

CORONA VIRUS
COMMUNITY UPDATE
 Infections as of March 22
3,599
 Infections as of March 12
3,478



Hospital receives top honor
 Page 5



Free books for Landing students
 Page 9



Easter service at Morgan Park
 Page 2

\$1.00 VOL. 30 NO. 13

MARCH 25 - 31, 2021



Courtesy Tony Gallego, Gill Associates Photography

DETECTIVE CHRIS ALBIN retired on March 17, after 27 years with the Glen Cove Police Department. Members of the Nassau County, Suffolk County and MTA Police Department Emerald Society Pipe Bands played at the walkout ceremony as he left police headquarters.

‘Great sendoff’ for detective GCPD’s Chris Albin retires on St. Patrick’s Day

By **JILL NOSSA**
 jnossa@liherald.com

St. Patrick’s Day was a quiet holiday for many this year, but for Glen Cove Police Detective Chris Albin, it was a bittersweet celebration. He retired from the Glen Cove Police Department after 27 years that day, greeted as he walked out the back door of the building by three pipe

bands, members of various police departments and a Nassau County Aviation helicopter fly-by.

St. Patrick’s Day has always been significant for the 53-year-old Albin. At age 12, he joined a pipe band as a snare drummer, beginning a long tradition of playing in St. Patrick’s Day parades. In 2017, he and his mother, Julie Albin, were the co-grand mar-

shals of the city parade. Six years earlier he had been promoted to detective on March 17, and four years later to the day, he walked out of the building for the final time.

“It was very emotional walking out those doors for the last time,” Albin said. “It was a great sendoff.”

Albin grew up in Locust Valley, and has spent the bulk

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Restaurants welcome more diners

By **JILL NOSSA**
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After a challenging year for Glen Cove restaurant owners, things are starting to look a little brighter. Last Friday, restrictions for restaurants in New York were eased from 50 percent to 75 percent capacity for indoor dining. On the heels of a difficult winter, the timing couldn’t be better, and restaurant owners are also looking forward to the upcoming outdoor dining season.

“It’s definitely a big help,” Fabrizio Zaino, co-owner of Jalisco, on School Street, said of the eased restrictions. “It will probably mean another three tables, which is about 10 to 12 people, and that’s a lot.”

The Mexican restaurant opened in September 2019, and being forced to close the dining room just six months later was a big challenge. “When they shut down indoor dining, that really hurt us,” Zaino said, “because we had just opened up.”

Over the past year, he said, the restaurant has relied on take-out business, and it has a back patio with nine tables, which was a big help over the summer. “We’ve been pivoting, but overall, we’ve been doing pretty good, all things considered,” Zaino said.

We’ll be able to serve a few more guests inside, and that’s great news for us.

ELSA VALLE
 Co-owner, Chef Moris Café

Elsa Valle, who owns Chef Moris Café, also on School Street, with her husband, Moris Valle, said she has encouraged customers to make reservations for indoor dining since last fall, because the restaurant fills to capacity quickly. It can only accommodate a handful of tables, and a large part of its business is take-out and delivery. “I’m feeling that, lit-

tle by little, we’re going back to normal,” Valle said. “We’ll be able to serve a few more guests inside, and that’s great news for us.”

The café opened last July, seamlessly taking over a space previously occupied by Mar Le

CONTINUED ON PAGE 10



To all who celebrate these days of spring and renewal, I wish you the comfort of loving family and friends and the certainty that better times will be ahead.

MAY THE REBIRTH OF

Passover, Easter, & Spring

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Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews
Glen Cove City Councilman



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*Wishing You And
Your Family A
Happy Passover*

Mayor Tim Tenke

1126345



Photo courtesy of The Committee for the Community Easter Dawn Service

UNITED METHODIST MINISTER Rev. Gia Lynn was one of several pastors who shared the Easter message at last year's Community Easter Dawn service, held just outside the gates of Morgan Park on a neighbor's lawn, as the park was closed due to the pandemic. Behind Lynn, from left, are Fr. Shawn Williams from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Fr. Kevin Dillon from St. Boniface Martyr Catholic Church and Pastor Tommy Lanham from Glen Cove Christian Church.

Community Easter service returns to Morgan Park

By **JILL NOSSA**

jnossa@liherald.com

After a challenging and isolating year, residents will have the opportunity to come together to celebrate Easter on Sunday, April 4, for the fifth annual Community Easter Dawn Service in Morgan Park. The bilingual service, hosted by the Committee for the Community Easter Dawn Service, will begin at 7 a.m. and will be streamed via Facebook Live for those who cannot attend in person.

"Last year's service was a beautiful and moving event and was viewed by over 2,500 people from around the world," Kevin Dillon, pastor of Sea Cliff's St. Boniface Martyr Catholic Church, said. "However, we are pleased to be back in Morgan Park and to be permitted to have a limited number of people join us for the celebration."

While having an Easter service at dawn in Morgan Park has been a long-standing tradition in Glen Cove, with the service hosted by various churches over the years, it was in 2017 that three congregations in close proximity to one another, but from different traditions, decided to join together to create a formal committee and presented the first annual bilingual service. That first year, the churches included Calvary A.M.E. Church, the oldest historically African American church in Glen Cove; Iglesia Ciudad de Refugio, the oldest Spanish language church in Glen Cove, and the First Presbyterian Church, founded in 1869. The service has since grown from a handful of attendees the first year to close to 200 attending in-person in 2019, and over 2,500 viewing the service in 2020. Currently, there are eight churches participating from many denominations and from both the Protestant and Catholic traditions.

