaumuseum.org.

Art of Frida Kahlo

Create paintings that evoke Frida Kahlo's art and style, with art teacher Tina Geller, Saturday, Sept. 21, 2 p.m. For grades 1 and up. Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. 676-2130.

Piratefest

Enjoy pirate adventures, Saturday, Sept. 21, 11 a.m.-2 p.m. Walk the plank, go on a museum treasure hunt, create your own Jolly Roger flag to take home, and more. The Whaling Museum, 301 Main St., Cold Spring Harbor. (631) 367-3418 or www.cshwhalingmuseum.org.

Pizza and Paperbacks

A book discussion for second-graders and up, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 3 p.m.; also Friday, Sept. 27 12 p.m. (for children

entering Kindergarten in 2020) and 3 p.m. (Kindergarten and Grade 1). Registration required. Sea Cliff Library, 300 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. 671-4290 or www.seaclifflibrary.org.

Museums/Galleries and more

Energy: The Power of Art

The science of art meets the art of science in this unique interactive exhibition. Working with the Brookhaven National Laboratories and the Tesla Museum, this innovative project juxtaposes masterworks in many media with images produced by the most advanced scientific instruments, and even an active "cloud chamber" to explore the supposedly "invisible" world of energy. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor. 484-9338 or www.nassaumuseum.org.

Harlem Hellfighters

A groundbreaking exhibit about the World War I African-American Army unit, consisting of 33 men from the Glen Cove area. North Shore Historical Museum, 140 Glen St., Glen Cove. 801-1191 or www.nshmgc.org.

Landscapes: Home and Afar

An invitational small group show featuring Alexander Gordon, Margaret Henning and Maxine Jurow. Through Oct. 12. Main Street Gallery, 213 Main St., Huntington.

Mort Kunstler: The Godfather of Pulp Fiction Illustrators

An exhibition that showcases the acclaimed artist's larger-than-life role in the golden era of pulp fiction, unfolding in more than 80 original illustrations from the artist's private collection, almost all publicly exhibited for the first time. Originally featured in magazines such as Stag, Male, and For Men Only in the '50s, '60s, and '70s, the illustrations brought to life headlines that screamed adventure. Through Nov. 17. Heckscher Museum of Art, Main St. and Prime Ave., Huntington. (631) 351-3250 or www.heckscher.org.

Theodore Roosevelt:

A Man for the Modern World

An exhibition that celebrates the presidency and legacy of Theodore Roosevelt, who is often considered the first modern president. On view are a collection of historic documents, photographs, and many never before seen artifacts that celebrate TR's major achievements and underscore his legacy. Highlighted objects include family sporting equipment and the license plate from the Roosevelts' automobile, shown alongside presidential gifts such as a book inscribed by Booker T. Washington. Some familiar artifacts from the Roosevelt home are also on display. Sagamore Hill National Historic Site, 20 Sagamore Hill Rd., Oyster Bay. 922-4788 or nps.gov/sagamorehill.

At the Movies

See "Long Shot," the romantic comedy about an unemployed journalist who tries to pursue his childhood crush now a powerful government official, Thursday, Sept. 19, 2 and 6:30 p.m.; also "Tolkien," the biopic about the early life of author J.R.R. Tolkien, Thursday, Sept. 26, 2 and 6:30 p.m. Oyster

Bay-East Norwich Public Library, 89 East Main St., Oyster Bay. 922-1212.



Seashells...

Nature's Inspired Design

An exhibit of seashells from around the world, from the collection of Garvies Point Museum. Garvies Point Museum and Preserve, 50 Barry Dr., Glen Cove. 571-8010 or www.garviespointmuseum.com.

Film Time

See the classic 1953 Western "Shane," about the enigmatic gunslinger, Friday, Sept. 20, 2 p.m.; also "All is True," the speculative drama about William Shakespeare contemplating the end of his career., Tuesday, Sept. 24, 2 p.m. Gold Coast Public Library, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head. 759-8300 or www.goldcoastlibrary.org.

Birds With Botany

Search for birds, geared for novice birders, on a hike through Caumsett State Park, Sunday, Sept. 22, 9:45-11:45 a.m. Registration required. Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve, 25 Lloyd Harbor Rd., Huntington. (631) 423-1770.

