

CORONA VIRUS
COMMUNITY UPDATE
 Infections as of Jan. 28
2,828
 Infections as of Jan. 18
2,501

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Virtual Narcan training soon
 Page 7



G.C. school board's new president
 Page 7

\$1.00

FEBRUARY 4 - 10, 2021

6



Courtesy Christine Brown

Who needs hills?

Ryan Rieger, 3, enjoyed sledding in his backyard in Glen Cove after Monday's nor'easter dumped over a foot of snow. Story, Page 5.

City officials ask Silverman to resign

By **MIKE CONN**
 mconn@iherald.com

Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke and other members of the City Council recently sent a letter to Councilwoman Marsha Silverman, asking her to resign if her wife, Roni Epstein, does not withdraw a legal challenge that she filed over the Livingston Village development.

Silverman held a news conference Jan. 29 to alert the public about the letter.

The letter, Silverman said, stated that she had until 5 p.m. Monday to decide. During the news conference, which began at 4:30 p.m., she said she would not resign, nor would Epstein withdraw her Article 78 proceeding, a legal filing challenging a government action.

The city is arguing that since Epstein, an energy regulatory attorney, is challenging a deci-

sion of the city Planning Board, the City Council, the 135 Glen Cove Ave. Corp., the Livingston Development Corp., City Clerk Gaspare Tumminello and City Attorney Gregory Kalnitsky, Silverman's presence on the council presents a conflict of interest, because she and Epstein are married.

Any action taken that suppresses meaningful public participation is not supportive of a democratic society.

MARSHA SILVERMAN
 City councilwoman

Epstein's petition is a response to a decision made by the planning board at a Nov. 21 meeting, when it approved Livingston's proposal to change the 176-unit development from condominiums to rental units. The petition contends that the development's site plan is not valid because a subdivision was not created.

Tenke said the council's letter was not intended to instigate a legal fight between Silverman and the council. His main goal, he said, was to avoid spending more city money on lawsuits over the Livingston develop-

Tenke said the council's letter was not intended to instigate a legal fight between Silverman and the council. His main goal, he said, was to avoid spending more city money on lawsuits over the Livingston develop-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

Joe Johnson, Glen Cover and Tuskegee Airman, dies at 95

By **MIKE CONN**
 mconn@iherald.com

William Joe Johnson has a special place in the annals of Glen Cove: He will go down in American history as a member of the Tuskegee Airmen, a group of Black fighter pilots who served in the U.S. Army Air Forces in World War II. Formed

in 1941, the regiment was the first of its kind, because Black men had never been permitted to fly military planes.

Over the past 70 years, Johnson could be found all over Glen Cove, spending time with his family at Morgan Park, sharing his experiences with neighborhood children at the local Boys & Girls Club and at schools, or sim-

ply sitting on his front porch, enjoying his immaculately groomed garden.

Johnson died on Jan. 28, at age 95. His wife, Teresita Medina-Johnson, said the cause was acute kidney disease.

Born in North Carolina on Sept. 29, 1925, Johnson was the fourth of Lilly and Ellis John-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Ask The Expert: DAWN COSTELLO



It is Valentine's week, so let's focus on how much you love your home, the reasons why, and everything you do to care for it. Even though you might not be thinking about selling anytime soon, these tips can still be helpful.

First, what about your home do you love? The quiet street? Friendly neighbors? Victorian architecture? Sunset views? These positive attributes will not only make you appreciate your current home but can help to market it.

What improvements have you made? I keep a binder of receipts, paint chips, warranties, permits, etc. These records are helpful should you need to fix something and will be critical when you decide to sell. If you start keeping them in one place now, it will make it easier down the road.

What are the top questions sellers ask when they are looking to buy a home?

- How old is the roof?
- How old is the boiler and hot water heater?
- Where is the septic/cesspool? When was it last serviced?
- How old are the appliances?
- What are the monthly heating and electric expenses?
- When were the kitchens and baths updated?
- Is there central air? If so, how old?
- Have you grieved your taxes?
- Are there any open permits or CO issues?
- Are there any exclusions? If the chandelier is a family heirloom you plan to take with you, make sure to let your agent know.

The list can be daunting but if you keep track of things as you go it won't be so bad.

It's a great time to sell if you are considering it. We are still seeing high demand for homes. Who can blame buyers for wanting to live in our lovely community?

If you have any questions about the real estate market, please reach out to me at DawnCostello@Branchreg.com.



203 Glen Cove Avenue • Sea Cliff
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1118868



Christina Daly/Herald

GLEN COVE CITY Councilwoman Marsha Silverman said that Mayor Tim Tenke and other City Council members have no right to demand her resignation because her wife, Roni Epstein, will not withdraw a petition challenging a planning board decision.

Councilwoman Silverman: request violates my rights

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ment, he said, because the last one cost roughly \$250,000, although Livingston reimbursed the money.

Silverman and Epstein's home is adjacent to the development, on Rooney Court. They have legally challenged aspects of the project since 2016, before Silverman was elected to the council in October 2017. But the project was brought before the council again in 2019, and several times since. Silverman has recused herself from all discussions on it, which she said protects her from any accusations of conflict of interest.

The latest petition, filed late last year, is the third by Epstein against Livingston. The first two, filed in 2016 by Silverman and Epstein, resulted in a lawsuit that was dismissed in October 2017. They sought to appeal the dismissal, but Livingston sued them for defamation. That suit was dismissed in January 2020, and Livingston appealed. That appeal has yet to be heard.

Silverman said that the Jan. 29 letter was an ultimatum, threatening that if she did not resign or Epstein did not withdraw her suit, there would be "further escalation of the issue."

"I have decided to make this matter public because if a strong-arming tactic such as this can be attempted against me, a duly elected official, think about its impact on the average citizen and their willingness to assert their rights," Silverman said. "Many members of the community have expressed to me their concern about speaking out for just this

reason. Any action taken that suppresses meaningful public participation is not supportive of a democratic society."

Tenke said the letter was not intended to challenge the merits of Epstein's legal filing, and added that she was within her rights to file a complaint about a decision made by the city government.

"It was basically to inform her of the conflict and provide her with an opportunity to address it prior to the city incurring any expenses with regard to this," Tenke explained.

He added that the Feb. 15 p.m. notice was not a hard deadline, but more an indication of when the council wanted to hear of her decision. This was to eliminate the need for an emergency council meeting on Tuesday night, which ended up taking place, he said.

Silverman recused herself from all discussions during the emergency meeting. Tenke and the remaining six council members voted unanimously to retain Leventhal, Mullaney & Blinkoff, LLP and Chase, Rathkopf & Chase, LLP as counsel for the case.

Epstein spoke during the public comment portion of the meeting, arguing that the mayor and the council were saying, essentially, that she could not petition the government. She and Silverman are two different people, she said, so Silverman is not inherently a part of the case. Epstein also said that Silverman's recusal is enough to satisfy the law.

"If she's not voting and nobody on the council is speaking to her and she's

not speaking to them about this matter," Epstein said, "how is she having any impact over it whatsoever?"

The last person to speak during public comment was Frederick Eisenbud, Epstein's attorney. He pointed to a section of the city ethics code that states that a municipal employee cannot be barred from making a claim against the city or one of its agencies. This, Eisenbud said, shows that the city is violating Silverman's rights as a citizen by asking for her resignation.

Kalnitsky, the city attorney, said that Article 18, a state law, states that no municipal officer can have an interest in any contract issued against the municipality. Since this is state law, Kalnitsky said, it supersedes city code.

According to Section 800 of Article 18, a municipal officer is deemed to have an interest in a contract if his or her spouse is involved.

After the meeting, Eisenbud said that Article 18 does not say anything about an officer being forced to resign in an instance of potential conflict of interest, and that Silverman's recusal from discussions about the case is the required remedy. This, he said, means the city does not have a right to ask Silverman to resign. Eisenbud also said that asking Epstein to withdraw her petition violates her First Amendment rights.

Tenke said that all of the legal arguments would be decided by the courts, and he would not act immediately to remove Silverman from office.

Johnson was an inspiration to all who knew him

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

son's nine children. His family moved north when he was 4 to escape racism in the south, settling in Glen Cove in 1929. Aside from his time in the military, Johnson lived in the city for nearly 90 years, attending Glen Cove High School before his service and settling down in the city afterward.

In a 2019 interview with the Herald, Johnson said he knew he wanted to fly from an early age — and he also knew that none of the planes he saw overhead were flown by Black men, which was something he sought to change.

He graduated from high school in 1943, and was drafted soon after. He joined the Tuskegee Airmen as a cadet and began training as a pilot.

As much as Johnson enjoyed flying, he would never forget the racism he experienced in training. He trained in Nebraska, Colorado, Mississippi and Alabama, and racism was everywhere, inside and outside the Army bases. The armed forces were not integrated until 1948, so Johnson and his fellow airmen lived in separate barracks and rode in separate train cars. White soldiers did not even salute their Black counterparts.

Tony Jimenez, Glen Cove's veterans affairs director, said that the Tuskegee Airmen served a vital role in American history. Their service record was excellent despite low expectations: They never lost a single airship in their escort missions.

The subsequent integration of the military was due in large part to the performance of the Airmen, Jimenez said. "It sets an example of if you persevere, if you try hard, if you really push, you can go anywhere," he said. "[Johnson] used that as an example for kids to get motivated and do their best."

After he left the service, Johnson attended several colleges while deciding what he wanted to do for a living. He worked in construction at first before joining Grumman Aerospace, where he eventually became a supervisor.

