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HERALD
Gazette



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the next storm**
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VOL. 29 NO. 35

AUGUST 27 - SEPTEMBER 2, 2020

\$1.00



Jennifer Corr/Herald Gazette

Party of six?

The Glen Cove City Council voted to extend outdoor dining until November, which should help local businesses. Streets like Glen Street, above, will remain closed to accommodate diners. Story, Page 18.

**Music teacher's lessons
went beyond the auditorium**

By **JENNIFER CORR**
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From 1976 to 2002, Dale Alan Zurbrick of Glen Cove, who was known to many simply as “Z,” taught music and led theater programs in the Glen Cove City School District. He had a lasting impact on many students’ lives, and even after his days as a teacher, he remained a source of support and inspiration for his colleagues, and his former stu-

dents.

Zurbrick’s life lessons live on in the memories of many who were saddened to hear of his death, on June 29, at age 74. Former students and staff held a digital memorial on Aug. 15. They are also collecting signatures of those who would like to see the Glen Cove High School auditorium named after him, and soliciting funds for scholarships in his name.

“It doesn’t require a petition,

it doesn’t require a school board vote — Dale, that auditorium . . . is going to have your name on it because it’s yours,” Jennifer Zeitlin, a 1984 graduate, said during the memorial service. “It always was yours. And you gave each and every kid who ever walked into it the support and confidence and the inspiration to be their very best and to be wherever they were and ever

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**Suozzi honors
life-saving
police officers**

By **MIKE CONN**
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U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi held a press conference on Monday outside the Glen Cove Police Department, alongside police and local officials, on Monday, at which he honored five police officers who recently saved lives: Darren Pittman, of the Glen Cove Police Department; Keith Owens, of the Nassau County Police Department; Christopher Jablonski, of the Suffolk County Police Department; and Michael Ippolito and Lauran Creighton, of the New York City Police Department.

Pittman, a Glen Cove resident, was honored for saving the life of an NCPD officer who also lives in the city last Nov. 9. At 4:20 that morning, Pittman received a distressing text message from the officer, a friend. After talking with him on the phone, Pittman concluded that he was contem-

plating suicide, and called the GCPD for backup. Then Pittman, still in his pajamas, drove to his friend’s home.

Darren is really representative of what officers all around the country do that they don’t get recognized for, and they really should be recognized.

TIM TENKE
Mayor, Glen Cove

He found him in a vehicle, holding a handgun. Realizing that the officer was about to take his own life, Pittman lunged for the gun and wrestled it away. The officer became hostile, but was subdued by backup GCPD officers and taken to a hospital for evaluation. He is currently receiving treatment, but has made a full recovery, and is back at work.

According to GCPD Chief William Whitton, there were a record number of suicides among New York police officers last year. Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder commended Pittman for saving a fellow officer. For his efforts, he was awarded the NCPD Medal of Valor, which, Whitton said, had never been

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Effort to name auditorium after Dale Alan Zurbrick

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

wanted to be.

“In short,” Zeitlin added. “I know I am who I am today because I knew you.”

Bill Dione, a former middle school music and theater director, recalled meeting Zurbrick, his colleague and lifelong friend, in a hallway of Finley Middle School, as Dione was decorating his bulletin board. They ended up talking for hours, and Zurbrick told Dione about his teaching experience in the Bronx.

The two taught together for five years. “Every day was a new experience with Dale, as we spent time together working and a lot of good times laughing,” Dione said during the memorial service. “He talked about his years teaching in Clarence, New York, and about the theater program and the shows that they did, and he said, ‘We could do the same thing here in Finley,’ and sure enough, we did.”

In the fall of 1976, the two started the Drama Club, and the following year, they directed the school’s first full-scale musical, “Bye Bye Birdie.”

Dione noted that a lot of people who tuned in to the memorial service, which was hosted by Zoom and broadcast on Facebook, were involved with “Bye Bye Birdie” as children.

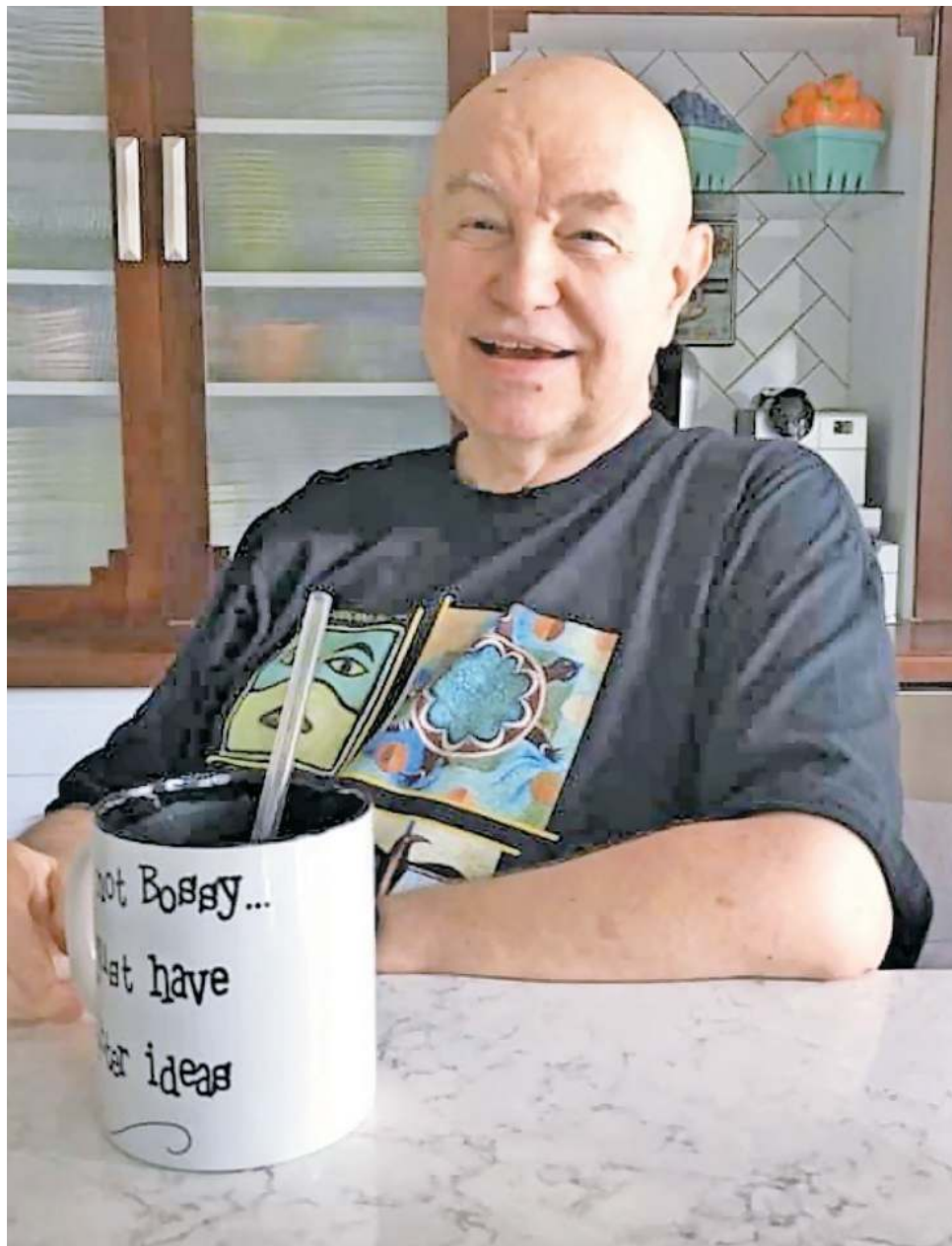
“When he left [the] middle school to go to the high school in 1981,” Dione said of Zurbrick, “I remember what he said to me. He said, and I quote, ‘I’m off to see the wizard,’ meaning the wizard was his new principal and it was the beginning of a new start at Glen Cove High School.”

Mike Albergo, a member of the class of 1987, was involved behind the scenes with many theater productions at the high school, including “Noises Off.” Albergo said that as an adult, he realized how difficult it must have been to direct such a production with teenagers as the cast and crew.

But Zeitlin’s sister-in-law, Dr. Belinda Basaca Zeitlin, class of 1988, who is now a pediatrician, said that Zurbrick treated his students like adults. “He’s the type of teacher that you would always remember,” she said, adding that her husband, Jennifer’s younger brother, Ben Zeitlin, was also a student of Zurbrick’s. “I was talking to [other] graduates,” Belinda said, “and some of them were like, ‘Yeah, I stopped doing theater, but I played football in college and he would come to my college football games.’ And I organized something in my medical school called Teddy Bear Hospital Day, and he came to that up in Albany. I told him, ‘I got all [these] skills from you, Z.’”

Albergo stayed with theater and production long after high school, and he said Zurbrick was always there for him. “I ended up moving out to California, and I worked for Warner Brothers and Disney and decided that wasn’t for me,” Albergo recounted. “My first love was theater, so I went back to theater, and I ended up getting a job in a musical, my first theater job, produced by Michael Jackson. It was the only Michael Jackson-produced musical, called ‘Sisterella.’”

When Albergo was heading to Germany and Austria to run an overseas production of the show, he recalled, he was nervous because he had never worked with



Courtesy MarkCharles Avellino-Misilli

ALTHOUGH DALE ALAN Zurbrick retired in 2002, he stayed in touch with many of his former students later on his life.

props before. So he called Zurbrick. “I was in a panic, and said, ‘What do I do? What do I do?’ and he calmed me down. He told me how to set up a prop table and how to label everything and make sure that the actors place everything back where it belongs. I appreciate Dale. Dale was always a life-saver.”

Albergo said that he and Zurbrick remained friends for life, and would often meet for lunch near Lincoln Center, where Albergo worked for the Metropolitan Opera. “His favorite was Chinese food,” he said.

“We would meet up and he would get me updated about his students,” Albergo said. “He loved all of you guys. He just loved everyone, and he loved life and lived it the way he wanted to.”

Many who took part in the digital ceremony said they had never met anyone like Zurbrick before, and that many of his lessons applied even outside the realm of music and theater.