Movie Matinee

See "Tolkien," the biopic about the early life of author J.R.R. Tolkien, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 1:15 p.m. Sea Cliff Library, 300 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff. 671-4290 or www.seaclifflibrary.org.

Trivia Night: Parks and Recreation

A popu culture trivia event, Tuesday, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m. NYCB Theatre at Westbury, 960 Brush Hollow Rd, Westbury. (800) 745-3000 or www.ticketmaster.com.

Afternoon Tea and Garden Stroll

Enjoy a full tea at Old Westbury Gardens' Orchard Hill, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 1-3 p.m. A seasonal guided garden tour follows. Reservations required. Old Westbury. 333-0048 or www.oldwestbury.org.

Movie Showing

See the 1958 classic "St. Louis Blues," loosely based on the life of W.C. Handy, Wednesday, Sept. 25, 2 p.m. Jeanne Rimsky Theater, 232 Main St., Port Washington (914) 361-9333 or www.landmarkonmainstreet.org.

Brown Bag Lecture

Bring a sandwich and enjoy lunch as Nassau County Museum of Art Docent Riva Ettus presents an informative talk about the current exhibition, Thursday, Sept. 26, 1 p.m. After join the 2 p.m. public exhibition tour. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. 484-9338 or www.nassaumuseum.org.



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Courtesy Eric Shuman

ERIC SHUMAN, FAR right, who loves to teach seniors how to stay active, introduces them to pickleball.

Pickleball fans fill Stanco Park courts every week

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

years of discussions with the Glen Cove City Council, Shuman secured space for the city's first official pickleball court, which was built at Stanco Park in July, a triumph for the city's more than 100 active pickleball players.

On Sept. 13 at the park, Glen Cove resident and pickleball lover Isabel Eisen thanked Shuman for the court and his work in helping to popularize the sport.

Eisen met Shuman in April 2017 at the city's Jewish Community Center, where she learned the game when she visited Florida this year, she said, the state was "consumed by pickleball," with seniors lining up to play five days a week at their local senior centers, parks and recreation centers. While Long Island doesn't yet have pickleball fever, Eisen said she believed that given its popularity in Glen Cove, word would spread quickly.

"It's not a sport, it's a religion," she said. "My husband loves it, too, but he's currently recovering from an injury, so hasn't been able to come out and play. He was so sad when I left him at home to come here."

The regular games at Stanco are a far cry from their beginnings, when Shuman and his fellow players would make homemade courts around the city with tape, sometimes parking their cars around the perimeter and using their headlights to play at night. But the Stanco court, and an adjacent tennis court retrofitted for pickleball, give residents a proper, and safe, place to play.

Debbie Gray, 56, said she loved playing at Stanco Park. She initially tried the game in order to stay active and lose weight, but she was hooked after only a couple of games, she said. She has competed in a number of tournaments, including one last weekend in Queens. What really stood out about pickleball for Gray — and

Shuman — was its intergenerational appeal. Players of all ages can engage in either friendly or highly competitive games.

"I once had an 81-year-old play circles around me," Gray said. "It really is a game for everyone."

Simranjeet Singh, 23, the youngest of Shuman's pickleball crew, echoed that sentiment. Singh worked at the Glen Cove Y, where pickleball games were offered, and although he had never seen the sport, he was fascinated by it. After learning how to play from Menzel — and borrowing his paddle for months — Singh became a fixture in the Glen Cove pickleball community. He said that while someone younger, like him, would have an advantage over older players in any other sport, pickleball rewards experience and ball control rather than pure athletic ability.

"When you meet up with an older player, you might not think much of them," Singh said, "but most of them have

played tennis their whole lives, so they have a serious backhand. There's so much you can learn from them, and what I love about it is that you feel like part of a group when you play, seeing the same people every week."

As the game's popularity continues to grow in Glen Cove, with dozens of residents meeting up in Stanco Park each week, Shuman hopes to introduce it in other towns. He recently spoke at a Village of Bayville board meeting, explaining how one of its tennis courts could be used for pickleball games. He is also hoping to introduce the game to the Boys and Girls Club of Locust Valley when its new facility is up and running in a couple of years.