"I think it's important for people to see that, while each church has different views on certain things," Dillon said, "we can come together to rally around the belief

that we do have in common."

Tommy Lanham became pastor of the Glen Cove Christian Church in August 2019, and participated in the service last year for the first time. This year, he will say a prayer of blessing during the service.

"I think it's a great thing for the community," Lanham said. "Even though we couldn't meet together as a group last year, I think it was important, and this year, we'll have some kind of resemblance of what we had before."

He said he appreciates the fact the service is inclusive and serves people from different churches. "I think it's good for the different congregations to get together in a way that they normally don't," Lanham said. "I'm excited to be part of it."

While the public is permitted to attend the service – which will last just 30 minutes – it is restricted to 150 people and all attendees are asked to wear masks, social distance, and follow standard New York State Covid-19 guidelines. They

"By design, the service is kept short and simple, providing people with an opportunity to come together before worshipping at their home church," said Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, an elder at First Presbyterian Church and chair of the Community Easter Dawn Service Committee. He said that, though theology of the various Christian faiths might differ, Easter provides an opportunity for people to come together. "The core message of Easter is central to all denominations."

The eight member churches involved include Calvary A.M.E. Church, First Baptist Church, First Presbyterian Church, Glen Cove Christian Church, Iglesia Ciudad de Refugio, St. Boniface Martyr Roman Catholic Church, St. John's of Lattingtown Episcopal Church, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

Residents who attend should enter through the main gate line and arrive at least 15 minutes early to check-in.



Photos courtesy Tony Gallego, Gill Associates Photography

THOSE WHO ATTENDED last week's retirement ceremony got a taste of St. Patrick's Day, as three pipe bands played.

G.C. police detective retires after 27 years

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

of his life serving the local community. In high school he began volunteering at Glen Cove Hospital, where he discovered a love for emergency medicine. He joined the Locust Valley Fire Department in the summer of 1985, after graduating from high school, and became an emergency medical technician that fall. He enrolled at Nassau Community College that year, and became a registered nurse two years later. While he was in school, he also joined the Glen Cove Volunteer EMS. In 1987 he was hired to work in the intensive care unit at Glen Cove Hospital, and several years later he decided to pursue another dream.

"I really wanted to help my community," Albin said of his decision to join the Police Department. "My uncle was a police officer, and I saw him and what he achieved, how he helped the community over the years," he said. "I felt that with my skill set of being a nurse, combined with what I would learn at the police academy, I could really help my community in ways that a lot of other people couldn't."

'Best job I ever had'

He was sworn into the GCPD in May 1994, and he continued to work as a nurse at the hospital for many years. In his law enforcement career he worked in numerous roles, from motorcycle patrol to narcotics enforcement, and received a number of accolades, including 53 department commendations for Excellent Police Duty, the Nassau County Chief's Award for distinguished service, citations from the American Legion for exceptional police action and recognition by Mothers Against Drunk Drivers for DWI enforcement. He was also a member of the department's hostage-negotiation team. In 2010, Albin was named Glen Cove Police Officer of the Year by Chief William Whitton.

"It was the best job I ever had," he said. "I was able to come in contact with so



POLICE CHIEF WILLIAM Whitton, far left, Mayor Tim Tenke, Detective Chris Albin, Deputy Chief Chris Ortiz and Nassau County Police Commissioner Patrick Ryder.

many people, and help them in so many different ways."

He described a career that was rewarding in both large and small ways, from helping people who called for an ambulance to assisting them when they locked their keys in their car, consoling them after they lost a loved one, or letting them know when a burglar was caught or an assault suspect arrested. "It's a good feeling," he said, "and I was pretty fortunate to work some big cases."

In 2013, Albin assisted in the investigation and arrest of a Locust Valley man for second-degree murder. The following year, he arrested a known gang member for attempted murder while investigating a Glen Cove home invasion. In 2017 he helped save the life of a man who was severely burned in the wooded area of the Glen Street Long Island Rail Road station. In that investigation, Albin determined that the victim had been intentionally set on fire, and he ultimately arrested a homeless man, who was charged with attempted murder and first-degree assault.

As committed as Albin has always been to his job and his community, last year took a toll on him, as it did on many others. He tested positive for Covid-19 last March, and was out of work for two and a half months. He returned to work for five days, but then had to have emergency abdominal surgery, and was out for another four months. Then he was on restricted assignment.

"It was difficult for me because I was experiencing all these things, and I wanted to be there with my fellow officers, helping, but I couldn't," he recounted. "I loved my job — I still do — but a contributing factor towards my retirement was the health issues, realizing it was time."

That special day in March

Albin is a member of the Nassau County Police Department Emerald Society Pipe Band, which traditionally marches up Manhattan's 5th Avenue every year in the New York City St. Patrick's Day Parade. "I thought, how appropriate would it be for me to walk out on, not only my anniversary, but be able to have the

band come and play for me at my walkout ceremony?" he said. "Little did I know that not only would my band show up, but there were also members of the Suffolk County Police Department Emerald Society Pipe Band and MTA Police Emerald Society Pipe Band waiting for me."

Also on hand for Albin's final walk out of GCPD headquarters were many of his friends and relatives, as well as members of the Nassau and Suffolk County police departments, the Port Washington Police, the State Parks Police, Nassau County Aviation, the Nassau County district attorney's office and the FBI, the Glen Cove and East Norwich fire departments and Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke.

Albin said he formed a lot of great relationships over the years. "It was a wonderful feeling to see them all there," he said.

"Chris Albin was an accomplished police officer and investigator," Whitton said, "and he will be missed by not only his police family, but by the entire Glen Cove community."