He also attended functions at the Lincoln House, where Black Glen Covers often met for a variety of events. There he met Elise Willis, and they married in 1948. They had three children — Michele, in 1953, Terry, in 1954 and William Ronald, in 1955 — and six grandchildren.

Terry, now Terry Finney, said that Joe was a great father, strict but fair, who offered his family constant love and encouragement. He frequently took them to museums, to upstate orchards to pick apples and to the 1964 World's Fair in Queens. Education was paramount to her father, Finney said. He wanted everyone around him, regardless of race, gender, creed or financial status, to have a shot at succeeding.

No matter where he went, Finney said, being a Tuskegee Airman was always important to him. "It made him proud," she said. "It made him know that African-Americans, despite the hardships they went through, made it and proved that they can do the same thing that everyone else could do so long as they tried and



Courtesy Virginia Cervasio

WHEN JOE JOHNSON was presented with a knot board by Boy Scout Rion Weber at the 2016 Heroes Among Us gala, he enthralled the crowd with his life story.

applied themselves."

Elise died of a heart attack in 1989, and Johnson spent the next decade living on his own. That changed, however, when he met Teresita Medina in the early 2000s. They married in 2002. Although Medina-Johnson, 53, said it took a while for her to warm up to him when they started dating, she soon realized how loving Johnson was. She said she would miss his presence, his love of storytelling and his care and affection for her.

Glen Cover Fred Nielsen, a Marine Corps veteran and the Herald's 2020 Person of the Year, said that Johnson was a conduit to Black history and Black pride. One of Nielsen's favorite memories of Johnson was when he was honored at a 2016 gala hosted by Heroes Among Us, an organization dedicated to helping veterans. Nielsen presented Johnson with a Boy

Scout knot board, and when he came up to receive it, he asked to speak, surprising Nielsen aback.

Johnson leaned on his cane, and then sat down and told the crowd of 350 people about his life, in which he had seen so much that was painful for the Black community. His story enthralled the audience, Nielsen said. "There was no bitterness, there was no anger, in spite of what he had seen and experienced," Nielsen said. "Everyone just attended him."

Virginia Cervasio, the founder of Heroes Among Us, said Johnson was as humble as they come. He did not consider himself a hero, and was instead just proud to have served his country as an Airman.



Courtesy Terry Finney

JOHNSON JOINED THE legendary Tuskegee Airmen when he was 18.

"What they had to go through to get to even serve in that capacity for our country — they had to bear it all," Cervasio

said, "but they stayed with it, and they fought against it, and they made sure to serve our country in the best way they could."

Nielsen recalled asking Johnson sometime later how he couldn't be angry given all he had experienced. Johnson gave Nielsen a half smile and said that in his lifetime, he had known many Black men and women who were raised by slaves and their descendants. As he grew up, however, he saw more and more Black people take on roles in American society that he never thought possible, culminating in the inauguration of President Barack Obama.

"People will miss him for the dignity of his thought and the dignity of his living," Nielsen said of Johnson. "He didn't seek to be an example for anyone, but his life, as he lived it, his words, as he shared them, were certainly inspirational."

Toward the end of his life, Johnson was approached by hobby pilots who learned about him and the Tuskegee Airmen. They invited him to fly a plane on the same route from Mitchel Air Force Base, in Garden City, over his Glen Cove neighborhood, that he had watched countless planes fly as a child.

Johnson accepted, and had the chance to fly one last time, soaring over the spot where he once thought it would never be possible.

Sen. Gaughran introduces legislation to regulate LIPA

By MIKE CONN

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State Sen. Jim Gaughran, a Democrat from Northport whose district includes Glen Cove, introduced legislation in the Senate on Jan. 26 to restore oversight control of the Long Island Power Authority to state Comptroller Thomas DiNapoli.

LIPA, which oversees PSEG Long Island, has been unregulated by the state since the LIPA Reform Act of 2013, which Gaughran said could be detrimental to ratepayers. LIPA is the only such authority in New York that he is aware of that is unregulated by the state.

PSEG LI's response to Tropical Storm Isaias, which officials described as poor, is among the reasons why Gaughran believes LIPA needs to be regulated. Shortly after the storm hit in August, he, other elected officials and many residents decried PSEG LI's response, citing a lack of communication between the utility and its ratepayers. Had the comptroller been able to review LIPA's policies, Gaughran said, he likely would have found flaws in its storm response plans and forced a change.

Gaughran said state regulation would also protect residents from rate hikes, as LIPA currently has sole authority to set rates. Additionally, the comptroller's office would look at LIPA's staff structure and payroll to ensure there were redundant positions.

Government oversight would stop LIPA from becoming too top-heavy, preventing executives from making inordinate amounts of money or issuing themselves unnecessary benefits paid for by ratepayers, Gaughran said. He offered his work with the Suffolk County Water Authority as an example. The comptroller's office found that prior board members had given themselves cars and other benefits that they were not entitled to. DiNapoli issued a public report criticizing the directors' perks, which forced change inside the water authority.

The role of the comptroller's office is to make sure public agencies are not wasting money. Regulating LIPA would prevent that from happening, Gaughran said.

"The more and more I look at LIPA and the way they operate and being top heavy with management," Gaughran said, "the



Courtesy State Sen. Jim Gaughran

STATE SEN. JIM GAUGHAN, 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 in August. Gaughran said the poor response could have been prevented if the state comptroller's office had regulated the Long Island Power Authority, which oversees PSEG LI.

more it seems like we really need something like this."

State Assemblyman Michael Montesano, a Republican from Glen Head, said he too believes the state should regulate LIPA. He said it's important "...considering the size of the budget that they operate under and every action they take affects the ratepayer, not only in the cost, but how the utility operates."

LIPA owns power assets across Long Island and is responsible for contracting with its operator, which is now PSEG LI. In doing so, Montesano said, LIPA engages in contractual negotiations that could put ratepayers at risk because there is no regulation as to how much LIPA can spend. DiNapoli is good at his job, Montesano said, and he is confident that oversight would benefit Long Islanders.

"By the comptroller going in to do a full forensic audit, it [would] tell us where the nickels and dimes are and if the money is being spent efficiently," he said, "and where [we could] have cost cutting and efficiencies implemented to save the ratepayers money."

Gaughran said he plans to introduce the legislation in the Senate as soon as possible. If the bill were to pass the Sen-

ate, it would advance to the Assembly. Montesano said he would likely support it.

Assemblyman Charles Lavine, a Democrat from Glen Cove, said he would probably vote for the law too, although he needs

to see it first.

"It would be a great idea to restore oversight control of LIPA to the comptroller," Lavine said. "I also like the idea that by having LIPA regulated residents would be protected from rate hikes. This all looks like a great step in the right direction."

Sea Cliff Mayor Edward Lieberman said that, in theory, LIPA, as a local authority, should be able to provide greater oversight of PSEG-LI than a state official would, so he is unsure if another level of bureaucracy is needed. If, however, regulatory control of LIPA were given to the comptroller, Lieberman said he is confident DiNapoli would be capable of monitoring performance. He also said he trusts Gaughran's judgment.

Regulating LIPA is part of a larger package of utility-related legislation that Gaughran will present in the future. He would also like to give the state Public Service Commission authority to act in the event of another communications breakdown similar to the one seen between PSEG-LI and ratepayers during Isaias.

Additionally, Gaughran said the package includes ways to crack down on money that LIPA might be spending on lobbyists, which he said comes out of ratepayers' pockets.

CRIME WATCH

Arrests

■ On Jan. 24, a 20-year-old Islip Terrace female was arrested for aggravated harassment in the second degree on Hazel Street.

■ On Jan. 24, a 45-year-old Oyster Bay male was arrested for criminal contempt in the second degree on Smith Street.

■ On Jan. 25, a 27-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for aggravated unlicensed operation in the second degree (2 counts), criminal possession of marijuana in the third degree and vehicle and traffic law violations on Continental Place.

■ On Jan. 25, a 53-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for assault in the second degree on Hempstead Turnpike.

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.

GLEN COVE HERALD

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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Good Shabbos, Long Island!

Friday Feb 5
Candle lighting 4:59
Torah reading: Yisro
Shabbos ends 6:09

Read about the Torah portion every week in The Jewish Star... along with professionally curated news and opinion from Israel, across America and around the world. No fake news.

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February begins with a nor'easter in Glen Cove

By JENNIFER CORR

jcarr@liherald.com

Glen Cove residents awoke to see their lawns and vehicles covered in snow and the snowflakes were still coming, adding to the pile on Monday morning.

A massive nor'easter out of the west swept across Long Island early Monday, leaving roughly a foot of snow in Glen Cove. Nassau County and town officials urged people to stay off the roads during the storm if they could because the road conditions were already "treacherous" by Monday morning.

Roni Chastain of Glen Cove tackled the snow early Monday morning. "I like to do it before it gets too deep," she said. "The snow is light. It was much heavier the last time it snowed."

Glen Cove Police Department Chief William Whitton said there were no car accidents in Glen Cove. Police had asked the public to keep all vehicles off the roadways or on the odd-side of the street only or risk a summons. Residents could also leave their cars in the city's parking garages, which Whitton said was at full capacity with residents taking advantage of the option.

"That cleared out a lot of the roadways which made it easier for the plow people to clear up the roads," he said. "It's a testament to the fact that people were heeding the advice of people like the mayor, others and myself. In years past, you would see



Courtesy Roni Chastain

BY MONDAY MORNING, Roni Chastain had already shoveled the snow from the massive nor'easter. Her backyard was a winter wonderland.

people driving around in cars that had absolutely no business being out there."