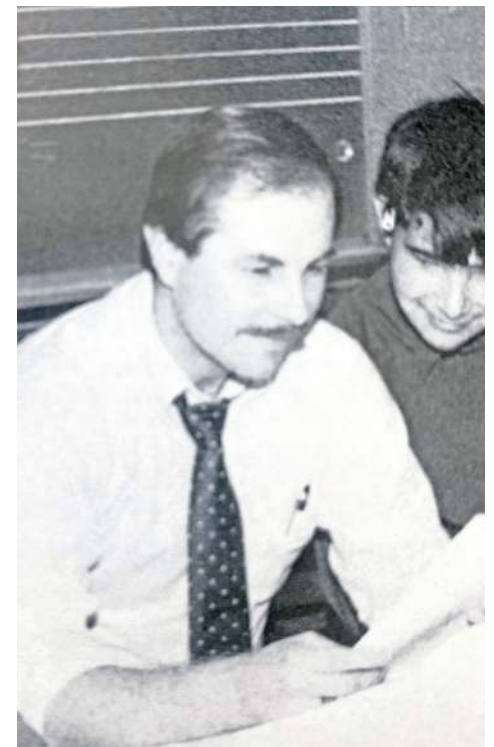
“When I go to my son’s school concerts,

I can hear Z’s voice: ‘Stand up straight, annunciate, sing to the back of the room,’” said Joyce Wong Naiman, a 1988 graduate, “and then I picture him, standing with the hip slouch, pretending to chew gum and saying, ‘The audience does not want to see you chew like a cow.’ I use his lessons every day in medicine, whether I’m talking to a patient or a room full of my colleagues or to my medical students. I make sure I annunciate, stand up straight and I do not chew like a cow.”

It’s no wonder that former students and colleagues of Zurbrick’s believe he deserves to have the high school auditorium named after him. And even though current students will never meet him, those who came before them

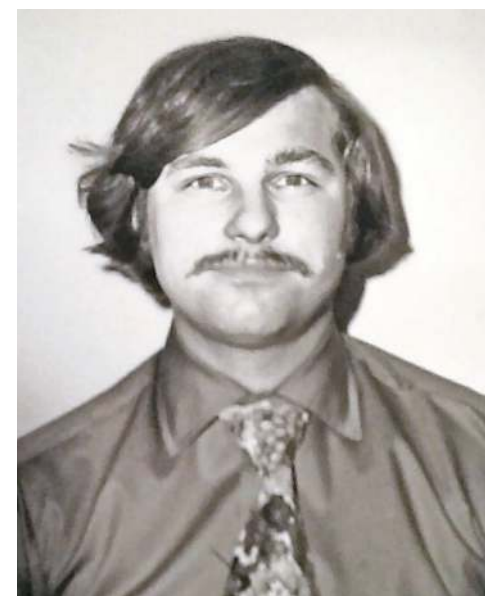
hope that through a scholarship fund, they, too, can be a part of his legacy.

District Superintendent Maria Rianna said that once the petition is submitted, the Board of Education will form a subcommittee to review the request.



Courtesy Belinda Basaca Zeitlin

ZURBRICK, ABOVE, ENJOYED being a teacher. Many former students say that he treated them like adults, while still sharing many laughs with them along the way.



Courtesy Glen Cove Masquers Reunion Facebook page

ZURBRICK STARTED HIS career with the Glen Cove School District in 1976.

How to get involved

Sign a petition to have the Glen Cove High School auditorium named after Dale Alan Zurbrick at https://www.change.org/p/glen-cove-rename-glen-cove-high-school-auditorium-for-dale-alan-zurbrick?source_location=topic_page.

Donate to the fundraiser for scholarships in Zurbrick’s name at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/dale-alan-zurbrick-memorial>.

Crime

■ On August 19, a 36-year-old Valley Stream male was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation in the second degree and other vehicle traffic law violations on Titus Road.

■ On August 20, two Glen Cove males were arrested; A 37-year-old arrested for criminal mischief in the fourth degree and a 63-year-old arrested for endangering the welfare of a child and attempted

criminal mischief in the third degree, on 4th Street.

■ On August 21, a 44-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for criminal contempt in the second degree and violation of parole on Smith Street.

■ On Aug. 9, a 19-year-old Greenlawn male was arrested for driving while intoxicated, criminal possession of a controlled substance in the seventh degree and failure to keep right on Glen Cove

Avenue.

■ On August 9, a 43-year-old Glen Head male was arrested for aggravated harassment in the second degree, unlawful possession of marihuana in the second degree and stalking in the fourth degree on Woolsey Avenue.

■ On August 10, a 56-year-old Glen Head male was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation in the second degree (2 counts) and third degree, circumvent

interlock operation with out device and operating a motor vehicle by unlicensed driver on Glen Cove Avenue.

■ On August 10, a 72-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for assault in the third degree on Eastland Drive.

■ On August 12, a 46-year-old West Babylon male was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation in the second degree and failure to stop at stop sign on Miller Street.

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.

The importance of generator safety

Following Superstorm Sandy in 2012, many homeowners purchased generators to be prepared for future power outages. And after nearly 400,000 Long Island homes lost power during Tropical Storm Isis, these generators were put to good use for several days.

While generators play an important role in preventing food from spoiling, operating electric-powered medical equipment and maintaining air conditioning during summer storms, potentially life-saving safety precautions must be followed to protect users from carbon monoxide poisoning, electrocution and fires.

“The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration is predicting an extremely active hurricane season,” Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton said. “If we happen to lose power during another storm this fall and you have a generator, protect yourself and your family by ensuring you are using it safely.”

For safe generator use, follow these guidelines:

Generators should never be used indoors or in an enclosed space

Carbon monoxide poisoning is caused when gas fumes are present with inadequate ventilation. Consumer Reports recommends placing a generator at least 20 feet from the house and ensuring the

engine exhaust is directed away from windows and doors. Symptoms of carbon monoxide include nausea, dull headaches, weakness, dizziness, shortness of breath, confusion, blurred vision and loss of consciousness.

Keep the unit dry

To avoid electrocution when using a generator, ensure it is always on a dry surface under an open canopy-type of cover. Do not use it in rainy or otherwise wet conditions unless it is completely covered. Never touch a generator with wet hands.

Store fuel safely

To prevent fires, always store fuel in a container as recommended in the generator's instruction manual. Re-fuel the generator only when it is turned off and completely cool. All fuel containers should be stored outside at a safe distance from the home. Contact a local fire department for additional fire-safety guidance.

Additional safety tips include:

■ Ensure the entire electric cord has no cuts or tears and the plug has all three prongs and a grounding pin.

■ Protect yourself, your neighbors and utility workers from back-feeding. Never plug a generator into standard wall out-



Courtesy Flickr

GENERATORS COME IN handy during power outages. It's important to practice safety cautions to prevent carbon monoxide poisoning, electrocution and fires.

lets.

■ Prevent overheating by only using the power that is needed and alternating generator use between appliances.

For further information, contact Legislator DeRiggi-Whitton at (516) 571-6211 or dderiggiwhitton@nassaucountyny.gov.

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The Glen Cove Herald Gazette USPS 008886, is published every Thursday by Richner Communications, Inc., 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. Periodicals postage paid at Garden City, NY 11530 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to Glen Cove Herald Gazette, 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. **Subscriptions:** \$30 for 1 year within Nassau County, \$52 for 1 year out of Nassau County or by qualified request in zip codes 11542, 11545, 11547, 11548 or 11579 **Copyright © 2020 Richner Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.**

SHARE YOUR LOSS, SHARE YOUR MEMORIES

Dear neighbor:

We live and work in this community. The lives of each and every one of you is important to us and we are here to tell your stories — from beginning to end. That includes the final chapter. At this difficult time, I want to remind you that obituaries in all Herald Community Newspapers are, and have always been, completely free.

COVID-19 has taken far too many, far too soon. Let us help you commemorate the life of your loved one with a story and photo celebrating their life. Contact our Executive Editor Scott Brinton, sbrinton@liherald.com or call 516-569-4000, ext 203, if you would like to memorialize a loved one in the Herald, regardless of their cause of death.

Stuart Richner
Publisher
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HERALD
Community Newspapers

Senators grill utilities over Isaias response

By MIKE CONN

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Members of the State Senate joined the Public Service Commission, Long Island Power Authority and PSEG Long Island officials in a 13-hour virtual hearing on Aug. 20 to discuss what many said was the failed response to the damage caused by Tropical Storm Isaias on Aug. 4.

State Sen. Jim Gaughran, a Democrat from Northport who represents Sea Cliff, Glen Head, Glen Cove and Oyster Bay, among other communities, said the PSC has oversight over utilities such as Consolidated Edison, which provides electricity to New York City and Westchester County, but not over PSEG.

Gaughran explained that the LIPA Reform Act of 2013 gave oversight of PSEG to LIPA instead of the PSC, which oversees most other parts of the state.

“Part of my frustration is when I listen to [other senators] talking about trying to get the commission to go after Con Ed and this, that and the other thing,” Gaughran told the PSC representatives, “I’m jealous because your wonderful commission doesn’t have the authority to do that here for Long Island.”

Thomas Congdon, executive deputy and deputy chairman of the State Department of Public Service, which includes the PSC, said it has some oversight over PSEG, but not at the level it does for other utilities across the state. The contract that LIPA has with PSEG, however, does include a provision enabling termination of the agreement for poor performance, Congdon noted. Termination could be pursued if further investigations were to find it necessary, he said, although that action would fall under LIPA’s jurisdiction, not the PSC’s.

In addressing PSEG’s response to Isaias, Gaughran commended the workers on the ground in the storm’s aftermath. He said, though, that communication between PSEG LI and its crews was a “total failure,” and added that many crews spent hours waiting for orders from PSEG before being assigned to a job.

Gaughran said that LIPA has storm reserve funds that are accessible by PSEG, although they are not available to compensate for errors such as unassigned crews waiting because they did not



Photos courtesy Office of Sen. Jim Gaughran

STATE SEN. JIM Gaughran, at lectern, was joined by fellow Long Island senators, from left, John Brooks, Todd Kaminsky, Anna Kaplan and Kevin Thomas in calling on state Attorney General Letitia James to investigate PSEG Long Island’s response to Tropical Storm Isaias.

receive timely communications.