Detective Lt. John Nagle described Albin as a "very knowledgeable, accomplished and determined" investigator. "He solved some horrendous cases, and other officers always asked him for feedback on investigations," Nagle said. "He was very helpful, and as a nurse, he was able to help out on cases involving injuries, which is a good trait to have. We're definitely going to miss him."

Albin said he would miss helping the community, and the close-knit world of law enforcement. "The camaraderie you have in a police department is second to none," he said. "You're put into situations that the normal person doesn't have to deal with, and you have to rely on your coworkers to be there for you, whether it's for physical assistance or mental assistance. The camaraderie I will definitely miss, and I will miss helping my community. Every aspect of my life has been helping the community that I live in, and I'm going to miss that."

In a world full of chaos we yearn for security and stability. Even in this most difficult of times, let us all find joy in the sweetness that imbues our life during Passover and Easter. Hold onto the friendships, the love, the resilience, the kindness that surrounds us.

We wish you all happy holiday season.

From the staff of
HERALD
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1126140

CRIME WATCH

Arrests

- Glen Cove Arrests March 14 to March 20
- On March 15, a 36-year-old Bronx female was arrested for cruelty to animals on Sea Cliff Avenue.
- On March 16, a 21-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for second-degree criminal contempt on Cedar Swamp Road.
- On March 17, a 33-year-old Queens Village male was arrested for second-degree criminal contempt on Craft Avenue.
- On March 18, a 55-year-old Levittown female was arrested for DWI and aggra-

vated DWI on Glen Cove Avenue.

- On March 18, a 55-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for cruelty to animals on McLoughlin Street.
- On March 18, a 24-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for second-degree unlawful possession of marijuana on Brewster Street.
- On March 20, a 37-year-old Glen Cove female was arrested for fourth-degree criminal mischief Degree on Eastland Drive.
- On March 20, a 41-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for aggravated family offense and first- and second-degree criminal contempt on Clement Street.

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

NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS



Courtesy City of Glen Cove

Resident donates \$5,000 for updates at Glen Cove's City Stadium

The Glen Cove Baseball Softball Association accepted a generous donation from Glen Cove resident Mike Cervini on Saturday. The money will be used to update the City Stadium batting cages and for other stadium improvements slated for this spring. Opening Day for the Glen Cove Baseball Softball Association is set for April 10.

"The City of Glen Cove is very grateful to Mike Cervini for his donation to our baseball and softball program," Mayor Tim Tenke said. "The batting cages have been in disrepair for a long time and I am so glad that they will be operational again and available for use by our kids very soon as a result of his generosity. Mike's dedication to our kids and the community as a whole is admirable."

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Courtesy Glen Cove Hospital

NURSES, PHYSICIANS AND staff celebrated Glen Cove Hospital's Magnet designation, the nursing profession's highest honor, with a balloon drop and confetti-toss followed by remarks by key Northwell Health leaders.

G.C. Hospital earns top honor for nursing excellence

Glen Cove Hospital has achieved the coveted Magnet designation from the American Nurses Credentialing Center, which recognizes excellence in nursing and quality patient care.

Magnet status reflects the highest standards of nursing professionalism, collaboration, teamwork and delivery of exceptional patient care. As of March 2021, there are 555 Magnet designated hospitals in the United States and internationally, which represents 9.1 percent of all hospitals. Glen Cove Hospital is the ninth Northwell Health hospital to earn Magnet status.

"Earning Magnet recognition is an incredible accomplishment," said Kerri Anne Scanlon, RN, executive director of Glen Cove Hospital. "It validates our outstanding level of nursing excellence and the exquisite quality of care we provide to our patients and families. It represents the foundational commitment to our nursing staff to continuously invest in their professional development. Glen Cove pursued Magnet status through two surges of the coronavirus pandemic, which was an extremely difficult time, making this a truly extraordinary hospital achievement."

The 130-bed Glen Cove Hospital began its Magnet journey in 2018, which involved all nurses and the interprofessional collaborative efforts of every discipline. In January 2021, due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the hospital underwent a three-day Magnet site visit, virtually. Despite the complex technological process, the rigorous site visit represented the final phase in achieving Magnet designation.

"The appraisers review documentation of three key empirical outcomes; patient satisfaction, nursing clinical indicators of performance such as hospital-acquired infections, pressure injuries, falls and nurse satisfaction. This information is benchmarked against other hospitals nationally," said Doreen O'Grady, DNP, RN, Glen Cove's associate executive director and chief nursing officer. "During the

site visit, appraisers from the ANCC conduct staff interviews to help validate their involvement in nursing research, ongoing education and innovative patient care initiatives. Our nurses are phenomenal, and I've never been more proud of our entire nursing team."

Noting that Glen Cove Hospital has nearly a century of providing excellent nursing care to its patients, Northwell President and CEO Michael J. Dowling said, "To achieve nursing's highest designation is a true testament to Glen Cove nurses' dedication, expertise, innovation and compassion. Glen Cove's nurses are at the forefront of their profession and are well-prepared to care for their communities in the future as already demonstrated through the coronavirus public health crisis."

Research has shown that Magnet designation provides key benefits to hospitals and their communities, including the highest level of care for patients, business and financial growth and a nursing staff who feels motivated and valued.

"Achieving Magnet designation is a demonstration of nursing excellence and professionalism, extraordinary interprofessional teamwork and outstanding patient care" said Brandy Feliu, RN, director of nursing professional development and the Magnet program at Glen Cove. "The Magnet journey confirmed the commitment we have to each other and the community we serve."