School districts across the county closed ahead of the storm, including the Glen Cove City School District. No in-person or remote instruction was held on Monday but remote learning was in effect on Tuesday.

"I think it's important to keep some things as they were, pre-pandemic," said Glen Cove resident Nita Pugkhem-George regarding the traditional snow day on

Monday. "The kids really need it. Families really need it. Teachers deserve it."

Pugkhem-George said she was able to have some family time on Monday, building snow people outside and having a care-free and school-free day.

Fellow Glen Cover Marisa Pomerantz Macnow said it was a board game and baking day for her family. They made mud cakes and chocolate truffles, played "Scrabble" and watched the dogs barrel through the snow.



Courtesy Tammy Lanham

ANDREW GLAVIANO, 16, left, Evelyn Sullivan, 16, Amber Wells, 17, and Dylan and Appolonya Lanham, 14 and 17, brought a snowman to life in Morgan Park on Monday.

Power outages were expected but there were none in Glen Cove. There were delays and service disruptions on the Long Island Rail Road and NICE Bus.

For more on NICE Bus, go to nicebus.com. For more on the LIRR, go to mta.info.

Laura Lane contributed to this story.

GLEN COVE HERALD - February 4, 2021

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Thursday, Feb. 4

'Public Speaking 101'

Virtual workshop at 7 p.m. for children in grades seven and up. Learn public speaking techniques through games and earn two hours of community service. To register, visit www.glencovelibrary.org. For more information, call (516) 676-2130.

Friday, Feb. 5

Yoga and meditation in Coe Hall

Planting Fields Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. Warm up the mind, body and spirit this winter season. There will be a yoga and meditation session in the historic Coe Hall, led by instructors from Oyster Bay/Glen Cove Yoga. Masks are required during the session and mats and other equipment will be stationed six feet apart. Screening questions will be asked upon arrival. Admission is \$10 to \$18. For more information, call (516) 922-9210 or visit www.plantingfields.org.

Saturday, Feb. 6

Indoor winter market

Village Square, 100 Village Square at Bridge Street, Glen Cove. Farmers market from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Sea Cliff/Glen Cove Winter Market offers a selection of locally grown vegetables, eggs, along with fresh baked bread, sweets, honey and other goods. Most products grown or produced on or near Long Island. Following Covid-19 guidelines. For more information, call (516) 318-5487.

Sunday, Feb. 7

'The Ratline,' virtual book talk

Virtual book discussion from 12 to 1:30 p.m. from the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. Join the HMTc for a virtual talk with acclaimed legal scholar and author Philippe Sands about his new book "The Ratline," where he delves into the



Tiia Monto via Wikimedia Commons

'America's Sweet Candy History'

Virtual program on Feb. 8 at 7 p.m. from the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library. Dive into the history of candy favorites, from licorice to Hershey bars, with historian Leslie Goddard. Different companies and brands will be explored. Visit www.oysterbaylibrary.org or call (516) 922-1212 for more information.

life and mysterious death of a Nazi officer, tracing his escape from Europe to Argentina. This is a free event. To register, visit www.hmtcli.org. For more information, call (516) 571-8040.

Monday, Feb. 8

History of Jewish People in NYC

Virtual lecture from 7 to 8 p.m. from the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County. HMTc is presenting a series of talks, given by Dr. Thorin Tritter, the museum and programming director, is focusing on the history of Jewish people in New York City. On Feb. 8, Tritter will focus on the arrival process to the neighborhoods that many Jewish immigrants made their home and the housing and settlement patterns in the Jewish Lower East Side.

Lectures are \$10 for non-members. To register, visit www.hmtcli.org. For more information, call (516) 571-8040.

Live virtual bingo

Virtual program at 7 p.m. from the Glen Cove Senior Center. Monday night is bingo night. Join the Glen Cove Senior Center for a free, live and virtual bingo that helps local senior centers. Win prizes. Visit www.glencoveathome.com. Call (516) 759-9610 for more information.

Tuesday, Feb. 9

Virtual yoga

Virtual yoga session at 11:30 a.m. from the Gold Coast Public Library. Join yoga instructor Debra Monaco for an hour of basic yoga. Visit www.goldcoastlibrary.org or call

(516) 759-8300 for more information.

Wednesday, Feb. 10

Valentine's Day livestream

Virtual live-stream celebration from 3:30 to 5 p.m. Tune in for a Valentine's Day performance with Karen Bella. Watch live at www.facebook.com/GCSeniorCenter/. Call (516) 759-9610 for more information.

Painting at Planting Fields

Planting Fields Arboretum, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay from 4 to 6 p.m. Paint a personal masterpiece inspired by the natural beauty and history of Planting Fields. Led by Pinot's Palette, the artists will guide participants step-by-step. Masks must be

worn for the duration of the program and paint stations will be 6 feet apart from one another. Tickets: \$42 for members and \$50 for non-members. For more information, call (516) 922-9210 or visit www.plantingfields.org.

Take-and-make chocolate kit

Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library, 89 E Main St., Oyster Bay. Pick up a kit from the library that includes chocolate, a mold, sticks, paint brush, palette, bags, ribbons and more, along with directions. Visit www.oysterbaylibrary.org to register and call (516) 922-1212 for more information.

Thursday, Feb. 11

Valentine's Day take-and-make

Bayville Free Library, 34 School St. #B, Bayville. Teens and tweens in grades sixth through 12th grade can pick up a craft kit including materials for a mixed media heart and fortune cookie mini cards. Then simply watch a tutorial at participants convenience to learn how to make the crafts. Registration is open. For more information, visit www.bayvillefreelibrary.org or call (516) 628-2765.

HAVING AN EVENT?

Items on the Community Update pages are listed free of charge. The Herald welcomes listings of upcoming events, community meetings and items of public interest. All submissions should include date, time and location of the event, cost, and a contact name and phone number. Submissions can be emailed to jcorr@liherald.com

5 things to know about your town

- Nassau County taxes extended 30 days to March 12.
- Glen Cove public hearing Feb. 9 on Community Development Block Grant.
- Glen Cove IDA/LEAC Governance Committee held Feb. 9 from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.
- Oyster Bay Youth Ice Hockey Program Session 2 will begin Feb. 6.
- Oyster Bay expands outdoor skating opportunities for residents.

HERALD SCHOOLS

Lia Leone elected new G.C. Board of Education president

By JENNIFER CORR
jcorr@lherald.com

After Monica Alexandris-Miller resigned from her position as the Glen Cove City School District Board of Education president for health reasons, Lia Leone, the vice president, became the board's new president. Karen Furguson, a trustee, was then elected to become the vice president.

"It is with a heavy heart I step away now," Alexandris-Miller said in a statement. "While I had hoped to accomplish so much more during my time on the board, I'm confident that my board colleagues will continue to move forward as we have these past few years in ways that will benefit our children and our entire community."

Leone said at the Jan. 13 Board of Education meeting that she would stay on as the president until the end of the term. Although there is a vacancy, Leone said that the board will not fill it for now.

Trustee Gail Nedbor-Gross said she was delighted that Leone will remain president for the remainder of the year. Nedbor-Gross nominated Furguson for vice president. Four of the six members voted in her favor.

"I look forward to working with you



Herald File Photo

AFTER MONICA ALEXANDRIS-MILLER stepped down as Glen Cove City School District Board of Education president, Lia Leone, left, became the president and Karen Furguson, the vice president.

and continuing to move our district forward," Leone said to Ferguson.

As president, Leone said her goals for the remainder of her term, which expires in 2022, is to survive, with Covid-19 cases still rising and all the challenges that come with it.

Leone said she would work to get the students who want to be in an in-person class setting five days a week back into the school buildings, while ensuring that those who want to remain remote will have that option.

Virtual Narcan education and training sessions

As a result of stress and despair due to the Covid-19 pandemic, use of opiates and other drugs has been steadily increasing since early 2020. Understanding the reasons why opiates are so addictive and deadly and having the power to potentially save the life of someone who is overdosing is more important than ever before.

Nassau County has continued its Narcan education and training sessions virtually via Zoom. An upcoming session is scheduled for Feb. 10 from 11 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.

Narcan nasal spray is simple to administer and cannot harm someone who is not overdosing from an opioid.

"During the pandemic, opioid use has increased and some treatments have been more difficult to obtain," Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton said. "These events not only provides people

with life-saving Narcan kits, but hearing first hand accounts from volunteers who have experienced this hardship either personally or with loved ones shows how the opioid epidemic can be a slippery slope that affects many families. Awareness is our first line of defense."

Registration for the Feb. 10 session via nassaucountyny.gov/overdosetraining, which is open to adults 18 years or older. It will close once the maximum capacity of 70 people register. There is no fee for the training or kit, but registration is required. The kits will be available for contactless pickup at 60 Charles Lindbergh Boulevard in Uniondale on Feb. 17 from 10 a.m. to noon and Feb. 18 from 2 to 4 p.m.

Contact DeRiggi-Whitton's office at (516) 571-6211 or online at nassaucountyny.gov/overdosetraining to register.

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Photo by Lauren Gallery Photography

1118835

HERALD SPORTS

High-risk sports resume with conditions

By TONY BELLISSIMO

tbellissimo@liherald.com

Less than a week after high-risk high school sports in New York state such as basketball, football, wrestling, volleyball and competitive cheer were given the OK to proceed by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, Nassau County Executive Laura Curran relayed the necessary guidance put in place by the state and approved by local health officials.