LIPA CEO Thomas Falcone said the authority is reviewing the storm response by PSEG, and reserves the right to reject costs if they were unwarranted. There is also a third-party audit, Falcone said, whenever federal money is involved — in this case, acquiring recovery funding from the Federal Emergency Management Agency is possible.

“We have a very thorough review process,” he said, “and we’ll see what we turn up.”

Gaughran asked Falcone how many full-time employees LIPA has to oversee storm preparation and management for future storms. Falcone did not give a definitive answer; instead saying PSEG is responsible for implementing systems and testing their reliability. LIPA’s role, he said, is to verify that they work.

In the days after the hearing,

Gaughran said he was largely dissatisfied by the responses that LIPA and PSEG officials gave senators. He said that Falcone and PSEG President and COO Daniel Eichhorn did not offer answers on how they might repair communications between PSEG and its customers.

“At the hearing, other than admitting that they totally failed in communication, they didn’t give any responses,” Gaughran said. “They didn’t tell us what they were going to do to fix the problem.”

After the storm, residents and officials across the North Shore decried PSEG’s lack of communication. It was unable, they said, to offer timely information on when power would be restored to some areas more than a week after the storm. And the outage map on its website was often inaccurate, indicating certain areas had power when they did not. This, Gaughran said, was unacceptable.

In a letter he sent to LIPA on Aug. 6, Gaughran asked about the authority’s plans to recover from Isaias and improve its systems. As of press time, he had not received an answer.

Gaughran said he wrote a bill in July, which passed the Senate and Assembly, that would give the PSC oversight authority over LIPA and PSEG. He said Long Islanders were hurt because of inaction by LIPA and PSEG, and giving the PSC the ability to sanction them would offer Long Islanders the same protection as people in most other parts of the state.

The bill now awaits Gov. Andrew Cuomo’s signature.

“I’m going to really push to pass my legislation that will give the Public Service Commission oversight authority regarding storms,” Gaughran said, “because I don’t think LIPA is capable of doing that at all.”

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Inside LI panel addresses return to college

By **BRIANA BONFIGLIO**
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Higher education officials across Nassau County have been tasked with creating plans that balance health and safety and quality education for students returning to campus amid the coronavirus pandemic.

Although Covid-19 numbers are at their lowest since March, health experts say colleges must be vigilant and enforce strict guidelines in their reopening plans. On Aug. 21, Inside LI, produced by RichnerLive, hosted its second virtual panel discussion on topics related to “new normals” in different aspects of life. It featured several leaders in higher education to discuss their paths to a safe and productive fall semester.

The 45-minute webinar included panelists Dr. James Lentini, president of Molloy College; Dr. Christine Riordan, president of Adelphi College; Dr. Gabrielle St. Léger, assistant vice president and dean of students at Hofstra University; and Dr. Jermaine Williams, president of Nassau Community College.

Dr. Aaron Glatt, chairman of the Department of Medicine at Mount Sinai South Nassau hospital in Oceanside, also joined to offer a medical perspective on how to open colleges and universities safely. Skye Ostreicher, of RichnerLive and Herald Community Newspapers, was the moderator.

“It’s almost like opening a mini-city,” Riordan remarked about starting classes on a college campus. “We have to abide not only by the higher education guidelines, but by all of the other guidelines that may pertain to some of the things that we have on campuses — we have hotels with our residence halls, restaurants with our dining facilities, day-care centers, transportation systems, sports teams, religious organizations [and] retail with our bookstores.”

Riordan said colleges worked together, and with state and county health officials, to develop plans that adhere to



Courtney Myers/Herald

SEVERAL LEADERS IN higher education, as well as one medical professional, spoke about reopening colleges amid a pandemic during a Inside LI webinar, part of an ongoing series.

Centers for Disease and Control Prevention guidelines. At the same time, college presidents want to uphold high standards of education.

At Nassau Community College, the state’s largest community college, 93 percent of classes will be online. This will leave around 300 to 400 students on campus at any given time, which Williams called an “extreme drop from where we’d normally be.”

Williams said the college is “providing the same high-caliber education whether you’re in the classroom or taking a remote course.”

At Molloy, Lentini said students would receive a quality education, despite altering the mode of instruc-

tion. He said professors have been trained and retrained in remote teaching skills. “It’s not like in the spring where we had to turn on a dime,” he said. “This time we had time to do it.”

Aside from instruction, students attend college for the social experiences, many of which will be lost this semester because colleges cannot hold large gatherings. St. Léger noted that telling students, “No, we can’t do that,” would be difficult but necessary.

Hofstra staggered move-ins for more than 2,000 resident students, St. Léger said. The university is also launching educational campaigns to provide positive reinforcement of safety measures, such as mask wearing, social distancing

and avoiding large gatherings. Student ambassadors, who normally hold social events, will now be tasked with helping to enforce those measures on campus.

“I want students to understand their impact on the campus, on their suite-mates, on their classroom community,” St. Léger said “We need our students to understand their individual role.”

Each panelist said that if their own children were college students, they would feel comfortable sending them away to college given the universities’ thorough plans.

“I’m very impressed by the plans that all of the colleges have talked about,” Glatt said, while recognizing that no plan will be perfect. “I do think it’s important to have students go to college in person, however, with significant restrictions. That’s how we are going to defeat this until there is a practical vaccine available and distributed.”

He noted that a vaccine will not impact this semester of college because it will not be widely available until sometime in 2021. Colleges thus must be vigilant in monitoring the health of students and faculty and acting quickly if a Covid-19 case were to arise.

Colleges are requiring resident students to test negative before moving into residence halls. They are also requiring commuter students to conduct health screenings and fill out a health form before attending classes each day.

Molloy has a contactless temperature-reading kiosk outside every building. Using face recognition, it scans people as they come in, takes their temperature and records it under their student or faculty identification, Lentini said.

“I’m hopeful that if, in general, society takes this seriously,” Glatt said, “... we can have a close-to-normal educational program.”

InsideLI’s next virtual panel, “Why The Residential Real Estate Market Is So Hot,” will be Thursday, Sept. 3, at 10 a.m. Register at liherald.com/inside-li9-3.

RichnerLive webinar to explore fast-moving housing market

Realtors across Long Island have had their hands full this summer. After a lull in the market during the spring, when coronavirus stay-at-home orders took effect, it’s now full steam ahead as demand for homes has skyrocketed.

Bidding wars are the current norm, and real estate agents say that houses are selling quicker than ever. At the same time, there are fewer homes to sell, which is only driving demand even higher. But why now?

RichnerLive, a division of Richner Communications Inc., publisher of Herald Community Newspapers, will explore this phenomenon on Thursday,

Sept. 3, at 10 a.m. during a live, 45-minute webinar with Long Island real estate experts, including:

- Steven Dubb, Principal, The Beechwood Organization
- Bryan Karp, Licensed Real Estate Sales Representative, Coach Realtors
- Joseph G. Milizio, Esq., Managing Partner, Vishnick McGovern Milizio LLP
- Deirdre O’Connell, Chief Executive Officer, Daniel Gale Sotheby’s International Realty

Skye Ostreicher, of RichnerLive and Herald Community Newspapers, will moderate this discussion, entitled “Why The Real Estate Market Is So Hot.”

“As we’ve all seen, Covid has impacted our communities in countless ways,” Ostreicher said. “With more families able to work from home, less people need to commute to an office. What long-term impacts will this have on Long Islanders and our downtown areas? I look forward to hosting an engaging and informative conversation with leaders in the industry and taking questions from our

attentive live audience via Zoom.”

Herald Inside LI will offer a series of free webinars in the coming weeks and months to help inform people about the salient issues surrounding the Covid-19 crisis to empower them to make smart decisions for themselves and their families. To reserve your spot for the webinar, simply go to www.liherald.com/insideli9-3. You may submit your questions in advance by emailing insideli@liherald.com. To sponsor a webinar or for more information, contact Amy Amato at aamato@richnerlive.com or call her at (516) 569-4000, ext. 224.

Pittman heroically saved a troubled man's life

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

given to an officer outside the NCPD's ranks. Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke also honored Pittman with a Certificate of Recognition from the city.

Addressing the five honorees, Suozzi said, "You are being recognized as examples for us to hold up for all of society to see in these many and varied stories that we tell today of the great work that our police officers are doing."

Pittman said he was full of emotion when he responded to the call, but made every effort to make sure that his fellow officer was safe. He was proud, he said, that his efforts, and those of his fellow GCPD officers, succeeded.

"It felt great," Pittman said. "That officer is like a little brother to me. We still talk every day, and whenever he needs something, he gives me a call."

He recognized the gravity of the NCPD's award, he said, adding that it was something that he never expected. "It felt amazing," he said. "I was very surprised myself. I've never heard of it going to anyone other than Nassau officers, so it was an absolute honor."

Tenke said that Pittman's willingness to do everything he could to save his fellow officer was worth recognizing, and that he knows Pittman is the kind of person who will be there no matter what, ready to take charge of any situation.

"I am very, very proud of him," Tenke said. "We are lucky to have him



Mike Conn/Herald Gazette

THE FAMILY OF GCPD Officer Darren Pittman, fourth from left, joined him as he was honored by U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, center, Glen Cove Deputy Mayor Maureen Basdavanos, far left, GCPD Chief William Whitton and Mayor Tim Tenke.

GLEN COVE HERALD GAZETTE - August 27, 2020

in our city and in our Police Department. Darren is really representative of what officers all around the country do that they don't get recognized for, and they really should be recognized."

Pittman is not only exemplary in his ability to de-escalate dangerous situations, Tenke said, but also serves as the GCPD's liaison to the Glen Cove City

School District. He visits the schools and teaches students about respect, bullying prevention, how to stay away from drugs and alcohol and how to be a good citizen.

All of the officials agreed that police across the country are currently the focus of a great deal of controversy. Suozzi said he was proud to honor offi-

cers who serve as examples of the good things police officers do.

"It just came together perfectly," he said. "We need to do this type of stuff when we're in this time of everybody just yelling and screaming at each other. [We need to ask], how can we work together to actually solve these problems and make people's lives better?"