"It's a great game for kids, teen, adults and seniors," Shuman said. "And it's so addictive, I built my own court in my backyard."

You feel like part of a group when you play, seeing the same people every week.

SIMRANJEET SINGH
Glen Cove resident

HERALD Crossword Puzzle

King Crossword

ACROSS

- 1 Summit
- 5 "— and Circumstance"
- 9 Speed stat
- 12 Reedy
- 13 Smell
- 14 Exist
- 15 Kitchen shredder/slicer
- 17 Pen point
- 18 See 35-Down
- 19 Skiers' hotel
- 21 Cripples
- 24 Challenge
- 25 "Sad to say ..."
- 26 Greek biographer
- 30 Charged bit
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- 32 Whopper
- 33 Big star
- 35 Alpha follower
- 36 Has a bug
- 37 Vestibule
- 38 Starbucks order
- 40 Many millennia
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- 16 Chances, for short
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- 26 Pod group
- 27 Basketball's Jeremy
- 28 Give as an example
- 29 Listen to
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- 34 "Scram!"
- 35 With
- 18-Across, studying hard
- 37 Supporting
- 38 Departed
- 39 Culture medium
- 40 Oscar winner Hathaway
- 41 Icelandic epic
- 44 Melody
- 45 Meadow
- 46 Run from the cops
- 47 James Bond, e.g.

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Sisters and secrets

Dear Great Book Guru,
 This weekend I am going the
 Sea Cliff Civic Association's annual
 Newcomers Welcoming Party. I can't wait to meet the
 other 40 or so new families that
 have moved to Sea Cliff over the
 last year. A friend suggested I read
 a book I might want to bring up
 if things get quiet. What do you
 think?
 -Eager but Nervous Newcomer



**ANN
 DIPIETRO**

the Metropolitan Museum of Art and married to a New York Times correspondent she met in Cairo. Gameela is her younger sister, a twenty-eight-year-old engineer living with her parents in an affluent section of Cairo. Rose struggles with guilt and grief at having left her homeland but is delighted with her new life in America. Gameela has become very religious and scorns her sister's new life. As the story opens, we learn that Gameela has died in a terrorist attack. When Rose returns home to learn what motivated her sister, she uncovers a bevy of secrets that haunt the family and the reader. Highly recommended!

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

Dear Eager Newcomer,
 No need to be nervous. This party is always so, so much fun! But I do have a fine book to recommend this week: "A Pure Heart," by Rajia Hassib. Set in the present here and in Egypt, this novel tells the tale of two sisters and the conflicts they face as they try to live moral lives in an ancient and changing world. Rose is a curator of Egyptian antiquities at

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
 NOTICE OF FORMATION OF LIMITED LIABILITY COMPANY. NAME: Nikolas Trading Company, LLC. Articles of Organization were filed with the Secretary of State of New York, (SSNY) on 6/17/19. NY Office location: Nassau County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to: 47 Titus Road, Glen Cove, NY 11542 Purpose: To engage in any lawful act or activity. 115205

BACKED CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2007-1, Plaintiff - against - ROCIO RIOS, et al Defendant(s).
 Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale entered on June 21, 2018. I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction, at the Calendar Control Part (CCP) Courtroom of the Supreme Court, 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, New York 11501, Nassau County, New York on the 1st Day of October, 2019 at 11:30 a.m. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Glen Cove, Town of Oyster Bay, County of Nassau, State of New York. Premises known as 2 Doxey Drive, Glen Cove, (City of Glen Cove) New York 11542. (Section: 21, Block: 246., Lot:5)

Approximate amount of lien \$902,306.39 plus interest and costs.
 Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed judgment and terms of sale. Index No. 2230/2014. Darren Marks, Esq., Referee. Davidson Fink LLP Attorney(s) for Plaintiff 28 East Main Street, Suite 1700 Rochester, NY 14614-1990 Tel. 585/760-8218 For sale information, please visit www.Auction.com at (800) 280-2832 Dated: August 2, 2019 114320

LEGAL NOTICE
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing shall be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, to discuss Sec. 265-43 Schedule XI: Parking Prohibited at All Times to the Code of Ordinances, as it relates to Wolfe Street
 All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard.
 Tina Pemberton City Clerk 115217