"This is a very special hospital, unlike any that I've ever worked in," Scanlon said. "It is a family, an exceptional facility and nursing is a driving force and infrastructure that is tied to the interprofessional collaboration that raises the bar for patient care here."

Once achieved, a Magnet designation is awarded for four years. During the next four years, Glen Cove Hospital will continue to maintain and exceed the ANCC criteria and will be eligible to reapply upon fulfillment of the current designation.

ATTENTION CITY OF GLEN COVE WATER CUSTOMERS

The City of Glen Cove Water Department will be conducting its semi-annual fire hydrant flushing of 85 dead-end water mains on Thursday, April 1, 2021- weather permitting and continue for approximately four (4) weeks.

This operation will take place Monday through Friday from 7:00am until 3:00pm.

Residents may notice discolored water and reduced water pressure during this time. The discoloration will clear up as we move out of your area. If you experience discolored water, please allow the cold water to run for 5 to 10 mins until it clears. Water customers are cautioned to check for discoloration particularly prior to using washing machines.

This process is to clean accumulated dissolved mineral sediments in the water mains prior to the system's peak usage period. The water discoloration poses no health risk. Customers may choose to keep a supply of clear water in the refrigerator for drinking and cooking during periods of any discoloration in the water.

We appreciate your cooperation, and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.



Thank you,
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Photos by Scott Brinton/Herald

ON A RECENT Thursday, Nassau County Police Academy recruits watched films of actual police field work. With their instructors, the recruits analyzed the tactics employed step by step.

Inside the Nassau County Police Academy

A close-up look at the intense training needed to become a NCPD officer

BY SCOTT BRINTON

sbrinton@liherald.com

Part one in a series of photo stories on the Nassau County Police Academy in North Massapequa. Recruits' names were not given to protect their privacy.

It's 9 a.m. on a recent Thursday, and a contingent of Nassau County Police Department recruits is seated in the Police Academy's auditorium, intently watching as drunk college students hurl beer bottles at a line of police officers.

"Hey, they've thrown a beer bottle," someone yells. "They're chucking beer bottles. That is so freaky."

The soon-to-be police officers are reviewing film of a near-riotous college party, as police officers move in to break up the crowd. Much as football players analyze game films with their coaches, these recruits, all dressed in crisp, gray

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE



ABOVE: RECRUITS TOOK their Defense Tactics exam, demonstrating the proper methods to arrest suspects.

LEFT PHOTOS: RECRUITS heard a lecture by Marc Tosi, an academy instructor, on police ethics.



Photos by Scott Brinton/Herald

DURING THE DEFENSE
Tactics exam, recruits how to demonstrate precisely how to arrest a suspect without incident or injury.

NCPD puts recruits through their paces

CONTINUED FROM PREVIOUS PAGE

button-down shirts, black ties and black slacks, are dissecting films of actual police approaches to worst-case scenarios that they may encounter at some point in their careers. Instructors go over the police tactics step by step, minute by minute.

The recruits are learning about the necessity for self-control in the face of danger.

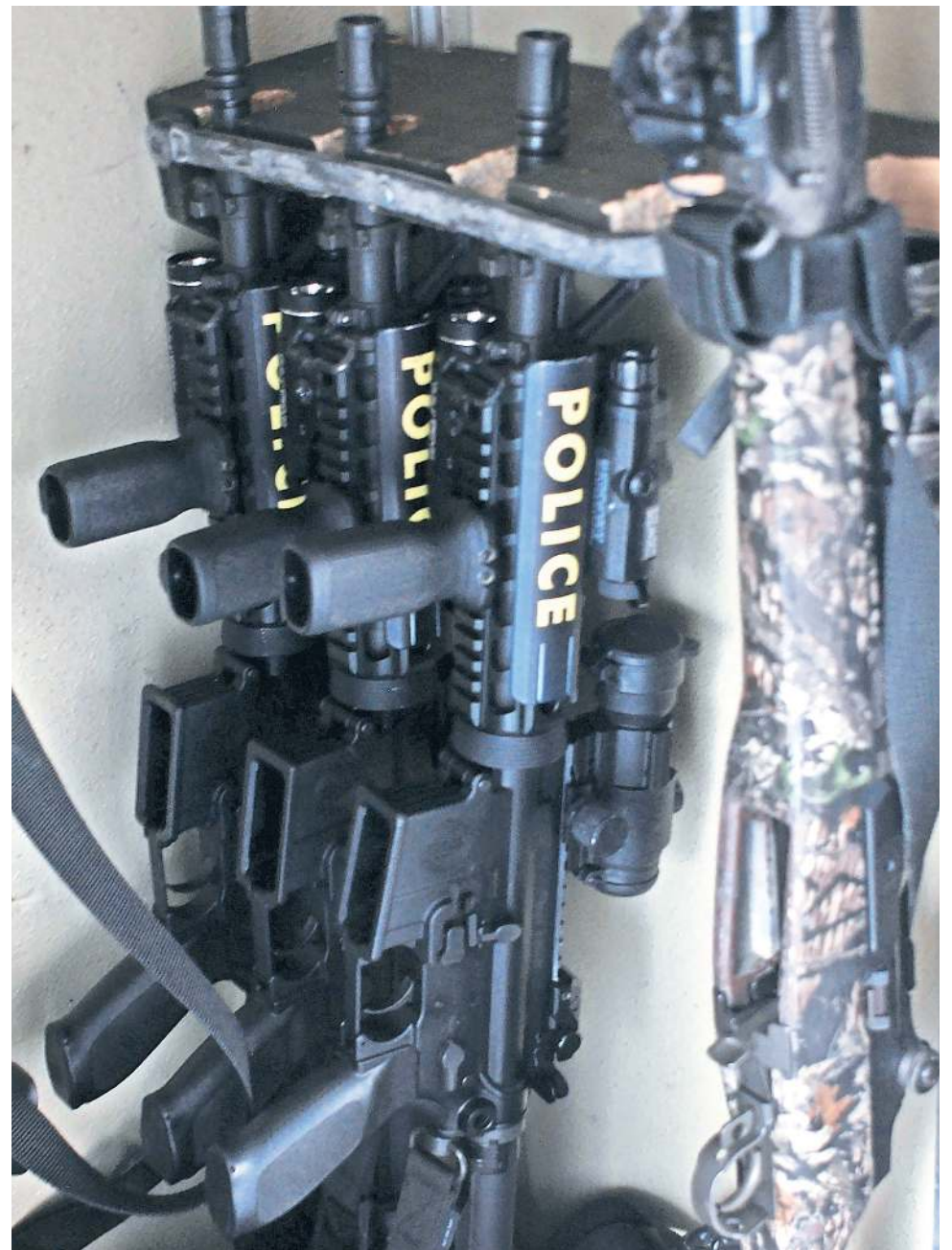
Meanwhile, down the hall in the gym, officers are flipping and spinning each other with all manner of wrestling take-downs, their bodies thumping audibly against the gray-and-blue mats, a massive, circular NCPD insignia staring down at them from one wall. On this day, recruits are taking their Defense Tactics exam after three months of intense training, when they studied what to do — and what not to do — when arresting a suspect.