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Heralds earn top honors in state press contest

STAFF REPORT

sbrinton@liherald.com

The Herald Community Newspapers came up big in the New York Press Association's 2019 Better Newspaper Contest, earning 18 awards, including five first-place honors, and placing fourth among newspaper groups in the state.

Some 173 daily and weekly newspapers submitted a total of 2,198 entries in the annual competition, the results of which were announced via webcast on the NYPA website last Thursday and Friday.

The Herald's sister publication in the Bronx, The Riverdale Press, earned seven accolades in the contest, bringing the total for Richner Communications Inc. publications to 25.

"I'm thrilled with our showing in this year's competition," Herald's Publisher Stuart Richner said. "The depth of our team shows in the breath of awards we came away with. These honors, judged by out-of-state journalists, demonstrate the talent and dedication of our team."

"Each week," Richner continued, "our editors, reporters, photographers, layout artists, advertising account representatives, press operators and drivers put their hearts and souls into Herald Newspapers. Special thanks to Copy Editor Jim Harmon, the unsung hero of our Editorial Department."

"I'm so proud to be a part of this team," said Rhonda Glickman, the Herald's vice president of advertising sales. "Congratulations to all."

Here's a rundown of the accolades:

First Place honors

■ Herald's Photo Editor Christina Daly was named the 2019 NYPA Photographer of the Year. Daly submitted a portfolio of 10 news and feature photos.

Judges wrote, "Fireworks, sports, fun and emotion. This portfolio has a little bit of everything, and each image tells a story. Great angles. Very strong entry."

■ The Herald's seven-part series "The Racism Around Us" earned first place for Best News or Feature Series and second place for In-Depth Reporting.

Scott Brinton, the Herald's executive editor, was the series editor and a writer for it. Other writers included Jeff Besen, Briana Bonfiglio, Timothy Denton, Andrew Garcia, Nakeem Grant, Melissa Koenig, Nadya Nataly, Robert Traverso and Darwin Yanes. Daly created the graphics and maps for the series.

Judges wrote, "Comprehensive and complete coverage of an issue — structural racism — which remains embedded within the American experience. This newspaper's devotion to this story ... represents a great service to readers."

■ The Freeport Herald-Leader, Long Beach Herald and Oceanside-Island Park Herald were honored with a first-place award for Spot News Coverage for their in-depth reporting of the horrific murder of Oceanside High School student Khaseen Morris, 16, at an Oceanside strip mall last September.



Photos by Christina Daly/Herald

ABOVE IS A collage of all 10 of the photos for which Christina Daly won the New York Press Association's Photographer of the Year title.

The writers covering the story were Bonfiglio, Daly, Nataly, Anthony Rifilato and Yanes. Daly was also the primary photographer.

Brinton wrote the editorial that accompanied the stories and edited the video that appeared with the online version of the initial story, and he and Mike Smollins were editors for what became a series of stories on the murder.

Judges wrote, "Congratulations to a dedicated team that insisted on journalism more impactful than video clips and sensational headlines ripe for social media and judgmental commentary. Diligent, uncompromising, steady and focused, the newspaper produced quality journalism."

■ The Merrick Herald Life was awarded first place for Coverage of Education. The paper submitted five stories on a variety of Board of Education and classroom news.

Writers included Garcia, Erik Hawkins and Alyssa Seidman.

Judges wrote, "Great storytelling ... [Coverage] connects with readers on an emotional level ... Great presentation and education of readers to understand the topic[s]."

■ The Herald Community Newspapers were honored with a first place for Special Section/Niche Publication on Newsprint for their section on Nassau County's best attorneys, which accompanied an awards and networking event attended by hundreds. The event organizers included Amy Amato and Courtney Meyers. The section editor was Karen Bloom, and the designer was Jeff Negrin.

Judges wrote, "Very well done, thorough, consistently classy page design. Great presentation from a business that does not get a lot of play."

Second Place honors

■ The Herald's sports editor, Tony Bellissimo, earned second place for Sports Writer of the Year for his portfolio of five stories covering events ranging from the Belmont Stakes to local high school sports.

Judges wrote, "Tight writing, vivid detail and great range distinguish this entry from the rest. Very nice job."

■ Bonfiglio, reporter for the Oceanside-Island Park and Rockville Centre Herald, received second place for Rookie Reporter of the Year for a five-story portfolio that examined subjects from teen mental health to the retirement of a local rabbi.

Judges wrote, "An impressive and versatile portfolio, from very tough subject matter — sexual abuse in the Catholic Church — to personality profiles to event coverage. What shines through in every story is Bonfiglio's attention to the telling detail, quotes that move the story forward and thoughtful narrative."

■ Rifilato earned second place for Community Leadership for his series of 20 stories that examined the City of Long Beach's multi-million-dollar payout scandal.

Brinton wrote the final editorial accompanying the stories, and occasionally contributed reporting and writing to the series and edited it.

Judges wrote, "Damn good reporting!"

Excellent coverage of government spending, complete with strong editorial support. Clearly the newspaper took a leadership position here."

■ Michael Smollins, senior editor of the Lynbrook-East Rockaway and Oceanside Herald, received second place for Headline Writing. Judges wrote, "Catchy and accurate headlines sampled across categories. Some obvious thought went into making the puns work."

Third Place awards

■ Ronny Reyes, who is now the editor of the Freeport Herald Leader, received third place for In-depth Reporting for his work while he was the assistant editor of the Franklin Square-Elmont Herald last year.

Also contributing to the long-term series of stories was Peter Belfiore, editor of the Valley Stream and Franklin Square-Elmont Herald.

Judges wrote, "Journalism that makes a difference: The comprehensive coverage of speeding cars on Dutch Broadway [in Elmont] and the ensuing community outrage provided a needed spotlight — and catalyst — for positive change."

■ Laura Lane, senior editor of the Herald's North Shore editions of the Herald, was awarded third place for News Story for her news-feature on Timothy DeMeo, a first responder to the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks on the World Trade Center, who suffers from serious 9/11 health-related issues.

Judges wrote, "Well written and emotionally compelling, this story lays out an obvious miscalculation by the state on [a person] who deserves compensation for responding to the World Trade Center."

■ Brinton earned third place for Column Writing for three columns on a range of subjects. Judges wrote, "This is a writer who takes his journalism personally, relating to his subjects, telling their stories passionately and gratefully. His storytelling is compassionate and introspective — his columns are a good read."

■ Brian Ballweg received third place for Sports Feature Photo for a shot of the Rockville Centre girls' volleyball team celebrating after a championship victory. Judges wrote, "Great expressions. Great color and sharpness."

Honorable Mention

■ Best Front Page, Valley Stream Herald — Nicole Alcindor, Judy Ammerman, Belfiore, Koenig and Yolanda Rios.

■ Spot News Photo, Valley Stream Herald — Susan Grieco

■ Best Small Space Ad, Long Beach Herald — Mona Waitzman

■ Best Small Space Ad, Lynbrook-East Rockaway Herald — Gabrielle Sobell

These honors, judged by out-of-state journalists, demonstrate the talent and dedication of our team.

STUART RICHNER
Herald's publisher

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HERALD Covid-19 HOMETOWN HEROES

AUDREY KUTI

SEA CLIFF

**DIRECT SUPPORT PERSONNEL,
AHRC SEA CLIFF
AND GLEN HEAD**

Work has been different in terms of working at a group home for non-verbal adults and seniors instead of a hub site. At the site, we did food drives, coloring books, dropped them off at libraries and senior shopping, but now we're confined to our residence. We can't go out and do anything right now. Hopefully we can get back to the swing of things.

At the home, we've been doing everything that goes on in the house. The people there are very needy individuals; we do everything from painting fingernails to cooking to making posters for one of our staff to do a drive-by at her pastor's house. While working at the hub site, we were out in the community doing fundraising events, but now we're just confined to the home or the outdoors of its grounds. That's about it.

They're confused as to why they're not going to the day program anymore. They're non-verbal and very needy, but they know something's up. It's pretty interesting for them that we're coming to their house, as they usually go out to the site, and the site is now coming to them.

It's very satisfying and very rewarding. Every day is a new experience, and we take each day as it comes to us. It's not just me — it's the whole group of us that work together. It's the whole entire agency that's in this.



HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

ELAINE NEICE, CATE MCGINLEY, JONI STURGE

**MANAGERS,
SEA CLIFF BEACH**

It's definitely been a weird summer as opposed to last year. Especially at the start with the unknown of whether or not we were even going to open, and then a mad scramble to get open and make sure we had the staff. These kids were really willing to work and follow protocols with masks and social distancing all that.



and

For us, we had to make sure beach-goers themselves maintained their distance between one another and wore masks. Only one person was allowed in the bathroom at a time, the playground was closed, and we didn't have a café this year. The tables on the deck are only from staff, but even they have to be separate from each other.

When staff go and help somebody with their umbrella, they have to make sure they have their masks on and bathrooms have to be cleaned often. It's been more stringent than last year, and we have to keep a count of how many people are on the beach because of the capacity restrictions.

There's been a good response to it. I felt like it was something the community needed to do. Even though it's been different, it's been fun. You see people have fun being in the fresh air, so it's been nice to see that. The credit really should go to the entire staff, because the lifeguards and attendance staff really took on a lot too. It was a really big team effort.

Attributed to Elaine Neice

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO



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BUFFY MEME PETERSON

GLEN COVE

MEMBER, FACEBOOK WINE FAIRIES GROUP GLEN COVE



The pandemic was really depressing because I couldn't socialize with family and friends. I couldn't go out to eat. I was turning 50 this year, so I couldn't have my birthday celebration.

Before joining the Wine Fairies of Glen Cove, Glen Head, Sea Cliff, Glen Wood Landing and Locust Valley group on Facebook, it was just day to day. You're not really living, and I was still helping people as always, but this epidemic really was a downer.

I joined the wine fairy group about four months ago. My very, very good friend, I call her my little sister, told me about it. Her cousin actually started the wine fairy group. She said that this could be something for us to get involved in, and we get to meet new people, and we get to make people smile. That was really encouraging because I enjoy laughing. I enjoy making people happy. So that's why I joined.

What inspired me to hold a school supply drive with the wine fairies was that my mother was all about education. Growing up she always promoted education, and I felt this year a lot of the kids were at a disadvantage because they didn't have that back-to-school feeling that we had when we were younger. So I'm thinking why don't we get together, give them school supplies, but also give them toys. Give them something to look forward to, even if they aren't able to spend the whole year inside the classes.