LEGAL NOTICE
 NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING:
 NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing shall be held on Tuesday, September 24, 2019, at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers at Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, to discuss Sec. 235-30 (C) (2) and Sec. 235-30 (C) (3) Restrictions on quantity of refuse
 All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard.
 Tina Pemberton City Clerk 115221

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Louise Caminari

Louise Caminari, of Glen Cove, died on Sept. 9. She was the beloved sister of Alfred Jr. and Richard (Jennifer), loving aunt of Christine (Ken Dellaporta), Richard (Ginny) and Katherine (Scott Candelmo), cherished great-aunt of Kaylee, Cassie, Zoey, Ben and Alexandra Louise. She was also a lifelong friend of Barbara Minicozzi (Frank), adored godmother of Thomas Minicozzi and her adopted nieces Kim and Lisa Louise. Visitations were held at the Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, in Glen Cove.

ing firms. He achieved his dream and opened his own business in New York City, Kam Yuen Company Consulting Engineers, which began operations in 1989. His hard work and tenacity allowed his company to succeed for over 15 years. The funeral was held at McLaughlin Kramer Megiel Funeral Home, in Glen Cove. In lieu of flowers, expressions of sympathy may be made "In Memory of Kam S. Yuen" to the SAGE Foundation of the Glen Cove Senior Center at Glen Cove SAGE Foundation, Inc, 130 Glen Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542.

Joseph Abruzzo

Joseph Abruzzo, of Glen Cove, died on Sept. 6. He was the beloved husband of Patricia, devoted father of Joanne (Ronald) Danis, Frank (Linda), Joseph Jr. and Thomas (Patricia), loving grandfather of Joseph, Lauren, Christina, Alison, Kimberly, Brianna, Victoria, Joseph III, Caroline and Nicholas and proud great grandpa to Jeffrey Joseph and Adriana. He was also the dear brother of Anne Milazzo. Visitations were held at the McLaughlin Kramer Megiel Funeral Home, in Glen Cove. Mass was at the Church of St. Patrick. Interment at St. Patrick's Cemetery. In lieu of flowers, donations in his name may be made to the Fisher Center for Alzheimer's Research.

Carol Monahan

Carol Monahan, of Glen Cove, died on Sept. 10. She was the beloved mother of Bob Monahan (Sally), Maureen von der Esch (Gary), Eileen Monahan, Tom Monahan (Kim), Kevin Monahan (Darcy) and Carol Luzynski (Joe). She was also survived by 13 loving grandchildren, three great-granddaughters and her dear brother, Joe Rizzo. Visitations were held at the Whitting Funeral Home, in Glen Head. The funeral mass was held at the Church of St. Rocco. Interment Holy Rood Cemetery. Contributions may be made to the Mill Neck Foundation www.millneck.org.

Roger Espinal

Roger Espinal, 42, of Glen Cove, died on Sept. 14. He was the beloved husband of Miria, loving father of Noah, cherished son of Maria and the late Rogelio and dear brother of Tanya, Amy and Marc. Visitations and services were held at Weigand Brothers Funeral Home, in Williston Park. Interment was Private. Donations may be made in his memory to the Ray Pfeifer Foundation, 163 Amsterdam Ave, #1440, New York, NY 10023.

Kam Yuen

Kam Yuen, 94, of Glen Cove, died on Sept. 9. He was survived by his wife, Ruth, his children Bruce (Carolyn), York (Darlene), Irina (Jon) and Tracy (Bill), seven grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and his brother Kam Fai. Kam Yuen trained as a Civil Engineer with tenures at the nation's most prestigious engineer-

Obituary Notices

Obituary notices, with or without photographs can be submitted by individuals as well as local funeral establishments. They should be typed and double spaced. The name of the individual or funeral establishment submitting the obituary should be included. A contact phone number must be included. There is no charge for obituaries.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Let's get L.I. resiliency projects going – now

Nearly seven years after Superstorm Sandy struck on a late-October night, Long Island communities are still rebuilding. Homes are up in the air, suspended by stilts, waiting for foundations to be poured. Others were abandoned, and have remained vacant ever since, rotting away.

Long Islanders are reminded of the ruination Sandy caused each hurricane season, which extends from June 1 through the end of October, peaking in mid-September. In total, Sandy caused an estimated \$65 billion in damage along the Eastern Seaboard.