Instructors evaluate their every move, noting when a hand hold, for example, might be off by a few inches.

And throughout the academy, recruits are spread out in classrooms, learning about the ethics of police work. Everyone is social distancing, and mask wearing is required, even during the Defense Tactics exam.

The cadets study both in the classroom and through a series of simulations at various venues, which imitate policing on the streets, including car chases, said Master Trainer Chris Boccio, who grew up in Lynbrook.

NCPD requires a significantly more rigorous training program than New York state mandates — Nassau puts cadets through 1,050 to 1,200 hours of training over seven months, compared to the minimum 639 hours that the state requires for basic police training.



AT LEFT, OFFICER Peter Lang, an instructor, front, reviewed weaponry found in a Bureau of Special Operations arsenal with recruits.



COMMUNITY UPDATE

Thursday, March 25

North Shore budget adoption

The North Shore Central School District Board of Education will hold its virtual 2021-22 budget adoption meeting at 7:45 p.m. To log into the stream, visit www.northshore.k12.ny.us/live/index.html.

Oyster Gardening 101

The Oyster Bay/Cold Spring Harbor Protection Committee coordinator Rob Crafa will host "Oyster Gardening 101," an online presentation which will provide information about how residents can help local waters by gardening oysters at 7 p.m. The free event will be held via Zoom. Registration can be made at www.friendsofthebay.org/sign-up-for-event.

Saturday, March 27

Indoor Winter Farmers Market

Village Square, 100 Village Square at Bridge Street, Glen Cove, 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 and sweets, honey, maple syrup and other local goods. All products are grown or produced on Long Island or by Long Islanders. Market is operating safely under state guidelines. For more information, call (516) 318-5487.

Sunday, March 28

Mini photo sessions at T.R. Park

Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park, 25 West End Ave., Oyster Bay. Starting at 9 a.m., participants can capture themselves and their loved ones, including pets, with a free 30-minute photoshoot at Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park with one local photographers. For more information, call (973) 281-4503.

Sundays with Shakespeare

Every Sunday through April 18, join the Sea Cliff Village Library for a virtual discussion on the works of William Shakespeare at 1 p.m. Register at



Courtesy Joel Bullock via Wikimedia Commons

Legendary Women of Long Island

Enjoy a virtual lecture through North Shore Historical Museum at 7 p.m on March 30 with fact, fiction and fun to celebrate Women's History Month, highlighting some notorious and notable local ladies. \$15 tickets can be purchased via Paypal or Venmo or by mailing a check. A Zoom link will be sent on day of event. Visit www.northshorehistoricalmuseum.org or call (516) 801-1191 for more information.

seaclifflibrary@hotmail.com. For more information, call (516) 671-4290.

Monday, March 29

E-books and audiobooks

The Bayville Free Library's e-book and audiobook collection is a convenient way to discover and borrow titles anytime from anywhere. Patrons who would like to take advantage of the digital offerings but do not know how or where to begin can join a virtual information session with Overdrive at 10 a.m. Register at www.bayvillefreelibrary.org. For more information, call (516) 628-2765.

Evening yoga with Donna Harragan

Join the Glen Cove Library on Zoom at 6 p.m. as Donna Harragan leads an

hour-long yoga session. Registration can be made at www.glencoverlibrary.org. An email containing information about joining the meeting will be sent after registration. For more information, call (516) 676-2130.

Chicken schnitzel with Chef Rob

Join the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Library on Zoom for a live cooking demonstration by Chef Rob at 7 p.m. He will show participants how to make chicken schnitzel with Sour Cream Mushroom Sauce. Register with a valid email address so that the Zoom ID and password can be emailed to prior to the start of the program. No registrations will be accepted past 4 p.m. the day of the program. Registration can be made at www.bit.ly/ChickenSchnitzel-Zoom. For more information, call

(516) 922-1212.