At a Jan. 27 news conference at Bay Park in East Rockaway, Curran announced the high-risk sports guidelines that, once met, will clear the way for public and parochial schools to begin practicing for basketball, wrestling and cheer on Feb. 1, and holding games and matches as soon as Feb. 8.

"I'm excited to get our kids back on the fields, courts and the rinks they love so much and to bring a little normal back into their lives," Curran said.

Some of the mandatory guidelines put in place countywide by Suffolk aren't being mirrored by Nassau. Instead, those decisions were left to individual school districts in Nassau. These include weekly Covid-19 testing for participating athletes, coaches and others in daily contact with the teams, temperature monitoring before practices and games, and no more than two spectators per athlete for home teams.

Masks must be worn at all times, unless players are unable to tolerate such a covering for the physical activity, and a minimum of 6 feet in distance between individuals must be followed at all times, with the exception of participating athletes. No sharing of equipment or drinks will be permitted, and facilities must provide sanitizer for all in attendance and be limited to 50 percent of the maximum occupancy of a particular area, inclusive of employees, patrons, players and spectators.

Curran said the Nassau County Department of Health would conduct spot compliance checks at random schools to ensure safety guidelines are being followed.

On Jan. 26, Nassau's athletic directors held a meeting with Section VIII, the governing body for high school athletics in the county, to discuss a return to play for basketball, wrestling and cheer. Section VIII also conducted a conference call with school superintendents that same morning.

Section VIII Executive Director Pat Pizzarelli said with athlete participation the primary goal this winter, there would be no playoffs for basketball and no post-season for wrestling. Basketball teams will play an eight-game season, while wrestling will conduct dual meets only.

"We want the largest number of kids playing in the most number of games, and this was the way to do it," Pizzarelli

said.

Baldwin has already decided to have all high-risk athletes and coaches tested weekly and will not be permitting spectators, Athletic Director Ed Ramirez said. The district is planning to live-stream basketball games and wrestling matches. "I'm excited to see our winter student athletes, especially our seniors, back competing," Ramirez said. "Although they will not get the full experience, they have an opportunity to represent their school one last time, be with their teammates and enjoy their passion."

The Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District does not plan to mandate testing, Athletic Director Eric Caballero said. It will allow two spectators per home athlete, with no fans from visiting teams permitted. The Sewanhaka Central High School District is following the same criteria for testing and spectators, said Athletic Director Matt McLees.

The Valley Stream Central High School District will not allow fans for basketball and wrestling, but Athletic Director Scott Steuber said the topic will be revisited for sports set to begin March 1, such as football, soccer, volleyball and field hockey.

"I'm thrilled that we're going to be starting all of our sports," Pizzarelli said. "We haven't had any Covid spread with the sports that began Jan. 4. Now we're starting basketball and wrestling. I'll be honest, I'm concerned about wrestling. I spoke to our athletic administrators. They need to stress to their coaches they need to be diligent in keeping the safety of our student-athletes as the No. 1 priority, which is what we always do in athletics."

Pizzarelli added each school district would make a determination whether to compete in the high-risk winter sports or not. He said only Uniondale, which is in full remote learning mode, has opted out so far. Lawrence flipped its decision on winter sports and will be competing.

Traditional fall sports, including football, soccer, girls' tennis, cross-country, volleyball, field hockey and girls' swimming, are slated to begin practice March 1. Spring sports, such as lacrosse, baseball, softball, boys' tennis, track and field, girls' badminton and boys' golf, are set to start April 22.

NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE Laura Curran said individual school districts could decide on Covid-19 testing for athletes and coaches.



J. Heck/Herald

BASKETBALL, ALONG WITH other high-risk winter sports such as wrestling and competitive cheer, were cleared to begin practicing Feb. 1.



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Christina Daly/Herald

Fried Mac & Cheese Balls

Only Cabot farmers' best packs the bold flavor
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For the Macaroni and Cheese:

2 cups uncooked elbow macaroni
3 Tbsp. Cabot Salted Butter
1 Tbsp. garlic, minced
3 Tbsp. flour
1½ cups milk
16 oz. Cabot Seriously Sharp
Cheddar, shredded (about 4
cups)

Salt and pepper to taste

To make the Macaroni and Cheese:

BOIL pasta until tender. Drain. **MELT** butter in large pot and sauté garlic. Whisk in flour for 1 min until smooth. **WHISK** in milk & stir until smooth and thickened. Stir in cheese. Season with S&P. Add cooked noodles. Stir to coat. Transfer to a 7" x 11" casserole and cool. Cover and refrigerate 1-2 hrs.

To make the Fried Macaroni Balls:

HEAT oil in large pot or fryer to 375 F. **WHISK** eggs in a shallow bowl. Pour breadcrumbs in a separate shallow bowl. **SCOOP** 2 Tbsp cold mac & cheese and form into a tight ball with hands. Roll in eggs and then breadcrumbs until evenly coated. Repeat. Place on foil-lined baking sheet. **FRY**, up to 3 at a time, in hot oil until golden (1-2 min). Transfer to towel-lined plate. **DRIZZLE** with buffalo sauce & serve with blue cheese or ranch. Enjoy!

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For the Fried Macaroni Balls:

2 eggs
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breadcrumbs
1½ qts. canola oil
¼ cup buffalo sauce
Blue cheese or Ranch dressing
for dipping



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HERALD Covid-19 HOMETOWN HEROES

CAITLIN BROWN

GLEN COVE

Nurse,
Long Island Jewish
Medical Center,
Glen Cove Hospital



I was working on the Covid floor and was a new nurse. I graduated and then I got this job and then I got Covid in March. So it was scary. No one really knew much about it and what we were facing and what to do. Thank God for modern science and modern medicine; we are able to come out with a vaccine.

I ended up getting the vaccine, and it was an honor to be able to then administer it to other people to hopefully help dissipate the virus. Since getting the vaccine, I've felt a sense of relief, not only for myself, but for the people around me, like my grandparents, my mom and my family members.

Day in and day out we go in, set everything up, have somebody who works at the front check people in, then they go to the pharmacy to meet the pharmacist who asks

them questions. Then the pharmacist draws up the medication, the vaccine, whether it's the Moderna or the Pfizer. They label it for us, and then we have different booths that are designated for Moderna and Pfizer, so we know what vaccine we're giving. We also triple-check the patient. Then we administer the vaccine per the preference of the arm on the patient, and then they wait 15 minutes after so we can observe them.

Afterwards, we give them a sticker, and they have the cards from the [Centers for Disease Control and Prevention] that we're able to fill out for them. This is the first step, besides hand-washing and social-distancing, to get back to some sense of normalcy.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

NAMAN SHARMA

MERRICK

Flu Administrator,
Glen Cove Hospital



I was working at the Huntington Hotel before Covid. Then is closed. I was hired by Northwell's FlexStaff and started working at Glen Cove Hospital in December in the vaccination department. I love it.

My job is to check in the staff when they come here for the Covid vaccine. I also speak to people on the phone answering questions about the vaccine. If it's a clinical question, I ask our pharmacist.

This is the perfect job for me because I am a people-person. With this job, I am talking to people and helping them out to provide for a comfortable experience.

I check in all of the doctors and nurses. Sometimes people are afraid to get the vaccine because of all of the stories out there, like that people get sick from the vaccine. I explain to

them that the vaccine is completely safe and better for your health. Then I tell them that I already got the vaccine, and it was good for me. I remind them that they are doctors and nurses and need to take care of themselves. I always give positive feedback.

After they have the vaccine, they have to go in a room for 15 minutes. I talk to them there too. I find that some people are happy they got the vaccine, relieved I think.

What's been positive for me with the pandemic is I get to spend more time with my family. Fortunately, none of us got Covid. Being together, we all got connected, and I think we have gotten to know each other better.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

The BIG GAME is SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 7TH!
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LAURA CURRAN
NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE

PATRICK J. RYDER
COMMISSIONER

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THEIR FRONT-LINE STORIES IN THEIR OWN WORDS

NINA YOUSEFZADEH

ROSLYN
Pharmacy Department
Supervisor,
Glen Cove Hospital



As the supervisor of the pharmacy, we are in charge of making sure the vaccines are properly handled, meaning that they're refrigerated or put into the proper freezer when we accept them into the pharmacy department. We're responsible for making sure they are distributed to the vaccine pods appropriately. We also have a pharmacist that is stationed at the vaccine pods to make sure that the proper dosing and mixing of the vaccine is done for each patient.

It's been very stressful because, on top of the regular work we do at the hospital, we have vaccine pods every day from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Our hospital is at 150 percent capacity, and we have a lot of people that are sick from Covid in our department. It's been very challenging, with long hours and weekends.

I've been very lucky that Covid hasn't affected me personally in terms of family members getting sick. We're up to 400,000 Americans that have sadly passed away, and luckily, my immediate family was not affected by Covid in that way. However, working in the hospital at the height of the pandemic, I was rounding in the ICU, and it was very hard to witness.

In the beginning, when we really didn't know much about the disease and didn't have a lot of treatment options people, were dying all the time. It was really hard to come to work and deal with that every day. A lot of times, the team would cry in the beginning of rounds in the [intensive care unit] because it was just really sad to see so many deaths every day.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

DENISE HODISH

EAST MEADOW
Vaccinator,
NYU Langone Hospital
Mineola



I was retired for about two and a half to three years, and then I heard about the vaccinator program from someone I worked with at the hospital. I know they've been so overwhelmed and thought this would be an opportunity for me to do my part to help out. I didn't feel safe enough coming back last spring as a tester, but I do now.