Much has been done to harden the South Shore, especially in Long Beach, where a \$230 million coastal protection project carried out by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers significantly widened the beach and created a new dune to protect against storm surge. And the boardwalk was rebuilt with hardwood, rather than pine, to ensure that it won't be blown apart again. The \$44 million project was paid for with federal, state and city funds.

Too many such projects have not been started, however. According to the Governor's Office of Storm Recovery, 98 NY Rising projects are now "within various stages of implementation in the Long Island region, including 68 in Nassau County and 29 in Suffolk County." What precisely GOSR means by "various stages" is unclear. The most recent regional newsletter on the GOSR website is from August 2017. It speaks of emergency backup generators and drainage projects, but we have

heard little to nothing about these projects since, except in the hardest-hit areas like Long Beach and Freeport.

GOSR needs to publish an updated newsletter letting people know precisely what's going on.

At the federal level, an Army Corps of Engineers study of ways to increase resiliency in the South Shore bays between Jones and East Rockaway inlets — for which \$3 million has already been spent — must be completed. That study, called the Nassau County Back Bays Study, is set to expire Sept. 30.

According to officials, Army Corps studies are usually completed in under three years, for less than \$3 million. This study, however, was too complex and too broad to do so in that time frame for that amount of money. So the study must carry on.

The Army Corps should approve the \$6.1 million extension of the study before it expires. It is examining a variety of flood mitigation measures, including tidal gates at Jones and East Rockaway inlets, and the possible environmental impacts of such projects. If extended, the Final Feasibility Report/Environmental Impact Statement should be complete by January 2022, with a Chief of Engineers Report by April of that year.

If the study is allowed to expire without final answers — that is, solutions to the flooding caused by storm surge — \$3 million of federal tax dollars will be wasted, and more important, Long Islanders won't get an answer to the crucial question of how to stop — or at least slow — the ocean

in a hurricane.

Freeport Mayor Robert Kennedy has been a relentless proponent of tidal gates at Jones and East Rockaway inlets. He points to New Bedford, Mass., which built tidal gates at an inlet there in 1961 to hold back the ocean during a hurricane, and so far, so good — the city has seen no damaging flooding since then. Kennedy visited New Bedford in April 2018 with other local elected officials to see the tidal gates firsthand, and he returned with a renewed desire to see them built. The project, he said, could take up to six years to complete, so the sooner Long Island could begin such a project, the better, he noted.

"Think about all the money we spent with all of the insurance companies" after Sandy, Kennedy said in 2018. With "the loss of economic development with the commercial and industrial businesses, the insurance rates have skyrocketed and the house values have gone down. Let's get something like this done and make it better for everybody in Nassau County."

The Army Corps is also proposing "living shorelines" — strengthening them with indigenous plants and large rocks where needed. Living shorelines restore natural habitats that have been lost to development over the past 50 to 100 years. Nature itself is used to repel hurricanes, which is precisely the approach that is needed on the South Shore.

Unbelievably, nearly seven years have passed since Hurricane Sandy. Now, not later, is the time to get Long Island's resiliency projects going — and done.

LETTERS

Vote majority GOP out of City Council

To the Editor:

I am writing to urge my fellow Glen Cove residents to vote in a Democratic majority on the City Council this fall and return Mayor Tim Tenke to his position. He has done a great job of returning civility to the city, while also valuing honesty in our government. He has stopped the prior practice of selling our city at fire sale rates to developers to cover reckless spending and a lack of financial oversight. Tenke has reversed a pending water crisis, reopened public spaces and improved the city's services for our seniors. He has done this while hobbled by an obstructionist Republican council majority.

They have refused to allow the mayor to replace the city controller for nine months, despite the availability and presentation of a number of better qualified candidates. Under this controller the city has paid money to contractors without a signed contract in place causing the city to pay for services never rendered, continued benefit payments for years for inelig-



OPINIONS

This appears to be one very profitable presidency

When my daughters were very young, we used to ask them an age-old question: Who stole the cookies from the cookie jar? Each one would respond, “Not me.” Well, there are many cookie jars these days in Washington and New York, but the biggest one is the Trump Organization, which fills up every day with the proceeds



**JERRY
KREMER**

from Trump properties all over the world.