Wednesday, March 31

Meet the Alpacas

Ashley Rose of Red Barn Farm will bring the farm to attendees' homes with a virtual presentation through the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Library at 11 a.m. In her 30 minute fun and educational program, she will introduce and teach participants about her five furry alpaca friends. Learn about what Red Barn Farm with their fiber, the different types of alpacas, why they spit and many other fun topics. Register at www.oysterbaylibrary.org. For more information, call (516) 922-1212.

Vladka Meed: A Resistance Fighter

The Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance

Center of Nassau County will present a virtual "Curator's Corner" at noon. Dr. Thorin Tritter, HMTc's Museum and Programming Director, will talk about Vladka Meed, a woman who is memorialized in HMTc's Children's Memorial Garden for her active involvement in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising. Registration can be made at www.hmtcli.org/events. For more information, call (516) 571-8040.

Reiki meditation

Join Reiki master and meditation teacher Nadia Mitchell for a 60-minute guided imagery meditation class infused with Reiki energy at 7 p.m. through the Locust Valley Library. Registration can found at www.locustvalleylibrary.org. A Zoom link will be sent following registration. For more information, call (516) 671-1837.

Thursday, April 1

Lego meetup

Children from kindergarten and up can share their Lego creations virtually through the Glen Cove Library. Lego bags can be picked up at the library. For more information, call (516) 676-2130.

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 jnossa@liherald.com

5 things to know about your town

- The Glen Cove Library's Budget Vote and Trustee Election will take place on March 30.
- The Town of Oyster Bay is seeking nominations for its Women of Distinction program.
- The Sea Cliff Village Library is looking for a new member of its Board of Trustees.
- Glen Cove will hold a drive-through egg giveaway on April 2 at 5:30 p.m.
- The Sea Cliff Yacht Club is looking to hire qualified junior sailing instructors.

HERALD SCHOOLS



Photos courtesy Glen Cove City School District

LANDING ELEMENTARY SCHOOL teachers Jaime Bouretis, Christiana Nicolau, Landing principal Alexa Doeschner and reading teacher Melanie Odone in front of a table full of books for the students to choose from.

Landing School creates 'free book initiative'

Staff members from Landing Elementary School in the Glen Cove City School District created a free book initiative to ensure all students could have their own reading material to take home with them.

Reading teacher Melanie Odone, Landing principal Alexa Doeschner, and classroom teachers Jaime Bouretis and Christiana Nicolau donated, collected and categorized over 600 books to provide to their students in honor of National Reading Month.

Each child at Landing received two gently used books. Students were thrilled to receive their free books and were excited to not only look for a book for themselves, but to also look for titles for their younger relatives.



THIRD-GRADER LUKE MENDEZ dives right into the books that he received from Landing staff.

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Re-Elect Councilwoman
Marsha Silverman

[msilvermanforgccouncil](https://www.instagram.com/msilvermanforgccouncil)

ReElectMarshaSilverman.com

Councilwoman Marsha Silverman

Restaurants one step closer to recovery

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

Café and even keeping the same core menu. Chef Moris also prepares daily dinner specials, and Elsa said that the restaurant had to extend its hours in order to accommodate customers wanting to dine in. “A lot of families want to have a good dinner, and it’s unpredictable,” she said, “but we have to be ready to take the calls and provide the service.”

Vito Marchese, owner of Vito’s Ristorante and Pizzeria, on Forest Avenue, said his restaurant would be able to add two more tables for eight diners. Vito’s follows safety protocols, with dividers between tables, bottles of hand sanitizer on each table and staff members wearing masks and gloves.

Demand for takeout and delivery has been consistent, and Marchese said that with the weather changing, allowing him to put tables outside, and more people getting Covid vaccinations, he was hopeful that he would see more business. “Everything should be pointing up,” he said.

Kent Monkan owns four restaurants on the North Shore, including the Heirloom Tavern, in Glen Head, and Brass Rail, in Locust Valley. Takeout helped save them over the winter, he said. Even with the eased restrictions, Monkan added, many people are still wary of eating inside. Heirloom Tavern has an outdoor patio, which opened two weeks ago and was filled on the first day.



Jill Nossa/Herald

JALISCO COCINA MEXICANA & Tequila Bar, on School Street, can accommodate at least 10 more guests under the new guidelines.

Vaccinations would be crucial moving forward, he said, adding that he wanted to see life return to normal as soon as possible, with the struggles of the pandemic put in the past.

The winter months were challenging for La Bussola Ristorante, on School Street, as well. Owner Carlo Lubrano said that outdoor dining, which he had from

June through mid-November, accounted for about 50 percent of his business. The new guidelines should help, he said, because he was already seeing an uptick in customers indoors.

“People who only ate outdoors for the past year are now coming in, since they’ve been fully vaccinated,” Lubrano said. “I can see a change already occur-



VITO'S RISTORANTE IS looking forward to seeing more diners.

ring, where people feel more comfortable to venture out and do things they weren't doing over the last year.”

Last year, the City of Glen Cove closed part of School Street on weekend nights so restaurants could have tables outdoors, and Patricia Holman, executive director of the Glen Cove Business Improvement District, said she and city officials hope it will start when the weather is warmer.

Mike Conn contributed to this story.

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A Spiritual Message

Passover message is 'particularly poignant'

The Torah teaches us that every generation is obligated to tell the story of the Exodus from Egyptian bondage into freedom as if we personally experienced it. Passover is the most widely celebrated Jewish holiday throughout all streams of Judaism. The holiday also takes on contemporary meaning reflecting the moral, ethical issues and the realities of the day. This year its message is particularly poignant.