I don't consider myself a hero. Nurses working the front lines, working long hours with short staffs, they're the real heroes. I want them to be vaccinated as quickly as possible so they can be safe.

I did an online orientation, and it took me a couple of weeks to get up and running, but I started on Jan. 8. I worked at Winthrop for 46 years — my whole career — in several different roles. I started out in the ICU in 1972,

right out of school. I grew up in Garden City and went to Georgetown University, then moved to East Meadow in 1978.

I live with my daughter Meghan, and I also have two kids, one in New Jersey and one in Port Washington.

I've tried to be careful through the pandemic and stay home as much as possible. In the beginning, I didn't see my grandchildren at all. Then they became part of our quarantine bubble. I do enjoy seeing people when I go to work now.

I was lucky to get vaccinated before I started working. I get my next dose on Feb. 2. I feel very lucky I was offered it, or I would be waiting on line like everybody else.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

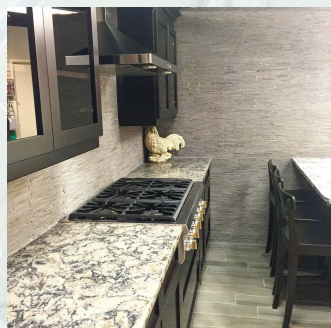
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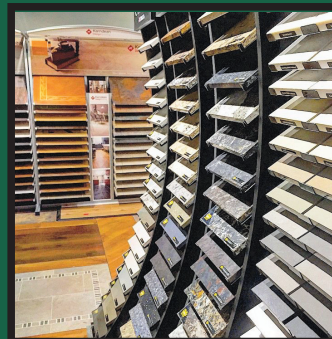
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OBITUARIES

Vada Hartje

Vada Hartje, 95, of Glen Cove, died on Jan. 30. Beloved wife of the late Kenneth; loving mother of Diane Rivas (Juan), Karen Austin, Paul (Mariann) and Linda Kingsley (Andrew); proud grandmother of eight; special great-grandmother of nine; dear sister of Mary Ann Higgins and Jack Efirid; also survived by nieces, nephews and cousins. Hartje was a parishioner of the Reformed Church of Locust Valley, member of the Locust Valley Quilters and the Daughters of the American Revolution. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Interment Locust Valley Cemetery.

Nancy P. Anderson

Nancy P. Anderson, of Glen Head, died on Jan. 22. Beloved wife of the late Reinhardt A. Andersen; loving mother of Reinhardt Jr. (Grace), Pauline and Christian; cherished grandmother of Marisa, Reinhardt III and Cole; dear sister of Walter Snyder. Interment at Memorial Cemetery of St. John's Church in Cold Spring Harbor.

Matthew W. Capobianco

Matthew W. Capobianco, 72, of Melville and Glen Cove, died on Jan. 8. Beloved husband of Diane; loving father of Christopher, Tina and Matthew; cherished grandfather of Devan and Nicky. Arrangements entrusted to Whitting Funeral Home. Interment Jan. 14 at 11 a.m. at St. Charles / Resurrection Cemeteries, located at 2015 Wellwood Ave., Farmingdale. Location 044-J-048.

Glenn W. Howard Jr.

Glenn W. Howard Jr., 81, of Glen Cove, died on Jan. 8. Husband of Angela; father of Emily and Philip; brother of Gordon E. and Katherine E.; grandfather of Thomas. Howard was a retired principal scientist of Pall Corp. and the past president of the Glen Cove Rotary Club, along with a former member of the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce Board of Directors. Interment Locust Valley Cemetery. Donations may be made to Rotary Dress-a-Child, Audubon Society of America and Chiefs Memorial Fund for North Country Camp Foundation. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home.

Joseph DaSilva

Joseph DaSilva, 95, of Glen Cove and formerly of Elmont, died on Jan. 7. Beloved husband, brother, uncle and friend. DaSilva was born in Portugal and immigrated to New York at the age of 5. He left school early to work alongside his father building the family concrete business. He entered the Navy during World

War II and served as a radio man on the Pacific Front. After he was discharged he returned home to work with his family business. They took on more complex projects throughout the Tri-State area including the original construction of the World Trade Center. DaSilva, and his brother Jack and sister Marie continued the family business after his father's passing. Even after long days of work, others marveled at how these siblings always continued to enjoy each other's company. DaSilva and his wife Lucille, while not blessed with children, raised Anthony Vieira from the age of 14 and were very involved with nephews and nieces. They mentored numerous college students from Portugal when they studied in United States. DaSilva was a snappy dresser, enjoyed a night out and loved traveling to Portugal. He made friends wherever he went and there was no one more loyal to the ones he loved than DaSilva. Beneath his tough exterior and bark was a caring man who when life sent him lemons, he made lemonade. Funeral Services are private. Arrangements entrusted to Oyster Bay Funeral Home.

James. P Fallon

James P. Fallon, of Glen Cove, 84, died on Jan. 6. Beloved husband of the late Dolores (Ahlstrand) Fallon; loving father of Timothy Fallon (Erin), James Fallon (Patricia), Eileen Fallon and Stephen Fallon (Colleen); cherished grandfather of Ryan (Molly), Kevin, Kerri, Timothy, Seamus, Patrick and Deirdre; dearest great grandfather of Shane and Brady. Internment private. In lieu of flowers, consider a donation to Believe in Tomorrow Children's Foundation or the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society. Arrangements entrusted to Whitting Funeral Home.

Claudia Ingrid Delgrosso

Claudia Ingrid Delgrosso, 56, of Glen Cove, died on Jan. 6. Loving mother of Christina and Diana; beloved daughter of Gertrud and Pedro Alvarez; dear sister of Mark Alvarez (Becky); also survived by several nieces and nephews. Delgrosso was very active. She loved to gardening, spending time with family and traveling. She loved life. Interment private. Donations may be made in her memory to the American Parkinson's Disease Association. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home.

Arlene J. Sheridan

Arlene J. Sheridan of Glen Cove, died on Jan. 8. Loving wife of Jack; devoted mother of Arlene (John) Maccarone, Jack and Chad; cherished nana of Brandon and Johnny; also survived by many dear nieces, nephews and cousins. Interment Holy Rood Cemetery. Funeral service entrusted to the McLaughlin Kramer Megiel Funeral Home.

Francis Xavier Miller

Francis Xavier Miller, 80, Glen Cove, died on Dec. 31, 2020. Miller was a devoted and loving husband to his wife Jane, who predeceased him six weeks earlier; survived by his children, Timothy (Meaghan) and Courtney, as well as his three cherished grandsons, Colin, Patrick and Jack Miller; predeceased by his parents and brothers William and James.

He was born to James and Mary Elizabeth (Bess) Miller in Peekskill, N.Y. Miller had three brothers, James (Patricia), Thomas (Allison) and William (Maureen). Miller proudly served in the U.S. Army, stationed in Orleans, France, and completed his military duties in Edgewood, Md. He then went on to faithfully serve in the West Palm Beach Police Department as a police officer. Miller was injured during his police service and continued his career as a private investigator after moving back to and residing in Glen Cove. Miller's interests were varied and many, but his true devotion in life were his wife, son Timothy and the faithful and loving care of his daughter Courtney. Miller relished being a grandfather and was ever present on the sidelines of baseball, lacrosse and soccer games. He was thoughtful, selfless and generous. He will

be deeply missed by those that knew and loved him. Miller and his wife Jane celebrated 41 years of marriage on Sept. 22 and are now reunited again. Arrangements were entrusted to the McLaughlin Kramer Megiel Funeral Home.

Arthur W. Madden

Arthur W. Madden, 76, of Glen Cove, died Nov. 8, 2020. Beloved husband of Maureen; cherished father of Stacey (Michael), Gregg (Jen) and Zachary (Ashley); proud grandfather of Brigid, Kayla and Madelyn; survived and loved by many nieces, nephews and cousins. Proud Air Force veteran and lover of all things related to airplanes. Especially fond of cats. Spent over 40 years in the cable industry, 23 of which were with Cablevision. Visitation was at Whitting Funeral Home with a funeral mass at the Church of St. Patrick. Internment followed at Holy Rood Cemetery. Donations may be made to St. Jude Research Hospital for children, www.stjude.org, or Shriners Hospital for children, www.shriners-hospitalsforchildren.org.

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.

Send to: llane@liherald.com or 2 Endo Blvd., Garden City, NY 11530

THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Rain, rain go away

Dear Great Book Guru,
With the month of February upon us, I feel the need for a good piece of fiction. I would love a foreign setting, multiple characters, and please, something short. Any recommendations?

—February Fan of Fiction

Dear February Fan of Fiction,

I read a new book, "Summerwater," by Sarah Moss. Set in a Scottish vacation community of small cottages, this novella (117 pages) takes place on one very rainy day. We meet 11 people who are staying in these wooden, somewhat shabby cabins, set close together with the opportunity for lots of eavesdropping.

The story begins at dawn and ends at dusk. Each person is described in detail at one point in the day. The characters include a runner coping with a recent

diagnosis of a serious heart condition. Later we meet a young boy who is very unhappy and has decided to escape from the confines of the too small cabin and too large family. An older doctor and his wife ponder their future together as the rain worsens their already dismal spirits. A child torments another child who has a foreign-sounding name. A strange man lurks in the woods adding a sense of menace. Throughout, we feel the oppression of weather and the confines of these tiny cabins.