At the outset of President Trump’s term, he was asked to suspend any connection between himself and the Trump Organization and its properties. He made some vague statement about how he would conduct

himself while in office, but if you believed that, I could’ve sold you an interest in the Brooklyn Bridge. As each day goes by, the coffers of the Trump conglomerate are enriched by money coming from near and far away, all with the blessings of the president.

The most blatant money grab is the Trump International Hotel in Washington. Lobbyists, foreign dignitaries and favor-seekers fill the lobby and the rooms of the facility in the hope of gaining the attention of the president or members of the family organization. It’s estimated that the hotel earned \$8 million in profits in 2018 thanks to its status as a branded property in the nation’s capital.

In recent weeks, America has gotten a taste of how various individuals are seeking to curry favor with the Trump family. Attorney General William Barr, who is supposed to be the person in charge of keeping America’s moral standards at the highest level, announced that he would have his holiday party at the Trump International, at an estimated cost of \$30,000. There are many fine establishments in Washington that could accommodate the Barr family, but somehow it’s a sign of loyalty to book a Trump facility.

Vice President Mike Pence decided he would use the Trump International Golf Links and Hotel in Doonbeg, Ireland, for a

stopover, even though it was 165 miles from his planned event and required two costly round trips with Secret Service protection to get him to his leadership meeting. Pence, who’s usually guarded about any subject, said that he went to Doonbeg on the “president’s recommendation” and then he backtracked on that admission. So much for profiles in courage.

It isn’t a coincidence that Air Force planes are making their refueling stops at Prestwick, Scotland, which is near the Trump Turnberry. There may be logistical reasons for these landings, but the U.S. military should avoid having its reputation compromised by activities that don’t look very good.

The armed forces of our country have to avoid the appearance of currying favor with the commander in chief.

Taking issue with the president for earning money while in office isn’t idle criticism. Article I, Section 9, Clause 8 of the Constitution restricts members of government from receiving gifts, emoluments, offices or titles from foreign states or monarchies without the consent of Congress.

Some of the funds flowing into the Trump Organization may pass the test, but when foreign dignitaries patronize your facilities, that’s a direct violation of the Constitution.

Another good example is the business activities of Ivanka Trump. She’s part of the administration, but has been the recipient of various licenses for her businesses from the Chinese government, some of them on the eve of a presidential visit. Or the investment of Arab money into properties owned by Jared Kushner’s family. Does that step over the line? You decide.

Pence spoke recently at a rally for a North Carolina congressional candidate. He boldly stated that “It will take another four years to drain the swamp” as an appeal for the president’s re-election. But somehow the swamp has become a money pit for a lot of people associated with this president, and it appears that there are plenty of dollars yet to be made.

Jerry Kremer was a state 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.

LETTERS

ble ex-city employees and failed to appropriately deduct benefit costs for two current employees. She did not develop a system to assure timely and accurate payment from city vendors and contracts, allowed management level employees to be paid overtime and failed to create any meaningful systems to assure the fiscal well being of the city. What exactly is she controlling? Certainly not the finances of this city. Yet she is politically protected.

The Republican City Council majority voted down two sitting judges who were clearly qualified to fill roles for the city courts. And our city missed out on the chance to hire experienced, well-regarded people because of petty political posturing.

They also voted against a budget without any discussion or attempt to reconcile differences, despite the fact that the budget was reasonable and would automatically pass.

Although Tenke has done a good job moving ahead where he can, no one can operate in an environment where he or she is being thwarted for no logical reason but politics. While Marsha Silverman consistently represents the taxpayers in this city, she is one person. Her balanced, reasonable ideas and oversight can’t prevail against a majority who have decided that their political and personal interests are of greater importance than the well-being and future of our residents.

We need a majority that will vote to move forward, not one composed of the people who low-balled our assets, compromised our clean water supply and continue to resist efforts to improve our city. While we have become accustomed to politics crippling progress on a federal level it is truly shameful to see it occur where constituents are our family, friends and neighbors.

Vote Democrat and let’s allow the city to move forward.