The Torah commands us to eat matzah, unleavened bread for seven days and remove products with leaven from our homes. This is the perfect year to donate our leaven products to food pantries to help feed the hungry in our communities. We, in normal times, gather with extended family and friends for the seder, the ritualized order of retelling the story and we eat a festive holiday meal with foods prepared that are kosher for Passover. We are encouraged to invite guests into our homes. The seder ritual engages the youngest children and spans the generations. We are encouraged to ask serious questions and wrestle with the meaning of the Haggadah, the book that we read during the seder. Children search for the hidden matzah, the afikomen, Greek for dessert after

the meal, a highlight over the ages.

The holiday has taken on layers of meaning over the centuries. Freedom is certainly not a gift that we can take for granted. Throughout Jewish history, Jews have not been allowed to worship freely in many areas of the world. We know what it means to be at risk for being perceived as "other"; a message that resonates throughout our community especially in light of what happened to us during the Holocaust.

In retelling the story, we recount the ten plagues that occurred as Moses, God's emissary tried to convince Pharaoh to let the Israelites go. Over time, with the writing of contemporary Haggadah, many contain alternative plagues that affect and represent the ills of society today. Questions that may be asked at the seder this year are: What plagues us today? How has the plague of Covid changed our lives? What has the plague of isolation meant to us this year? This year I would suggest that instead of just focusing on the plagues that we con-

sider asking for the 10 blessings that have come out of this past year.

We cannot be truly free while others are not. This year we have witnessed an awakening in America with the Black Lives Matter Movement.



Rabbi Janet B. Liss
North Country
Reform Temple
Glen Cove

Until we see all Americans treated fairly in this country, we are not all free. Until we see criminal justice reform that treats all Americans the same, we are not all free. Until we see Americans stand up to bigotry and hatred against all minorities, we are not all free. Until we root out prejudice and recognize our own biases and we are not all free. Until we root out systemic racism, we are not all free. Until we stand up to hate crimes and name them, we are not all free. Until we hold people accountable for spewing hatred in this country, we are not all free.

Freedom is a gift. It is a gift to be cherished. It, like democracy, is not something we take for granted. As we retell the story of the Exodus this year, most likely on Zoom for most of us, it is incumbent on all of us to recognize

that as a society we have a lot of work to do, in order to restore freedom without prejudice to all Americans. Join me in doing your part to create an America where all are safe and free.

Towards the end of the seder, we open our doors and invite Elijah the prophet into our homes. According to tradition, Elijah will usher in the messianic age. Reform Jews believe that through our own actions, we will bring about the messianic time when people will all be treated the same, there will be no war, illness and plagues will all disappear. This year when we open the door, may we recognize our potential to help bring about a fairer, more just and safer America for all.

There are many online sites today when you can download contemporary Haggadah to be used for your seder. Haggadah.com is the most comprehensive providing links to personalize your Haggadah as well. May this holiday which ushers in spring, bring light and joy into our lives as we begin to see the light at the end of a tunnel and begin to emerge from our Covid isolation.

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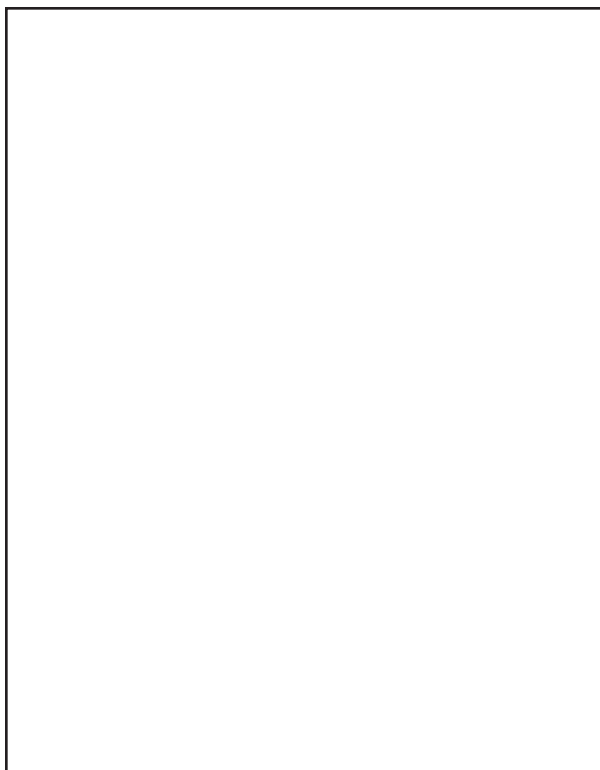
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Herald Inside LI hosts virus and vaccine webinar

By **NICOLE ALCINDOR**
nalcindor@liherald.com

On March 19, just over a year after the coronavirus reached Nassau County, some 400,000 people here had received at least one dose of the Pfizer-BioNTech, Moderna or Johnson & Johnson Covid-19 vaccines.

More than 600,000 Nassau residents remain to be vaccinated, however, and many still struggle to secure vaccination appointments.

With no clear end in sight to the pandemic and many unanswered questions surrounding the virus and vaccines, Herald Inside LI held a free live webinar last Thursday titled, "The Virus and The Vaccine: One Year Later."

The panel discussion, which was sponsored by Cona Elder Law and Mount Sinai South Nassau, featured three guest speakers who discussed the past year and the near future of the virus and the vaccines on Long Island. Panelists also reviewed information about infection rates, the coronavirus variants, scheduling testing and vaccine appointments, and plans to keep local communities safe.