This novel reminds me very much of an early favorite of mine, "Reservoir 13," by Jon McGregor, with its emphasis on nature, family, and an evolving mystery. Highly recommended!

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

HERALD
Inside LI

Success in Family Business

MODERATOR



Skye Ostreicher
Herald Community
Newspapers

PANELISTS



Leo K. Barnes, Jr., Esq.
Partner
Barnes & Barnes, P.C.
Melville, NY



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The best family businesses understand how to mitigate the unique set of challenges they face and how to make the most of their potential opportunities. This episode of Inside LI will cover key legal and financial steps that may ultimately spell the difference between multi-generational success and a failed business that can also impact family harmony. Whether you're an established family business or you're thinking about launching one, register now to join the conversation!

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Herald Inside LI hosts cutting expenses webinar

By NICOLE ALCINDOR

nalcindor@liherald.com

The Covid-19 pandemic caused millions of Americans to lose their jobs in 2020, and as a result, many found that their worst financial fears became their reality.

Even though many Americans never lost their jobs and some have found new ones, a growing number of people have been preoccupied by fear because they worry about being able to keep their jobs during the worst economic calamity since the Great Depression.

In the same way that you would plan a Super Bowl dinner for friends and family, I recommend that people plan if they want to budget.

VERONICA FERRERO

Assistant Vice President, Emigrant Mortgage

information about how to refinance loans with lower rates, ways to save on electric bills and how to grieve property taxes.

The importance of an emergency fund

“Last year, it was eye-opening to see how many people lost their jobs, and many people learned the hard way that having emergency funds set aside is so important,” said Marie Taylor, a 20-year financial adviser at Edward Jones. “People need to know that you’re never too young to start saving because people can go into foreclosure if they can’t make payments.”

As someone who helps people manage people’s finances on a daily basis, Taylor said her usual approach when helping new clients to start a budget worksheet is to help them understand their savings, investments and income. The worksheet, she said, includes four key questions:

- Where am I today?
- Where do I need to go?
- Can I get there?
- What do I need to reach that goal?

“I tell my clients that it’s important to look at where your money is coming from and to make sure they know the risks, recognize strategies and that they should understand what their goals and aspirations are,” Taylor said. “It’s also important that people make sure that they have a financial adviser that is focused on the people they serve. If a financial adviser is not explaining costs or checking on your investments, and they are telling you what they think you need while failing to find out your background information, you might want to get a different financial adviser.”

Making a plan

Another guest panelist, Veronica Ferrero, who is the assistant vice president and community lending

For many, pulling money from their savings accounts is the only way to survive, while others wished they had saved more emergency money, or they don’t know where to begin to start cutting expenses.

With many Long Islanders grappling with these financial concerns, Herald Inside LI held a free informational Zoom webinar on Jan. 28 to discuss reducing expenditures.

The webinar, which was sponsored by Edward Jones, Emigrant Mortgage, EmPower Solar, Maidenbaum Property Tax Reduction Group and Geico, featured a panel of expert speakers, who discussed simple ways to save money. Discussion topics ranged from paying off credit card debt and getting finances in order to

Courtesy Herald Inside LI

HERALD INSIDE LI held a free Zoom webinar on how to reduce expenses amid the coronavirus pandemic last Thursday.

coordinator at Emigrant Mortgage Company Inc., said her job involves helping people to create a plan that reviews their credit report to see if it is up to date and without errors. She also looks at credit cards to make sure the interest rate is the lowest possible.

“Whenever someone closes or opens a savings account, it will affect their credit score,” she said. “A lot of people have credit cards that they don’t use, and they don’t realize that this will affect their credit score and that they should be diligent about paying their credit card payments when they are due.”

Ferrero also said she spends time evaluating her clients’ mortgages to aid them in discovering new ways to save in various areas, such as in their utility, phone and car insurance bills. She also aids people in looking at their long-term goals and deciding if taking out a home equity mortgage or line of credit would be the most sensible decision, based on a case-by-case analysis. With the ongoing pandemic, she also said, interest rates are low, and now is an opportune time to refinance and renovate homes.

“In the same way that you would plan a Super Bowl dinner for friends and family, I recommend that people plan if they want to budget, and through my job, I want to help people to realize through an analysis process, specifically where their money goes on a monthly basis,” she said. “This is a challenging process, but most people are glad when they do this, and they are better able to see where they can better save money.”

Taylor and Ferrero both added that people should look for interest rates on their student loans to help budget better.

“It’s important to do research on programs and to look for companies to help you to do this,” Ferrero stressed.

“Speak to someone who will sit down and listen to you and be disciplined about this, and don’t get distracted,” Taylor said.

Tara McDermott, director of customer experience and stakeholder relations at EmPower Solar, said her company serves about 3,000 clients. EmPower Solar aims to help consumers save on electric bills by help-

ing them install solar panels.

“Now, more than ever, people are more conscious of an increase in electric bills because people are spending more time in their homes, and therefore they are using up more energy due to the pandemic,” she said. “The average home on Long Island pays \$250 a month on their electric bill, and our goal is to get homeowners to save money through the installation of solar panels on their roof. About one in every 22 houses on Long Island have solar panels now.”

Having solar panel consultation with EmPower Solar, McDermott said, is free. It will take place over Zoom to discuss how much solar panels will cost on a case-by-case basis and answer any other questions for those considering going solar.

“We stress to our clients that having solar panels does not increase taxes, but third-party studies have shown that it does add about \$20,000 to the value of the home,” she said. “Around 15 percent of clients have a battery backup system for their solar panels—which will allow them to power their house during a power outage for an unlimited amount of time. This is great because clients can be prepared for an emergency, similar to another Superstorm Sandy.”

Filing a grievance

As the Zoom meeting was ending, guest speaker Mark Miller, in-house counsel at Maidenbaum Property Tax Reduction Group, made a few remarks. “All residential homeowners should file a grievance, and anybody who has a renovation on their house should file and see if they qualify, but they should keep in mind that solar panels don’t count as a renovation in these instances,” he said. “Also, if you double your house size through renovation, you won’t get the home improvement exemption. You might be considered a whole new property at that point.”

The recording for this cutting expenses webinar can be found at liherald.com/recordings. The next Herald Inside LI webinar will be Thursday, Feb. 4, at 10 a.m., and will look at estate and Medicaid planning.

THE ENTHUSIASM ZONE

Three steps to a year of enthusiasm

By **TOMMY LANHAM**

Minister at Glen Cove Christian Church

This past year has been immeasurably tough on all of us. And 2021 has not gotten off to a good start. In the midst of everything going on around us I have a few a few steps I would like to share to help re-gain enthusiasm for this year.

Every year I go on a personal retreat. When I lived in Kentucky, I went to a cabin out in the middle of the woods. It was so far back in the woods you could not drive a car to it. I had to park about a ½ mile away, load up an ATV and drive it through the woods to get to the cabin.

Since moving to Long Island in 2019, I have had to find new places to do my personal retreat. This year I



TOMMY LANHAM

went to a camp in the Catskills. It may become my new “personal retreat” home.

The second half of the week my family joins me but the first part of the week I am completely shut off and focused on God and what he wants me to do in the coming year.

I have a renewed vision and energy. There is just something about nature that is rejuvenating!

I do several things while I am on this retreat. I watch some of my favorite movies that are inspire and move me. My family and I always watch a hilariously goofy movie called “Snow Day.” We also go for hikes and build campfires to roast marshmallows. We make memories.

I do a whole lot of Bible reading and praying. I start listening to a new audio program that I will listen to 16 times during the upcoming year. I get mentally, emotionally, and spiritually ready for the upcoming year.

Here are three steps I take in that process:

I get clear and focused

I will lay out my “sweet 16” goals for the year. I start with a list of 32 and nar-

row it down to the 16 most important accomplishments for me. I get extremely clear about my top goals. And I not only chose 16 goals for the upcoming year; I actually rank them so I know which ones are most important. Clarity is power. Where focus goes, energy flows. I get clear and I get focused.

I create my vision board

Second, I make my vision board. On it, I have my goals listed (in order of ranking), I have pictures and visual representations of each goal and I have quotes and scripture that motivate me toward my goals.

I place this vision board in my office where I will see it every day. It will remind me of my commitments.

Leave with enthusiasm and redetermination

Last, I will leave my personal retreat with enthusiasm and determination. I am renewed, refreshed and recharged. Come on new year, I am ready to take you by the horns and ride through the year!

What have you done to get ready for 2021? Are you still playing the resolution game? I have the resolution solution. Stop making resolutions. They seldom work because nobody expects them to work. Instead, prayerfully determine your most important goals for 2021. Create your own vision board, and grab hold of 2021 with enthusiasm.

What are you going to do to make this your best year yet? What action can you take right now? Do not let 2021 be just another year. Make it be the most enthusiastic ever. Never settle, live with passion and turn the world upside down.

To reach Pastor Lanham: TommyLanham@TommyLanham.com

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy Joe Licul

DAWN CAMES, GENERAL manager of Jaguar Land Rover of Glen Cove, left, Michael Levitan, Darlene Allen, Deborah Gardner and Mark Schienberg, with the model check for \$6,000, which purchased 300 new coats for children in need, at Jaguar Land Rover of Glen Cove.

Glen Cove Auto dealer ensure children have winter coats

Jaguar Land Rover of Glen Cove is helping to keep children warm this winter by turning cars into coats for those in need since the Covid-19 crisis has created financial hardship for families throughout the region.