JUDY DIBARTOLO
Glen Cove

Shattering stereotypes

To the Editor:

Just a quick thank-you for Scott Brinton’s column “I’ll fess up: Texas surprised me” last week. I’m glad we shattered his stereotypes of what Texas is all about.

Between the lines, his column revealed the need for journalists to avoid preconceived notions about places they do not know. I worked in about 70 countries during a 30-year career as a foreign correspondent. The reality on the ground is almost always different than the expectation before arrival.

I have one minor comment on the column. I do not consider Ciudad Juarez and El Paso “disparate places.” They are sister cities, separated only by the Rio Grande. They are as close to each other as Long Island is to Manhattan. As Brinton mentioned, many families have members who live on both sides of the border. And it is correct that Juarez has been plagued by drug cartel violence, while El Paso is among the safest cities in the United States, despite the recent Walmart massacre.

So I hope Brinton can return to Texas soon and do some more exploring. Maybe in the winter, when it’s not so hot!

MICHAEL DRUDGE
President,
San Antonio Pro Chapter,
Society of Professional Journalists

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Beneath the colorful mosaics of the Sidamo Monument – Awasa, Ethiopia

OPINIONS

Democracy's on the ropes, but it's still the world's best hope

Something fascinating is happening in Hong Kong. The young students there who have been demonstrating for greater democracy and freedom have taken up waving American flags and singing our national anthem as they confront police. This peaceful action harkens back to similar scenes in Beijing's Tiananmen



**ALFONSE
D'AMATO**

Square 30 years ago, when young demonstrators there erected a replica of the Statue of Liberty to represent their same hope for more freedom.

We know how those protests in 1989 ended: The Chinese army swept in and killed hundreds, if not

thousands, of young people. The brutal attack crushed the country's fledgling democracy movement and left the Chinese Communist Party firmly in control. Today the Chinese army is massed just outside Hong Kong, and threatens to swarm in to snuff out the growing rebellion.

It is telling that when young people half a world away think of freedom, it's America — and American values of free-

dom — that come to mind first. Maybe we've become too used to seeing the American flag burned by angry mobs amid chants of "Death to America!" to fully appreciate the great power of the American ideal for oppressed people everywhere. Even in terrorist-sponsoring Iran, where radical Islamist ayatollahs hold absolute power, the mass of young people aspire to freedom and democracy. Given the chance, they would throw off their Islamist masters and embrace a freer society.

Closer to home, the U.S. stands as a beacon of hope for millions of oppressed and impoverished people in Latin America. Unlike places like China and Iran, where barriers are erected to keep people locked in and put down, we must maintain barriers to keep people from flooding in, not out. It's safe to say that if our borders were totally open, as some on America's far left urge, our country would be overwhelmed with refugees seeking their own American dream. The lifeboat that is America would be swamped!

So why, then, does it seem that democracy is fraying in so many free countries even as it is the ideal of people in oppressed societies? Why, for instance, is

democracy in England reeling under the strain of Brexit, with the world's oldest Parliament tied in unbreakable knots over a solution to this self-inflicted crisis? Why do great nations like Italy make a constant mockery of democracy by sliding from one government to another every year or two? And here in the U.S., why is our own government also seemingly locked in an endless impasse over critical issues like shoring up Medicare and Social Security and dealing with our broken immigration system?

Maybe the problem we older democracies face is that we suffer from *too much* democracy. We have become too apt to sway with

the tides of popular opinion, with every special-interest group pressing for the advantage of its own entitlement or the redress of its special grievance. Congress is paralyzed by the fear its members feel when confronting any tough issue. They especially fear the threat of primary election opponents who will wield the ballot box to punish any perceived deviation from party orthodoxy, whether on the left or the right.

There's no easy way out of the impasses and shortcomings of democracy. It's likely that the British Parliament will

struggle for years with the aftermath of Brexit. It's likely that Italy will cycle through another dozen governments in as many years. Yet those democracies aren't the ones that will hold high the torch of freedom for the rest of the world. That role falls to the U.S. But if democracy stumbles and fumbles here, it may completely fail in its more fragile forms and locales.

If our government can't get its own act together and press the advantage of democracy over its weaknesses, how will the world follow a flailing leader? If our democracy falters over fundamental issues of stability and prosperity, if we fail again and again to take on and solve tough yet solvable issues, how long can we expect young idealists on the streets of Hong Kong or Tehran to hold us up as their shining example?