I just want to make kids happy. We have 45 bags ready for Aug. 22. I'm having an event at my house.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

DAN MCGOWAN

OYSTER BAY

BUS DRIVER, LIFE ENRICHMENT CENTER OYSTER BAY



When the Life Enrichment Center closed in March due to the pandemic, there was no plan to open right away. Then they decided to have me deliver food two days a week and then, later, three days a week. I knew how serious it was but figured, what the hell, I'm wearing a mask and gloves. From the very beginning, I wanted to help.

I dropped off the food that our chef made and would say hello to the ladies. My wife, Emily, has helped the last four weeks by handing me what I carry into the house. On the average, I drop off food in Oyster Bay, Syosset and a couple of homes in Woodbury. They are all members. They are all kindly women because, as you know, women outlive their spouses. Today Emily and I delivered 26 meals.

I drive one of our three buses and then the next time drive one of the other buses so we keep the buses running. When this is all over, I will go back to picking the ladies up at their houses and bring them to the center.

Around 18 years ago, I retired from driving a bus in Queens. I contacted the center and asked if they needed help, and they did.

I will be 80 in April. The people I drive are 10 to 15 years my senior. It gives me a nice feeling to know I am driving them. I have known about 100 of them that are in heaven now.

I also like bringing them food. Many have medical problems, but I don't know of any that had Covid.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

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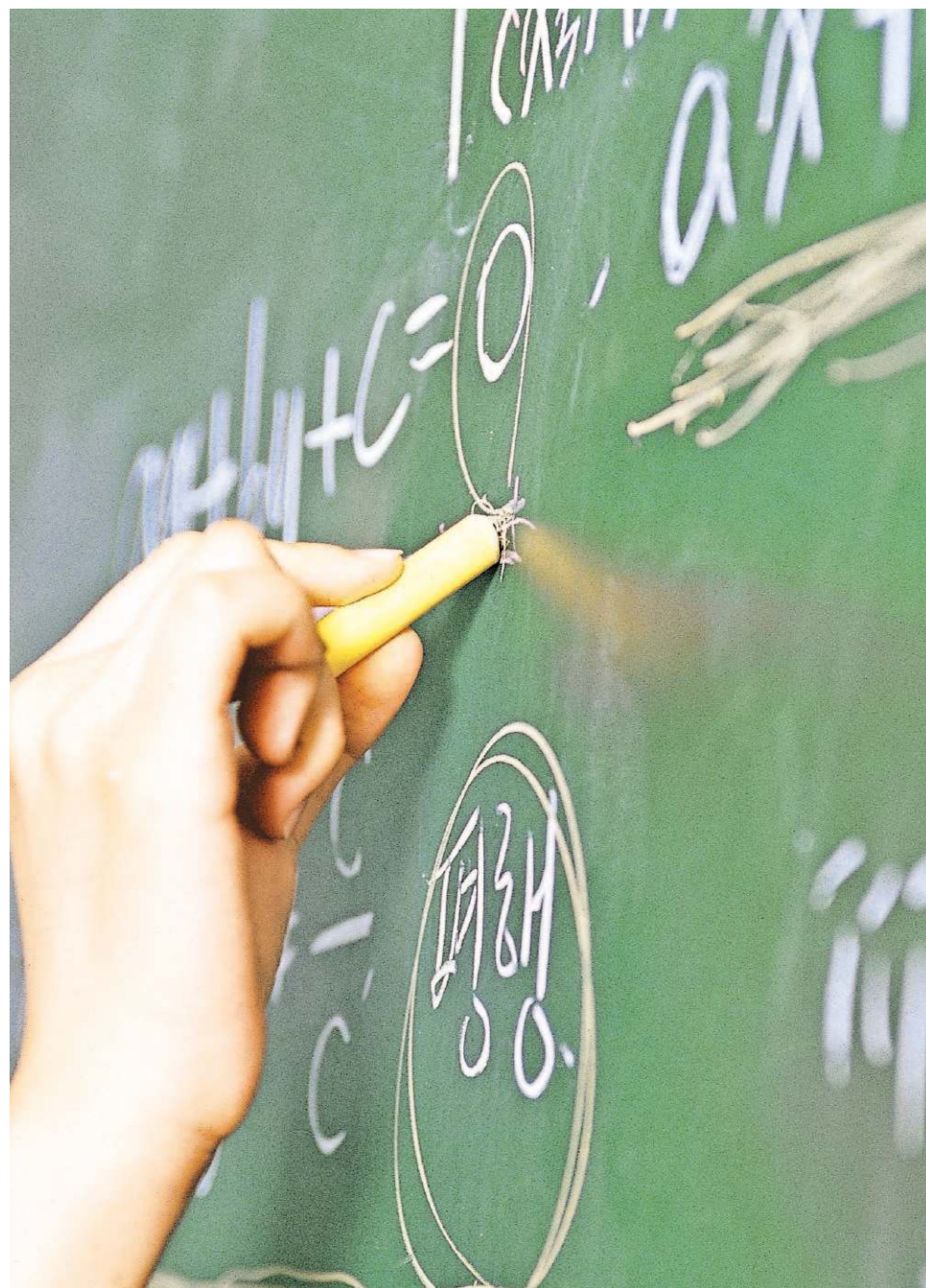
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There is no doubt about it, a love of math is a good thing. By making it approachable and offering the right tools, you can help your young mathematician continue to embrace the subject.

FULL STEM AHEAD

How math can become your child's favorite school subject

Ask kids what their favorite school subject is and fewer and fewer will say "math" as they age. While 37 percent of 4th graders report that math is one of their favorite subjects, only 15 percent of 12th graders say the same, according to National Center for Education Statistics.

At a time when a strong math foundation — as part of a strong STEM education — is more important than ever before, you may be wondering how to keep the subject fun and interesting for kids, even as the workload grows more complex and challenging with each passing year.

Here are some ideas for infusing fun into the equation.

Set a good example. Don't make math out to be a subject you yourself don't enjoy. Whether you're talking about the batting average of your favorite player, working out your budget or watching a news report citing statistics, you can point out the many ways in which math is used to think about the world and spark a numbers-fueled conversation.

Embrace a love of tech. Your children are

digital natives, so when it comes to mathematics, let them use the tech tools that feel most natural to them without limitations. You can feel particularly good about this decision when it comes to calculators.

Many calculators today are much more intuitive to use than their predecessors, allowing students to spend more time learning the joy of math rather than figuring out how to operate the device.

Check in. Many students stop loving math once it gets hard. Unfortunately, a lot of students don't mention they are struggling until it's too late to easily catch up, as most lessons build on previously taught material.

Periodically check in with your student to ensure they are keeping up with their classmates. Let them know there is no shame in getting an extra bit of help. Many teachers will meet with students before or after class to offer assistance and answer questions.

Study buddies, tutors and online tutorials can also help students grasp the material, achieve good grades and ultimately, continue to enjoy math. ■

'BAD' TEACHERS

How to get beyond a personality conflict with a teacher

By Chandra Orr

Your child takes school seriously, study hard and get good grades ... except for that one class. He just doesn't see eye to eye with the teacher – but it doesn't mean his studies have to suffer.

Bad teachers do exist. Whether they're burned out, dispassionate or just distracted with personal issues, sometimes educators don't give it their all, but more often than not, so-called "bad teaching" is simply a personality conflict in disguise.

"The classroom is a stage on which real life is played out," says psychologist Susan Carol Jones, author of "The Greatest Job on Earth: Extraordinary Parenting." "Students will not click with everyone, yet teens need to adjust, as they will be dealing with this for the rest of their lives. As adults, they will be dealing with demanding and unreasonable people throughout their academic and working careers."

In fact, learning how to deal with difficult people may be the most important lesson gained from a student-teacher mismatch, according to Jeff Londraville, author of "The Filter: Unclog the Negativity That Is Preventing You From Having a Wonderful Life." "There is always a lesson from the experience," he explains. "The lesson is to learn to deal with difficult people, to learn that not everyone

views the world through the same lens. The quicker this is understood the quicker the student will become wiser than the teacher."

Help your student learn to adapt now and she'll be ahead of the pack. Embrace the experience as an opportunity to practice her people skills. Think of it as preparation for college and beyond.

Speak Up

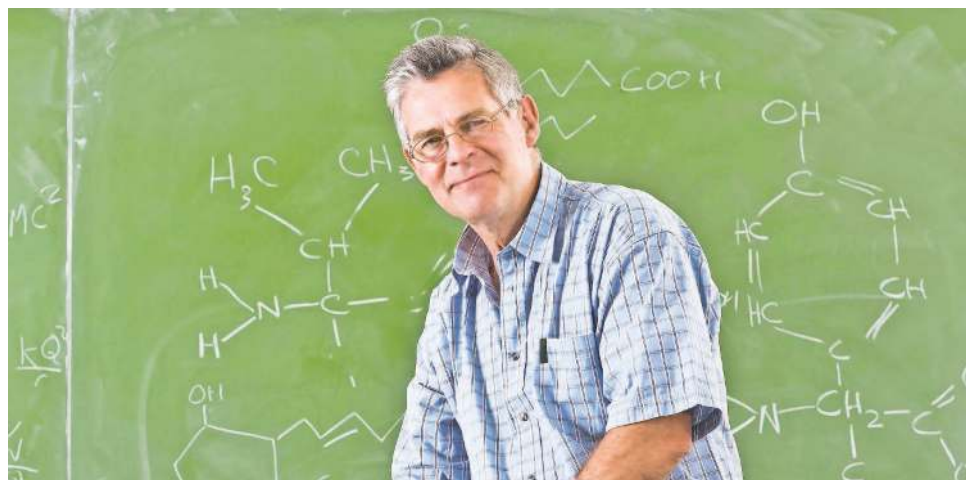
Most teachers are eager to help students become successful, so give the teacher a chance to see where you're coming from and adjust his/her approach accordingly.

"Most often, these issues can be resolved with a mature conversation between the teacher and student," says teacher Susan Kruger, author of "SOAR Study Skills." "As a dedicated teacher, I can tell you that 90 percent of my colleagues are caring, conscientious professionals who will make many sacrifices to reach every student."