Members of the Greater New York Automobile Dealers Association are buying coats by raising money from members for each car sold, as well as donating thousands of dollars more to provide winter coats to children on Long Island, in New York City and the Lower Hudson Valley.

On Jan. 25, Long Island Auto Group, which includes Jaguar Land Rover of Glen Cove, donated \$6,000, which is enough to purchase new coats for 300 children for the Mildred W. Fairclough Foundation, a local non-profit organization that provides vital services for Long Islanders in need.

“Our group has participated in the wonderful event that GNYADA facilitates over the years collecting coats for those that are less fortunate,” said Michael Levitan, president of the Long Island Auto Group. “I was delighted when GNYADA announced the program

for this year, as I had feared that we would not be able to collect coats like we have done in the past. I couldn’t let the opportunity slip by and was more than happy that we were able to do our part and contribute to help so many people during these very tough times.”

GNYADA dealers donated over \$21 million to philanthropic causes in 2019. The association represents franchised new car dealerships throughout the 12 downstate counties of New York that support over 71,000 jobs.

“Our partnership with GNYADA and Long Island Auto Group is a wonderful showcase of their commitment to giving back to the communities they serve,” said Heather Connolly, vice president of Partnerships and Development for Operation Warm. “This collaboration has helped hundreds of children in New York communities stay warm this winter.”

Operation Warm is a national non-profit that manufactures brand-new, high-quality coats for children in need. The organization aims to donate 500,000 coats during the winter of 2020-21.

Give a Valentine’s Day shout out

With Valentine’s Day right around the corner, why not surprise your special someone with a special shout out in the Glen Cove Herald and our website, www.LIHerald.com/glencove.

Simply email a photo of your special someone, or a photo of you and your special someone, to Glen Cove Herald reporter Jennifer Corr at jcorr@liherald.com. Be

sure to list the names of those in the photo (if there is more than one person), left to right, with place of residency. Then leave a very simple message, about a sentence long, for the photo’s caption, followed by your name.

Please submit your photos by Feb. 8.

Happy Valentine’s Day.



Herald File Photo

VALENTINE’S DAY 2021 is on Sunday, Feb. 14.

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OPINIONS

Balancing the real world with the fake

If you spend any portion of your day watching the news on television, you're no doubt confused about what is taking place in Washington. In a moment of reflection, it dawned on me that we are living in two worlds. One world is the happenings in Congress, and the other is the real world.



**JERRY
KREMER**

While President Biden is busy trying to launch his new government, the Senate will be tied up for weeks deciding whether to convict former President Trump for his conduct on Jan. 6, the day of the riot at the Capitol. The final result is totally

predictable. Most of the Republican senators, who worry only about their careers, will not vote to convict him.

By and large, Congress is detached from people on the street. Politicians like Senators Lindsey Graham, Marco Rubio, Ted Cruz, Rand Paul and Mitch McConnell are focused on protecting Trump, who has threatened to promote

primary contests against anyone who displeases him.

But at the impeachment trial, all those cowards who won't vote to convict Trump will, along with the public, be forced to watch hours of video of the horrors of the Jan. 6 mob attack. And they will have to hear witnesses who will state, "President Trump told me to do it." To paraphrase the late, great boxer Joe Louis, they can run but they can't hide.

So let's turn to the real world. Thanks to the courage of Twitter and Facebook, Trump is without a platform to continue his lies about a stolen election. There has been no public uprising against the social media platforms. It's really comforting to have a day without tweets from an out-of-control narcissist. And it feels good to have a president who is showing up for work each day.

Unlike Trump, Biden isn't hiding from the Covid pandemic. The federal government is taking over the responsibility of getting vaccines out to people. We are hearing what the govern-

ment is doing to tackle this plague, and not ignoring the dangers of a virus that has killed over 400,000 people. Biden will tell us the truth, which is a welcome change.

It is clear that the 74 million people who voted for Trump aren't just sitting around, mourning their loss. In the weeks after the Capitol uprising, 30,000 Republicans reportedly changed their party registration in disgust over Trump's conduct. That may not seem like a big number, but many of them were residents of Pennsylvania, North Carolina and Arizona, key political states.

Many of the same people who refused to wear masks, and made fun of Biden during the campaign when he appeared in one, are lining up to get their vaccinations, while anxiously awaiting new legislation that will provide stimulus money for struggling businesses and increased unemployment benefits. And in the near future, Biden will be offering a new health insurance proposal.

Trump will likely escape any penalties for the Jan. 6 attack, but many of

his people who broke into the Capitol will face the possibility of prison terms. Many Trump voters may have second thoughts about sticking with a man who encouraged an event that resulted in the deaths of five people.

The talking heads on TV speak as if Trump voters are some sort of solid block, but most of them want the same things that Democratic voters want. The rural red states have plenty of areas badly in need of a little love. They are suffering with limited resources. They lack internet access and are saddled with poor schools, just like inner cities. Their local hospitals are overwhelmed and in danger of failing. Their need for a little TLC can be met by a caring president, and the dynamic will change.

So I'm not going to let the immoral conduct of 45 senators distract me. I'm focused on the real world.

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.

Creating your pandemic time capsule

If time is really relative and there are time travelers out there from the future thinking about where to visit, do not, I repeat, do not go back to 2020.

We just closed the door on that baby, and it was hard to get on with our lives. If you don't believe me, just open the



**RANDI
KREISS**

time capsules we leave behind. We're preserving the artifacts of our lives so that people in the future can better understand who they are and what brought them to their moment.

I've been thinking about what I will put into my pandemic time capsule, which is a

big cardboard box in my bedroom closet. Into it goes anything that I think is evocative of living through the pandemic.

Some of the things I put in the box are what you'd imagine: a roll of toilet paper, pictures of us and our friends in masks, a bottle of hand sanitizer, an envelope with several strands of hair, eight inches long and gray. I started keeping a pandemic diary over the summer, and I threw that into the cardboard

capsule in August, when I was depressed by the numbers and didn't feel like writing daily entries anymore.

I tossed into the box some of the newspaper front pages I saved: "CDC details first U.S. case of novel virus spreading in China." "FDA grants historic authorization to a Covid-19 vaccine." "Winter is coming: Why America's window of opportunity to beat back Covid-19 is closing."

We cannot be reliable memory keepers if we don't include politics. The ferocity of the pandemic was fueled by President Trump and his people. They hid the truth from the American people, fudged the alarming numbers, silenced the scientists and failed to do what was necessary to get ahead of the surges. So, I would put into my box another front page, from The New York Times: "Biden Beats Trump." The world changed in a moment.

I would also save my "screen use" statement from Verizon, indicating an average of 60 minutes a day pre-pandemic, and six hours a day as of last week.

I asked some friends and family what they would put in a pandemic time cap-

sule. Photos of people in ICUs on ventilators, my sister said. My grandson suggested something with the Netflix logo, a friend suggested photos of her grandkids, with and without masks as the year progressed, and another friend sug-

gested a can of tuna and a packet of yeast. Someone said she'd put an old paintbrush in the capsule, since it helped save her life. I'll include the hard-copy calendar I keep with notations for Zoom meetings and virtual doctor's appointments and copies of our living wills, executed as the pandemic surged.

I will include photographs — real, printed photographs — of the loving friends who died this year, some of Covid-19, some of other diseases. I have the receipt from some enterprising death company welcoming me to a "virtual shiva."

I will toss in my appointment card for my second Pfizer vaccine shot, as soon as I get inoculated.

When I surveyed some friends about what should go into the time capsule, one suggested Trump himself. Another said she would like to bury the anxiety and constant fear many felt as the former president bungled the response to

Thanks to the courage of social media, Trump is without a platform to continue his lies.

I'll put in pictures of us and our friends in masks, a bottle of hand sanitizer . . .

the pandemic, and we realized the unthinkable: that upward of a half-million Americans could die. One friend said he would put in Hershey's Chocolate Nuggets, which he swears are better than Xanax.

Food has loomed large for everyone — getting it, hoarding it, cooking it, donating it. What time capsule would be complete without takeout menus and a list ranging from GrubHub to UberEats? These were companies I never heard of before 2020.

I would save the books I picked last year at random for my Zoom book group this winter. Somehow, they're all relevant to living through a pandemic. I suppose that's because all good literature distracts us and helps heal our fractures.

For a few weeks, I kept a notepad at my bedside and wrote down the dreams I was having in the worst days. They were all the same: I walk into a room and no one is wearing masks, and I know, I absolutely know, that I will get sick. I couldn't have had that dream in 2019. I'll put the notepad in my time capsule.

My best hope is that we can seal our capsules very soon and leave their memories and lessons to history.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Recalling injustice during Black History Month

During February, Black History Month, we celebrate the great African-American political and civil rights leaders, scientists, artists, poets, movie stars and athletes. But we must also pause to recall America's dark past, stained by horrific acts against Black and brown people, at times perpetrated by our own government.

As the Covid-19 pandemic rages on, it's critical that we look back at the "Tuskegee Study of Untreated Syphilis in the Negro Male" to understand the distrust that many African-Americans feel toward our government and medical institutions. That distrust may be a contributing factor in the significantly higher Covid-19 infection rate and death toll seen among Black and brown people.

The Tuskegee study was supposed to last six months. It carried on for 40 years, from 1932 to 1972, a collaboration between the U.S. Public Health Service and Tuskegee Institute, a historically Black college in Alabama. The study of 600 poor Black sharecroppers examined 399 with syphilis and 201 without the disease. Study participants were told they were being treated for "bad blood," a colloquialism for syphilis, anemia and fatigue, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. In truth, they weren't being treated at all — even after 1945, when penicillin was accepted as "the treatment of choice for syphilis."