Commenting on the inherent challenges in any system of open and free government, Winston Churchill observed that democracy is the worst form of government, except for all the others. It's up to America to prove him right, and prove all those who oppose democracy wrong.

Al D'Amato, a former U.S. senator from New York, is the founder of Park Strategies LLC, a public policy and business development firm. Comments about this column? ADAmato@liherald.com

My favorite novel, tossed in translation

"It's for the birds."

That was how The New York Times summed up the new movie version of Donna Tartt's novel "The Goldfinch."

It's crazy, but I'm heartbroken. My disappointment is in direct proportion to the passion I feel for Tartt's story about . . .



**RANDI
KREISS**

Well, it's a Dickensian novel with plots and subplots and unlikely eventualities and mind-blowing violence and tender mercies. When it was published in 2013 and won the Pulitzer, I turned the first page and fell in love.

There are multiple coincidences,

à la Dickens, but somehow they all feel inevitable. The main character is the real "Goldfinch," a small oil painting created in 1654 by Dutch artist Carel Fabritius, who died the same year in the Delft gunpowder arsenal explosion. All of these facts resonate in post-9/11 New York City, where the story is set. In her review, The Times's Michiko Kakutani wrote of Tartt, "This novel pulls together all her remarkable storytelling talents into a rapturous,

symphonic whole and reminds the reader of the immersive . . . pleasures of reading."

You crack the cover, and if you're a reader like me, you feel as if you're at the top of a roller coaster, and it's going to be the best ride of your life. That feeling, of knowing you're in the hands of a master, that willingness to turn yourself over to the experience, doesn't happen very often.

The story glows with gorgeous prose and complicated plots, and the main characters, Theo and Boris, are as memorable as Don Corleone and Scarlett O'Hara. Unfortunately, when Theo and Boris leaped to the silver screen, they suffered a fatal fall. The principals of "The Godfather" and "Gone With the Wind" fared far better in the translation from novel to cinema.

"The Goldfinch" opened last week to big-time promotion and quite a bit of anticipatory trepidation on my part. Sadly, the curtain rose and the story fell flat. Delicious complexity in the book translated to confusion on the screen. One reviewer said that the movie was "this year's entry in what has become . . . a time-honored genre: the high-toned

awards-bait literary adaption that . . . doesn't quite work."

I had big dreams for "The Goldfinch" as a movie, because it is a highly cinematic book. Unfortunately, as Adam Graham, of the Detroit News, reported, the movie is "as lifeless as a photocopy." Chris

Hewitt, of the Minneapolis Star Tribune, wrote, "It's supposed to be a picaresque adventure . . . Instead, it feels like a movie where way too many things happen, and we don't know anything about the people who make them happen."

One reviewer called the movie "mangled and a pile of rubble and a botched job for the ages." Another said, "The screenwriter remains faithful to the book when he should be committing adultery."

Richard Roeper, of the Chicago Sun-Times, compared the flick to a "so-so NCIS episode," adding that wonderful actors are stuck playing broad caricatures more suitable to an old episode of "Two and a Half Men."

Nell Minow, of "Movie Mom," said the screen version is "a mess . . . and not in an interesting way." Another reviewer noted the movie's "poor pacing, jarring transi-

tions and a third act that feels like a completely different film."

Mishandling Tartt's glorious novel feels transgressive to me. I wanted the movie to be great. Her novel is a singular literary masterpiece, much in the way that its inspiration, "The Goldfinch," is an irreplaceable work of art. Tartt reimagines the painting and invents a new life for it as a center of intrigue, deception and a symbol for the immortality of art juxtaposed with the fragility of life. Her characters live not just on the page, but also in memory, and to see them rendered as caricatures on the screen feels unbearable.

What a waste of time and money and real talent. This happens when producers go for the gold — an Oscar — and miss. This happens when the movie industry reinterprets an extraordinary novel, both literary and popular, hoping to guide it along the perilous road to the big screen, and it fails.

In all its intricacies and literary flourishes, in all its emotional power and terrifying suspense, the book will live on, like its namesake, the painting. The movie will soon disappear, and it feels like a lost opportunity to enjoy the story in a wholly new incarnation.

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