When talking with the teacher, steer clear of accusatory or confrontational language. Be sincere and respectful. Focus on getting the information you need and coming up with a plan that works for both of you.

Focus On The Material

Your child doesn't have to like the teacher – and the teacher doesn't have to like him –



Your child's teacher may have a personality and philosophy that seem to be a perfect fit for your young learner or they could be a complete mismatch.

but he does have to do the work, so aim for a great performance. Help him focus on the subject matter rather than the presentation, and give it his all.

"Strive to demonstrate academic knowledge despite the conflict," Jones says. "It's not about who is right or wrong. What matters in the real world is doing your best."

Make every effort to keep up with the work. Turn in assignments on time; study for exams; read the textbook.

"If you cannot connect with the teacher, do your best to get the information from the textbook. This is exactly what you will have to do in college, so now is a good time to start," Kruger says.

If your child doesn't understand the material, it's important to ask questions. Nonconfrontational inquiries are part of the learning process.

"Don't let one teacher ruin your track record. Remind yourself that you only have that teacher for one term," Kruger says. "It is important to

remember that you are earning grades for yourself, not your teacher."

Keep Your Composure

Smart students don't let stress and frustration overwhelm them. They may not be able to change the teacher, but they can change their attitude toward the teacher, which goes a long way.

"Never let frustration, anger or resentment dictate the situation and be the reason for your actions and words," Londraville says.

Keep emotions in check, and try to see things from the teacher's point of view.

"Look at it from the perspective of someone trying to teach a lesson to 25 or 30 kids, many of whom may not want to be in the classroom," Londraville says. "By doing this, you help yourself by not getting angry and gaining control by understanding." ■

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Cat returns home after journey across the city

By JENNIFER CORR
jcorr@liherald.com

Pebbles the cat went missing in mid-March after escaping during a visit at the Green Forest Veterinary Hospital of Glen Cove. "She didn't eat or drink water for three days so I took her to the vet right here," Kathy Sellars, of Glen Cove, said. "She ran out of the box and then she ran out of the driveway. I screamed and cried. I thought I wouldn't see her no more."

But with the help of fellow residents who posted sightings of the cat on social media and Cove Animal Rescue Board Director Janine Fakiris, Pebbles returned safely to her home on Aug.10.

While Pebbles was gone, Sellars said she missed her every day. "She's only five," Sellars said. "I'm going to cry everyday thinking that she's starving. I was crying to the Lord, 'Please don't let her starve. Wrap the angels around her.' It was heartbreaking."

In the first months that Pebbles was missing, every now and then a resident would post a photo of her on Facebook to ask if she belonged to anyone. Fakiris, who told Sellars that she would find and return the cat back to her, would set up traps to try to bring her

home.

But when there were no sightings of Pebbles for quite some time, Sellars began to fear that she wouldn't see her cat again. "I just keep telling them, 'Don't give up hope. We will get a sighting. It may take time' and I just kept communicating with her to keep her hopeful and then eventually we did," Fakiris said. "We were able to get that cat home."

In August, Fakiris saw a post online of Pebbles in Red Spring Colony in Glen Cove, which is on the water. "And the cat actually traveled two and a half miles from the opposite side of Glen Cove and she was living by the water at the beach," Fakiris said. "We went down there and the funny thing is that this cat was rescued from a beach as a baby, so it did go back to a beach I guess thinking that it was an area that it was familiar with and the next morning I set up a trap on the woman's property and we were able to bring the cat home to the two people who are ecstatic to have their cat home."

"When she got home she ate a lot and she slept a lot," Sellars said. "She went out today in my yard because she was used to going out. It's a beautiful story. It's a miracle."



PEBBLES, THE CAT, has returned home safely to her Glen Cove home after missing for five months.

Courtesy Kathy Sellars

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Glen Cove Hospital's tips for a safe school year

To say that the 2020-2021 school year will be unlike any other for our students is an understatement to say the least. But by taking the proper precautions and monitoring symptoms, we can do our best to have a healthy, successful school year.

It goes without saying that masks and hand sanitizer are critical items to have this year. As a reminder, masks are most effective when they stay clean and dry. So, it could be beneficial to have a few extra masks in a student's backpack in case they become soiled in some fashion.

And to be most effective, masks need to be worn in a way that covers both a person's nose and mouth. As part of back to school shopping it can be beneficial to try out a few different kinds of masks to see what fits your child best. This will also help you determine if your child could use a headband or clip to help secure the mask in place.

It is also important for students to do their best to wash or sanitize their hands any time after they sneeze or cough. A tissue should be used to cover a sneeze or cough and then thrown away, washing or sanitizing the hands afterwards. To make this more feasible, a travel-sized hand sanitizer can prove helpful.

As part of the preparations for the school year we should be talking with the students about social distancing. They

should be getting used to not hugging, high-fiving or otherwise touching their classmates as perhaps they did in past years. Until we have a viable vaccine it is important that we practice social distancing as effectively as we can.

This will also be a school year when it's really important for all parents to monitor their child's symptoms and keep them home if they don't look or feel quite right. Any child with a cough, sore throat or fever must be kept at home to avoid spreading a possible virus. Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) has different ways of presenting itself in each person but whether it's gastrointestinal issues or signs of what seems like a cold, it may not be just a cold. We need to all work together to responsibly avoid the spread of possible virus among our students. Quarantine of any student because of exposure, travel or symptoms is key to preventing larger outbreaks and keeping our children healthy and in school.

If your child is ill, please take them for testing. This can be performed in many places locally, even in some doctor's offices or in urgent care centers. Testing is an important way to know for sure who is sick with the virus and prevent the spread to others

■ Barbara Keber, MD, chair of Family Medicine at Glen Cove Hospital

“When NYU Winthrop’s TAVR team replaced my heart valve, they gave me my life back.”



For John Elliott, sailing is living. He’s been on the water for most of his 90-plus years. In all three theaters during World War 2, as a merchant seaman, and for the last 70 years sailing out of the Rockaway Point Yacht Club.

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**NYU Langone
Health**

WWII vet, longtime G.C. resident leaves behind a legacy

By JENNIFER CORR

jcarr@liherald.com

Glen Cove resident and WWII veteran Robert O'Neill, 95, died on Aug. 13, leaving behind his family and community that loved him with a legacy that many community members are saying they will never forget.

Miller Street, the street where O'Neill lived will be dedicated in his honor, ensuring that the community will never forget someone who so many residents seemed to know.

"Jeanine DiMenna, the owner and chef of The View Grill in Glen Cove, was exceptionally good to my dad," O'Neill's daughter, Kerri O'Neill said. "She would make his dinner without salt with all his likings and they had such a wonderful relationship. He loved going to Leo's Deli in Glen Cove also."

She said that U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, former City of Glen Cove Mayor Ralph Suozzi, State Assemblyman Charles Lavine, Councilman Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews and Ashley Alfredsen were helpful in obtaining the military document honors "he deserves." And it was these men that were also instrumental in having the street named in O'Neill's honor, as well as the city's flag to be lowered to half-mast, bag pipes played and the honor army guard present at his funeral.

"My dad was a humble man that loved life," Kerri said. "He cared about me more than anyone in the world and I believe he lived as long as he did to be with me."

Beginning his fight in WWII at 19-years-old, O'Neill was part of the Bravo Company, 1st Battalion, 502nd Parachute Infantry Regiment of the 101st Airborne Division. He parachuted twice into combatant territory once into Normandy for Operation Overlord on D-Day and later into the Netherlands for Operation Market Garden. He also fought in the Battle of the Bulge.

After the war, he returned to the North Shore where he lived for most of his life. He was born in Rhode Island in 1924 and moved to Sea Cliff with his family as a young child. He married his wife, Elizabeth Grella, who died in 2016. O'Neill lived with his family on Miller Street in Glen Cove for many years.

"Robert O'Neill was welcomed into the Grella family with open arms," O'Neill's niece, Sam Kessler, said in a tribute to him on Facebook. "He gained brother-in-laws with survivor stories just like his. He gained nieces, nephews and eventually a daughter of his own. His daughter Kerri O'Neill was raised just as tough as he was. He let her ride dirt bikes and be the cool cousin to many of us."

"My dad was warm and caring," Kerri said. "I knew in his life I came first. I had the best of everything, even though my parents weren't wealthy. My dad taught me how to ride a dirt bike, play baseball and basketball. We watched all sports on Sunday."

Later in O'Neill's life he remained in his Miller Street home, enjoying his net-



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

ROBERT O'NEILL, 95, enjoyed Glen Cove and the businesses and residents within the city.



Jennifer Corr/Herald Gazette

MANY COMMUNITY MEMBERS came out on Memorial Day to support Robert O'Neill when the Veteran of Foreign Wars annual picnic was cancelled due to the pandemic.

work of local veterans and friends. "He never needed any help and flirted up a storm," she recalled. "He was a world class joker. His wit and humor is what everyone will remember him by."

O'Neill's friends, many of which belonged to the local veteran community, said that they will also never forget his humble and positive attitude. Retired U.S. Marine Corps Maj. Fred Nielsen and Tony Jimenez, the director of Veterans Affairs for the city, described O'Neill as someone who wasn't boastful, but proud of his veteran status.

"All of us Vietnam War veterans and remaining Korean War veterans have such a special appreciation for the WWII

veterans," Nielsen added. "[O'Neill] did not speak to call attention to himself. Look at what the WWII veterans did and the climate that they had to do it in."

And to many of the local, next generation veterans, Jimenez said, O'Neill was like a father figure.

"He had a very outgoing personality," Jimenez said. "He loved [joking around] with other veterans. He would go into Charlie's Deli or wherever and just be a social butterfly. He was always outgoing and was always talking to everybody."

Councilman Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews said that he also had a very close relationship with O'Neill.

Stevenson-Mathews' parents died in a



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

AT 19 YEARS old, Robert O'Neill, joined the battle of WWII.

car accident in 1997. And with his father serving in the U.S. Navy and his mother serving in the Cadet Nurse Corps during WWII, Stevenson-Mathews said that he was thankful to know O'Neill during his later years.