In fact, the study looked at what would happen if syphilis were to go untreated — but the participants never knew that. It wasn't until 1972, when an Associated Press story disclosed the study, that it

ended.

Is it any wonder that many African-Americans might distrust the continual exhortations of our federal, state and local governments to be inoculated against the coronavirus as soon as they can?

According to the CDC, nationally, there have been 1.4 times more Covid-19 cases among African-Americans than white people over the past 11 months. The hospitalization rate is 3.7 times greater among Black and brown people. And the death rate is 2.8 times greater.

There are reasons for these dispiriting statistics beyond distrust of government and the medical system — systemic racism is chief among them, the CDC says. Lack of access to health care is another, and occupation is another: Many people of color work in the service industry, requiring them to show up in person rather than work from home via Zoom and email. Finally, there's the question of housing. Many Black and brown people live in tighter quarters, in more densely populated areas, than white people. The coronavirus requires density to spread widely.

In 2019, the Herald undertook a year-long investigative series examining the many forms that systemic racism takes in Nassau County. We called it "The Racism Around Us." Infant mortality is a leading indicator of a community's well-being, according to the county Department of Health. When children are dying in high numbers at birth, there are probably myriad other health concerns in a community.

In the majority of white communities

across Nassau, the infant mortality rate ranged from 0 to 3 in 1,000 births in 2014-16, according to the New York State Department of Health. In most communities of color, the infant mortality rate was three to nine times that.

County officials identified nine communities of color as well as those with large minority populations — Elmont, Freeport, Glen Cove, Hempstead, Inwood, Long Beach, Roosevelt, Uniondale and Westbury — each with measurably greater health concerns than nearby white communities. They have been disproportionately impacted by the coronavirus pandemic, mirroring national statistics for infection and death rates.

"Blacks are bearing a disproportionate burden of Covid-19 in Nassau County," said Elaine Gross, president of the Syosset-based ERASE Racism, "and the county must address two related challenges. First, it must increase health care access and Covid-19 testing in Black communities. Second, it must combat the structural racism that fuels the disparities."

Sarika Kuman, Long Island regional organizer for the National Institute of Reproductive Health, put it this way: "One's quality of life should not be determined by your zip code, but in Nassau County it is. From infant mortality to pandemic fatality rates, the common thread is Long Island's structural inequities."

During Black History Month, we must never forget the racial injustices of our collective past so they are never repeated again, and so we might commit to rooting out the daily injustices — large and small — in our present society.

LETTERS

LIRR questions remain unanswered

To the Editor:

The Metropolitan Transportation Authority's success is New York's success, and a strong LIRR makes for a strong Long Island. Critical planning is needed for the year ahead to stamp out fraud and abuse, smartly rehabilitate the East River tunnels and get Elmont's new train station up and running. Long Islanders depend on the MTA to provide an affordable, dependable and hassle-free commute, and the LIRR must live up to that obligation, especially as riders return to work in New York City. The MTA has its work cut out in 2021, and I will continue to hold agency officials to account. Our region's future depends on it.

I recently pressed MTA officials on the steps they're taking to clamp down on fraud and waste, and urged MTA leadership to finish installing biometric clocks for employees to log hours in the coming year. Indeed, fraud has been a perennial problem for the MTA, and yet the agency has yet to adequately



OPINIONS

Agree with me or shut up

Four hundred years ago, the Catholic Church — then the arbiter of what ideas could be expressed and promulgated — banned books by scientists who claimed the Earth revolved around the sun because that theory conflicted with the orthodoxy of the time, i.e., the Bible and the Magisterium, the teaching authority of the pope and bishops. Even if astronomers' heliocentric theories were true, the powerful elite could not allow such disturbing words to be read — at least not in the vernacular — for fear such heresies would confuse the masses and undermine the authority



**JOHN
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of those in charge.

These days it isn't the princes of Rome that rule on what ideas are true and what news is allowed to be heard, but rather a decidedly secular hierarchy: the doyens of Silicon Valley, the media masters in New York and California, and their agents in Congress and government offices in Washington.

The current ideological conflict is often described as a battle between liberals and conservatives, but that's last century's war. Today's cancel-culture college of cardinals shouldn't be confused with liberals.

Real liberals aren't hate-filled, intolerant, angry anarchists, no more than real conservatives are rich, white supremacist nativists. Genuine liberals are First Amendment absolutists ardently supportive of our liberties: a free press, freedom to practice our religions, freedom to peaceably assemble, the freedom to petition the government to better serve us, its sovereign, and to speak freely without fear of violent attack or suppression.

Authentically liberal Americans wouldn't tolerate censorship of disagreeing — even disagreeable — voices. They'd defend those voices.

The indisputably liberal Supreme Court Justice Louis Brandeis wrote in 1927 that "If there be time to expose through discussion the falsehood and fallacies, to avert the evil by the processes of education, the remedy to be applied is more speech, not enforced silence." A monopoly-busting, free-speech advocate, Brandeis would, I'm sure, see today's corporate social media lords' cancel-culture censorship as antithetical not only to the Constitution but to American civil liberties.

Traditional liberalism fights for an individual's right to freely express ideas, popular or unacceptable, commonly believed or held only by that individual, true or not, whose supporting "facts" are from presumably credible sources or

aren't reliably sourced at all.

Some of President Biden's inaugural speech was right out of a traditional liberal's handbook. In his president-as-conciliator role, he said, "We can see each other not as adversaries but as neighbors.

We can treat each other with dignity and respect. We can join forces, stop the shouting and lower the temperature."

Eschewing the inciteful far-left rhetoric of many of his party-mates in Congress, the press and Hollywood, the president warned: "[W]ithout unity, there is no peace, only bitterness and fury. No progress, only exhausting outrage. No nation, only a state of chaos.

... Let us listen to one another. Hear one another. See one another. Show respect to one another. Politics need not be a raging fire destroying everything in its path. Every disagreement doesn't have to be a cause for total war."

Left-wing extremists hope Biden's words are just political speechifying. Unlike reasonable liberals — and conservatives, for that matter — who are committed to social justice, equal opportunity and free speech, the goal of the radical left is to redefine what's just, to tilt the playing field based on group identity, to amplify the speech of loud leftists and to silence contrary voices.

How fairly the national press reports on the Biden presidency will be important

to the future of the nation and to the survival of journalism itself. According to a Gallup survey five months ago, only 9 percent of Americans trust the media "a great deal." Sixty percent trust them "not very much" or "none at all." According to Gallup, the percentage of those who don't trust the media at all went up five points in one year.

News consumers have turned to social media for information. Some wanted to connect on the new social app Parler before Big Tech suppressed it. Yes, the same Big Tech, the new Magisterium, that decides what can be posted and who can post.

I would have preferred that Biden had lost, but the election is over. That virus has left the lab. Disappointed, I must now only hope that he will serve America as a true liberal and reject many Democrats' condescending intolerance. A sovereign people will oppose authoritarian politics that orders citizens to agree or shut up.

Half the country is vexed by the prospect of a Biden-Harris administration unchecked by the House or the Senate. That situation can be changed in two or four years. But many Americans are even more troubled by the anarchy brought by Antifa and the radical left, which revels in "woke" group-think and seeks to crush the individualism that has made America great.

John O'Connell is a former executive editor of the Herald Community Newspapers. Comments about this column? OConnell11001@yahoo.com.

LETTERS

ly abide by its inspector general's recommendations to stamp out overtime abuse.

In December, five MTA employees were arrested on fraud charges for having logged "almost physically impossible amounts of overtime," according to federal prosecutors. According to state payroll records, overtime hours logged by MTA employees soared 46 percent between 2014 and 2019. I urged agency officials to focus on reining in overtime and restoring riders' trust in 2021.

I also inquired about plans to repair the East River tunnels this year. Hundreds of millions of gallons of water inundated the tubes during Superstorm Sandy and left them in disrepair. A report by the state comptroller found that the number of trains delayed or canceled because of problems with the tubes and their switches had increased 72 percent since Sandy, and accounted for a significant number of the LIRR's on-time problems.

Finally, I've been a strong proponent of the new Elmont train station's development as an integral component of the Belmont Park Redevelopment Plan. In addition to providing a regular, full-time public-transit option to and from the new arena, hotel and retail village, the LIRR hub will also serve as an additional com-

muting option for area residents — which the community has needed for years.

TODD KAMINSKY
State senator, 9th District

Executive orders are no help

To the Editor:

Last week, President Biden signed numerous executive orders that will end thousands of union jobs. One of them orders the closure of private federal prisons contracted by the U.S. Department of Justice. The idea of privately contracted federal prisons came from a previous Democratic administration. It was part of Vice President Al Gore's so-called "reinventing of government" plan that instituted contracted federal prisons.

It was Gore's and President Bill Clinton's idea that paying a contracted facility would reduce costs, cut the federal work force and save retirement money, because federal workers wouldn't be employed at these facilities. With these closures, private prison guards will be on the unemployment lines, and joining them will be construction workers building the border

FRAMEWORK by Bob Arkow



Just call them Team Snowblower — Long Beach

wall and Keystone pipeline employees. And it was reported that another signed executive order ending drilling on federal lands will result next year in still more lost union jobs.

So much for helping hard-working

middle-class Americans.

STEVE GROGAN
Lynbrook

Grogan is a retired Department of Justice employee.



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