"Bob gave me an opportunity to visit with that generation," Stevenson-Mathews said. "For me, I found a friendship not only precious, but I found an opportunity to visit with someone from the Greatest Generation and I didn't have that opportunity with my dad."

Nielsen remarked that O'Neill's generation deserve the title of the "Greatest Generation." "When our WWII veterans pass at this point, I always rest in the truth that they lived in the freedom that they fought for," Nielsen said. "I will miss him and I'm sad that he's gone."

"I felt like Bob was a window into the past in a glorious way," Stevenson-Mathews said. "He had lots of stories to tell; some of those about different people he met over the years."

In May, O'Neill had the opportunity to be honored by the entire community on Memorial Day. The annual picnic hosted by the Glen Cove Veterans of Foreign Wars that he attends every year had to be canceled due to Covid-19. But Kerri did not want her father to go without the fellowship that he enjoys with fellow Glen Covers.

Dozens of cars, Glen Cove Volunteer Fire Department trucks, Glen Cove Police Department and Glen Cove Emergency Medical Services vehicles drove down O'Neill's block, honking and cheering. "My dad talked about it for weeks afterward. He was so humbled that he couldn't understand why the community had done this for him," O'Neill said. "We all knew he deserved this."

"Bob was one of the few remaining WWII Veterans in our city and we owe him," City of Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke said, "and them a debt of gratitude for the contributions and sacrifices in building our nation and making the world a better place."

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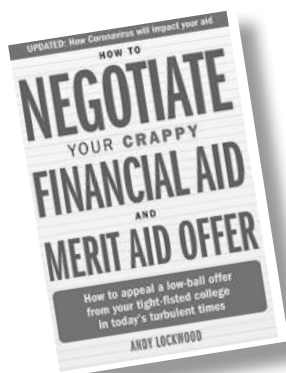
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HERALD EDITORIAL

Hey, college students, quit the partying

College classes were set to start on Long Island this week and next, and that presented a potentially big problem: partying.

Across the nation in recent weeks, one university after another has begun in-person instruction only to have to pull back within a week or two because of a Covid-19 outbreak and switch immediately to online learning again. The source of infection: parties involving dozens to hundreds of students and, often, lots of alcohol.

All it takes at one of these sophomoric soirées is one infected student to spread this terrible disease to dozens, if not hundreds, of others.

So, to all the college students out there, we say this: Your school administrators and professors have spent the past six months trying to figure out how to bring you back to your campuses safely, while the coronavirus pandemic has continued to rage in many parts of the country. Don't blow it!

We get it. Many, though not all, of you are looking for the full college experience — translation: classes accompanied by partying. It's a centuries-old tradition. Your four years of college, you've been told again and again, are the best years of your life, your time to work hard and play hard, your chance to live it up a little before the workaday world consumes you. Now you're being told to wear a mask and stay at least six feet apart from everyone — not the optimum partying condi-

tions.

First, the hype about college being the best years of your life is just that — hype. Sure, there's plenty of fun to be had in college, but there's plenty of fun in the adult world beyond the university campus. Holding off on the partying for another six months or a year, until we can nail down a vaccine, won't kill you.

But Covid-19 could. Think young people can't die of the disease? A 6-year-old just did in Florida. So, yes, young people can get really sick and die.

Moreover, you could very well give the disease to people significantly older than you — like your professors, many of whom are in their 60s, 70s and older, the most vulnerable ages for contracting the disease and potentially dying of it.

Also, many Long Island college students commute to school from home, and each night they return to their families, which have varying levels of vulnerability to the coronavirus. An outbreak on any of our college campuses thus could cause an outbreak in surrounding communities.

So, it's really simple: Put off the partying for now. We don't believe that's too much to ask. Yes, you're being asked to delay gratification, to grow up faster than usual, to become full-fledged adults before, perhaps, you're ready to do so. These perilous times, however, call on every one of us to make sacrifices for the greater good.

Yes, the greater good. It's a concept that we hope and trust you will study in one of your humanities classes. The English phi-

losopher John Stuart Mill (1806-73) championed the idea: In one's actions, one must ask what will do the greatest amount of good for the greatest number of people. In this case, the correct course of action is a no-brainer: Abstain from partying to protect public health.

On any college campus, believe it or not, about 20 percent of students never drink and never party; about 60 percent are somewhere in the middle, often holding off on partying until their sophomore and junior years, though occasionally experimenting with alcohol before that; and about 20 percent are hard-core revelers from the get-go.

Persuading the hard-core partiers will be the tough part for university officials. We agree that the focus should be on educating college students about the benefits of holding off on partying — and the benefits of mask wearing and social distancing. But we also recognize this reality: Administrators and professors likely won't convince everyone. And in cases in which students are engaging in prohibited behaviors, namely mass-gathering parties, consequences for such actions must be meted out swiftly, including potential expulsion from the college or university.

The stakes are simply too high to do otherwise. People's lives and livelihoods are on the line here. If universities don't take a hard stance against partying, then all of us — the larger public included — are potentially endangered by a second wave of infection.

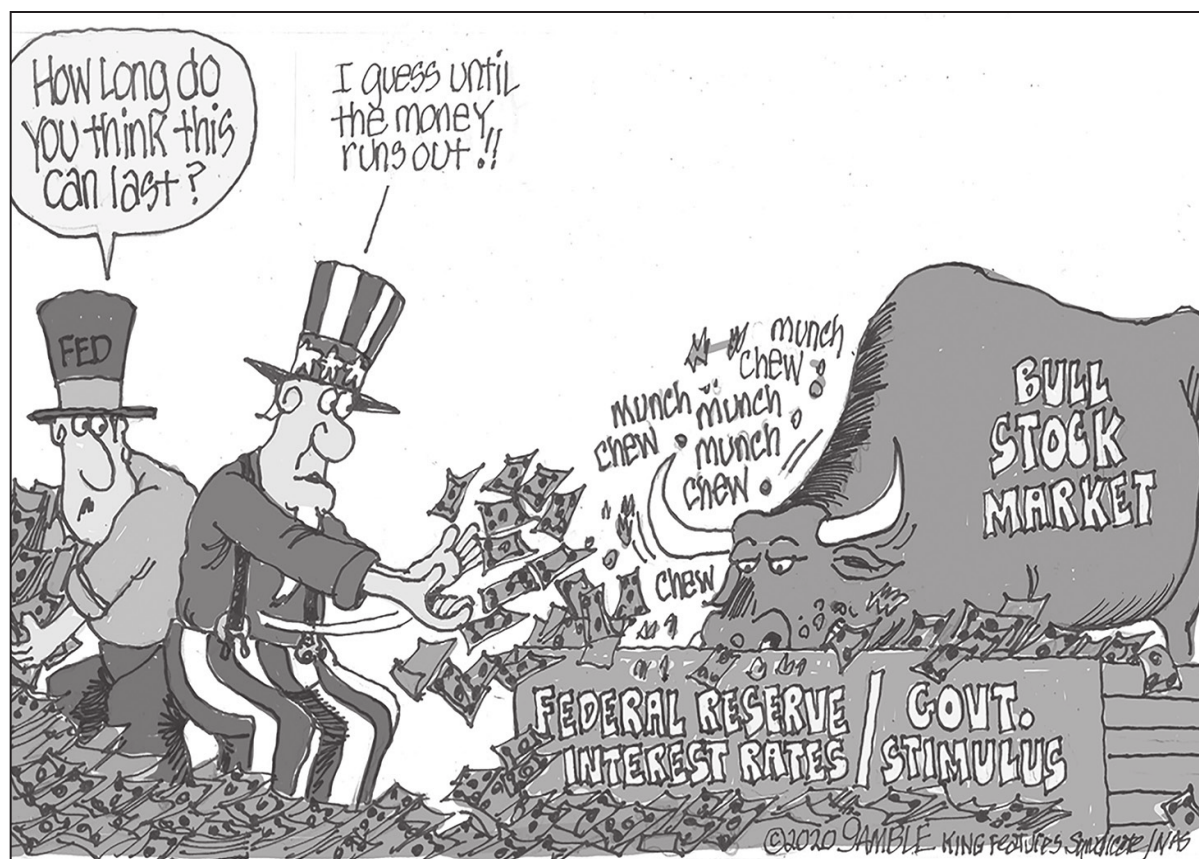
LETTERS

Don't blame the PSEG workers

To the Editor

I have had it with the political posturing of some government officials over the storm damage caused by an act of God. So, I am considering collecting all of the posts from the local politicians who complain about and castigate, on social media and in the press, the very tough job that the more than 3,000 out-of-state workers from over 15 states have done to help us. I will also, to be fair, include all complimentary items that I find.

This will enable me to send these statements to the governors of each of those states, with a letter of sincere appreciation from me, and all individual local residents who do not have a political agenda, showing how much a few local politicians



OPINIONS

Biden and Trump bring to mind Louis and Schmeling

When I was a child, there were only two sports that captured our attention. One was boxing and the other was baseball. Today you can watch multiple sports on fancy television sets. In my early years, radio was the medium by which we connected to both of them.

Watching the presidential campaign unfold reminds me more of boxing than baseball. Boxing is a brutal sport, just like politics. Some memorable fights lasted 15 rounds, and you could feel every punch through the words of the announcer. Men from humble homes chose boxing because it was



**JERRY
KREMER**

their only chance to become someone. Their reward was either a championship belt and a modest purse, or a lifetime of crippling injuries with no financial rewards.

Watching former Vice President Joe Biden give the speech of his life at the virtual Democratic Convention last week

was like watching the first round of what promises to be a brutal 10 weeks between now and Election Day. I recall men like Joe Louis and Rocky Marciano, who battled in the ring late into their careers. Joe Biden is at that stage of his career, and this is his last chance to show that he's a champion.

Donald Trump is today's version of the flashy newcomer who entered the ring with a lot of hoopla but was often defeated with a series of gut punches. Trump has three-plus years behind him in the center ring, but now he's facing a competitor who may just have enough punches left to end the reality show in the White House.

Leading up to the Democratic Convention, the street talk by the Trump enthusiasts, and Trump himself, was that Biden was sleepy, too old and way past his prime. I heard claims that he was a socialist, and would turn the government over to the progressives. He was going to raise your taxes and turn the suburbs into places of urban terror. He was mocked for "hiding in his Delaware base-

ment," with the implication that he was afraid to come out and join the battle.

But the final night of the convention showed that, just like Louis and Marciano, Biden still has plenty of fight left in him to stay in the ring. Unlike the entitled Trump, Biden's humble background speaks to the people who just want a normal and capable president who will take the punches for them at a time when there's too much angst and uncertainty in this nation. Biden survived the first round, and showed the nation that he is none of the things that his detractors allege. His words were strong, measured and a call for decency in government.

He did not capitulate to any socialist agenda. He was just plain Joe, at his best.

Some great boxing matches came at a time when the nation was looking for someone to emerge as its hero. In the late 1930s, American sports fans were riveted by the rivalry between Joe Louis and Max Schmeling, a German boxer who was his nation's hero. Their matches in 1936 and 1938 became worldwide symbols for the struggle between democracy and

Nazism. I don't equate Trump to Hitler in any way, but his views of the world and Joe Biden's are a contest, in my mind, between good and evil.

The next round won't be an easy one for the president. His campaign brings to mind what Richard Nixon did in his campaigns. Biden is running on a platform of uniting America, and Trump is embracing racism and claims that Biden will destroy the country if he's elected. As the campaign moves forward, the country remains locked in a battle with the coronavirus, which isn't going away until we have a proven vaccine and enough of it to inoculate millions of people.

There won't be any knockouts in the months to come. The fighting will be brutal, and Election Day will be Round 15. That's when the referees, the American voters, will make the final decision. Hopefully, decency and common sense will prevail.

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

(some of whom cannot even get legislation passed) have "respected and welcomed and appreciated" the mammoth work that these crews have done, coming here from as far as Texas or farther and working 16-hour days for us.

I am certain that the next time a request for help comes to them, they will just jump with joy and rush here to get this great welcome, knowing how nice and friendly Long Island was to those who freely offered their time to assist.

The politicians blame PSEG for failing to be able to determine what a storm will do? Even the weather persons cannot do that. Acts of God are just that. And unless PSEG is God, it cannot do any better than anyone else.

If there were no storm or minor storms, and it could be shown that a risk was already present, then they might have a sensible argument. But to blame any utility for damage done by winds that snapped or blew down 50- to 100-foot trees and threw big branches and trunks, some weighing tons, 20 to 50 feet or more is ludicrous. I witnessed both.

If these great leaders (who obviously believe they can outguess Mother Nature) want no damage from trees in a storm, just demand that all trees within a minimum of 50 feet of power lines be removed or cut to less than 20 feet high. They obviously have no idea how much time and effort it takes to clear even one power line affected by a storm, nor do they understand that no one can plan or protect all events of this magnitude created by Mother Nature.

Instead of making thoughtless statements for self-aggrandizement, they should be out proactively assisting, and working with the utilities to rationally plan to minimize the potential for such costly events in the future, understanding that no one can predict or prevent all such events.

GLENN HOWARD JR.
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FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



Cruising for lunch? — Nickerson Beach

Mideast agreement is major accomplishment for Trump

August 27, 2020 — GLEN COVE HERALD GAZETTE

In the tangled web that is the Middle East, peace breakthroughs are few and far between. They seem to happen once a generation. But when they do happen, they're historic. And in every case, the United States has played a significant leadership role.

Remember Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin shaking hands with



ALFONSE D'AMATO

Egyptian President Anwar Sadat in recognition of the 1978 Camp David Accords brokered by President Jimmy Carter? Begin and Sadat shared the Nobel Peace Prize for that agreement.

Or Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin

shaking hands with Palestinian Liberation Organization leader Yasir Arafat after signing the 1993 Oslo Accords negotiated during the presidency of Bill Clinton? Rabin and Arafat shared another Nobel Peace Prize for their agreement.

Fast-forward to today, and we have just witnessed another historic Mideast peace agreement. The significance of the deal between Israel's prime minister, Benjamin Netanyahu, and Prince Mohammed bin Zayed, the leader of the United Arab

Emirates, cannot be overstated. It is a historic agreement on a par with the Camp David and Oslo accords. If past is prologue, Netanyahu and Prince Mohammed should be candidates for yet another shared Nobel Prize.

And just as Presidents Carter and Clinton rightly deserve great credit for helping usher through those earlier agreements, so President Trump deserves equal credit and congratulations for his administration's role in bringing about another historic Mideast deal. What was accomplished in bringing this agreement to fruition is also of great significance.

It sends a sign to other Mideast leaders that it is time not only to recognize Israel's right to exist, but also to normalize relations with Israel and fully accept it in the community of nations. "Peace by peace," major powers in the region have come to accept Israel's right to nationhood.

The question now is which Arab country in the region will be the next to summon the courage to make peace with Israel? What about Saudi Arabia, an independently powerful nation that could lead the way for other Arab states? If the young leader of Saudi Arabia, Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman, wants to reclaim

the mantle of reform, he should begin by moving forthrightly toward peace with Israel. And the U.S. should push him hard to do so. Saudi Arabia owes a great deal of its own peace and stability to the United States, which supplies it with both arms and diplomatic support.

America's hand today in the Mideast is infinitely strengthened by our own energy independence. Oil states like Saudi Arabia can no longer hold us energy-hostage. In fact, the tables have turned: the U.S. can and should press Mideast states to make peace with Israel, and focus the attention of the entire region on the nation that is the last remaining stumbling block

to peace.

I'm taking about Iran. Iran is an outlaw nation that has done more to stir turmoil and suffering in its neighborhood than any other country. Its support for terrorism is widespread and indisputable. Just one glaring example is its continued support for the terrorist organization Hezbollah, based in Lebanon. Hezbollah has fomented instability both outside and within Lebanon's borders. It should be stamped out. And Iran should be warned that if it interferes, it risks a military conflict it cannot win.

America sent a strong signal when we

led the military campaign to destroy ISIS, which briefly threatened to establish an Islamist terrorist caliphate in parts of Syria and Iraq. Even Russia agreed to help dismantle ISIS, as Russia faces its own deadly internal threats from radical Islamist terrorists. Now that the UAE has led the way for the next possible round of peacemaking in the Mideast, we should not wait another 20 years for the next peace agreement. The U.S. should continue to push strongly for it.

And the rest of the free world should help. We know we can't count on the feckless United Nations, which recently couldn't even summon the intestinal fortitude to continue the arms embargo on Iran. But the democratic nations of Western Europe should step up and help lead the way to Mideast peace and stability. That begins and ends with stamping out Iranian support for terrorism and doing everything possible to end the dictatorship of the corrupt ayatollahs in that country.

Amid all the turmoil in the Mideast, there is a strong glimmer of a possibility that this troubled region may be on the brink of true and lasting peace. America should continue to lead the way.

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.

Encounter with a phantom of the future

Dateline: Feb. 15, 2020

RK: Who are you?

Covid 19: I am a virus, about to launch a worldwide pandemic.

RK: I never heard of you.

19: But you will.

RK: How?

19: Well, what's today?

RK: Feb. 15. I know because I still have sand in my shoes from a family reunion in the Dominican Republic. We were nervous about going because of the recent mini-

bar deaths in the country, but it was fun and safe and a great time together with the kids and grandkids.

19: Death by mini-bar was nothing. I'm here to give you a glimpse of the future. And by the way, that'll be your last vacation for a very long time. You're lucky you didn't meet me in the D.R., because I was already there.

Let me introduce myself properly. I'm a novel coronavirus, which means that I'm a

brand-new bug in humans, and therefore unstoppable. Until recently, I was living in a market in China. I thought I was having a discreet and productive life, thriving in local bats, and then, vroom, I found myself inside people, and discovered a whole new way to grow and spread. Nothing personal; I'm just a force of nature.

RK: What does this mean to me? I'm healthy and have a busy life, reading and writing and socializing with friends and traveling. I see my kids and grandkids often, even though we don't live near one another anymore. How does your arrival in the States affect me?

19: In the next six months, I will infect more than 23 million people and kill almost 800,000 across the world. By August I will sicken nearly 5 million people in the United States, and more than 170,000 Americans will be dead before the fall. Refrigerator trucks with dead bodies will line some city streets.

I'm tough on people who are compromised by other diseases and older people with weaker immune systems. In April alone I will kill 37 people in just one Seattle senior home. I move fast. Before anyone knew I was a threat, I was embedded,

igniting small fires among unsuspecting groups of people and making many of them very sick.

RK: This sounds like science fiction. How will it get so bad so fast?

It sounded like science fiction. How could a new virus get so bad so fast?

19: I've got a free ride. At this point there are no vaccines, and there won't be an effective treatment for a long time. When there's a surge in a city, thousands of people will show up at emergency rooms where doctors won't know how to help them. Thousands will go on ventilators so they can breathe, but many will die.

No one will know how to deal with me. Doctors and front-line responders will get sick themselves. I will thrive because no one will be prepared: not enough protective gowns and masks, not enough ventilators, no organized national plan to challenge me and enough confusion to allow me to flourish.

Your whole life will change, RK. You and your husband will have to isolate yourselves to stay healthy. By the way, where is he?

RK: At the movies.

19: He won't be able to do that again for

a long time. Movie houses will close, restaurants will shut down, schools will close. No sports. No college dorms. No large weddings or parties. No airplane travel. Hospitalized patients won't be allowed to have visitors.

RK: How can we stay safe?

19: You'll have to stay six feet away from other people, and you'll have to wear a mask wherever you go. You won't see your children or grandchildren for at least six months.

RK: Not possible.

19: You won't see them because they could infect you, and you're more vulnerable. You won't see them because you could infect them, and that would be intolerable.

RK: When will you disappear so we can return to life as it was?

19: I don't think I'll ever go away, but a reliable vaccine could make most people immune. As for "life as it was," once the ground shifts under your feet there's no going back. Going forward, your only hope is to be better prepared for the next novel virus about to leap into the human population.

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Fitness Center†

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298 Silver Timber Drive, Yaphank, NY

The complete terms are in offering plans available from the Sponsors. File No. CD16-0399 and CD18-0348. *Prices, taxes and availability subject to change without notice.

**Eligible homeowners who are approved for the STAR program will receive a rebate. †Actual onsite photos. Equal housing opportunity.

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