"We will continue to grapple with people who are hesitant about getting the Covid-19 vaccine," County Executive Laura Curran said, adding that she plans to receive her vaccine next week publicly, because she wants to show people that she trusts the efficacy of the Covid-19

vaccinations. "We are working on doing outreach to let people know where the vaccine is available and how they can get an appointment, because we want to make sure everyone has a shot at getting a shot."

County Health Commissioner Dr. Larry Eisenstein said he is optimistic about the progress that the county is making in vaccinating people. Even those who are vaccinated, he said, should continue social distancing and wearing masks to protect those who have not yet been.

"There is a sense of liberation after someone is vaccinated because people who take any of the vaccines have a slim to none chance of ever getting the virus, and the chance of dying of Covid is virtually zero," Eisenstein said. "People who are vaccinated shouldn't have the same restrictions as people who are not, but they should still be careful, and precautions and wearing a mask should always be treated like how people treat carrying their cell phones. People will feel on edge without their phones, and they should feel the same way about wearing a mask, even after being vaccinated."

Eisenstein also said there are many misconceptions about the vaccines and scheduling vaccination appointments. He said he has seen many patients who

have been picky about which Covid-19 vaccine they want to receive, with many trying to request for a specific vaccine, while others have scheduled appointments at more than one vaccination site in the hope of receiving their preferred vaccine.

"We might not have the exact type of vaccine that people want when they want it. Take what you can get. All three of them are great at preventing death. So take what you can get," Eisenstein said. "Make sure your second dose appointment is at the same place you got your first vaccination dose. This is because people at another place won't have access to information about what your first dose was, and they might not have the same type of vaccine that you need for your second dose at their location."

Hospitalizations have dropped in recent weeks, as has the number of people in intensive care units, but it is unclear if those decreases are related to

You shouldn't think you are Superman once you get vaccinated, but if you get the vaccine, you are at diminished risk of getting the virus.

DR. AARON GLATT
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ON THE ROAD WITH A TAKEOUT QUEEN

Vaccine Takeout

By CATHI TUROW

When I was signing up for my COVID-19 vaccine, the only thing that got me through the endless computer process was fantastic food at my side. Since I never cook, I picked up takeout in advance. I proudly present my official guide to what to eat while struggling to set up a vaccine appointment. It's based on the latest takeout in our neighborhood.



CATHI TUROW

■ **La Spezia** (400 Glen Cove Ave., Sea Cliff; laspeziastyle.com) While signing up for a vaccine, if you're anticipating that you will need a sweet treat while tapping the reset button relentlessly, pick up some of the new desserts in this charming café. I tried the amazing pistachio tartufo. The creamiest pistachio ice cream ever surrounds a crushed almond center. It all sits under a blanket of rich, dark chocolate. For a longer lasting dish, order the antipasto salad. Ingredients are finely diced and mixed together as one huge salad. It takes a long time to eat.

■ **Rainbow Restaurant** (82 School St., Glen Cove; opens in the spring) Maybe signing up for a vaccine will take you through two meals. If so, before you start, you'll be able to pick up lunch and dinner at this upcoming cool cafe. Freshly prepared Indian and Middle Eastern homestyle buffet dishes will be offered. Grab an original Indian lunch including biryani and mulligatawny soup. At the same time, grab a Mediterranean dinner with lamb chops and shish kebabs. You'll be good to go.

■ **La Favorita** (269 Pine Hollow Rd., Oyster Bay; lafavoritamarket.com) If you're committed to staying glued to your computer until you get your appointment, even if it takes forever, it's best to plan for all occasions. Pick up a traditional Easter dinner at this Italian gourmet shop. All foods are imported

from Italy (or Little Italy). Courses include imported cheeses, dry sausage, lamb, pasta, Easter eggs and Colomba cake covered with candied sugar. The Easter family menu is another great choice.

■ **Sea Cliff Ice Shave** (247 Sea Cliff Ave., Sea Cliff; opens in the spring) If you selected the vaccine "call back" option, bring your mobile phone to this upcoming Hawaiian-inspired shaved ice shop. When the owner was in Hawaii, she fell in love with a healthy shaved ice treat there. Now she's excited about bringing it to Sea Cliff. Here's the way the shave is put together: all-natural ice cream sits in a sustainable cup. Next, ice blocks are shaved Hawaiian-style. The shavings look and feel like fluffy snow and sit atop the ice cream. The ice shavings are topped with organic fruit syrups and drizzled with a creamy topping. Pomegranate and watermelon will be some of the first flavors. I predict a line out the door.

■ **3 Brothers Pizza** (70 Forest Ave., Glen Cove; 3brothersofglen Cove.com) If you couldn't get a vaccine appointment, have a meal delivered to your home to calm your nerves. In this new shop, handmade traditional and vegan versions of pizza and Italian dishes are ready to go. For vegans, mozzarella is replaced with an ingenious cashew milk mixture. Tofu is whipped into a delicious version of ricotta. And though it's not listed on the menu, every week there's a different vegan cake for dessert. Call in and be surprised.

So, that's my guide. Incidentally, all these foods will be equally delicious during the road trip to your vaccine site. See you next month!

The Takeout Queen is now on Facebook. Search for Oyster Bay Herald Guardian, Sea Cliff/Glen Head Herald Gazette or Glen Cove Herald Gazette.

THE GREAT BOOK GURU

A life revisited

Dear Great Book Guru, Spring is in the air and my book club has decided to reconvene. We are looking for a good book that will make for a good discussion. Do you have any suggestions?

—Fueled by Spring Fever



ANN DIPIETRO

Dear Fueled by Spring Fever,

I just read a novel that might work well for your group: "Foregone," by Russell Banks, who writes about a documentary filmmaker, Leonard Fife. In the late sixties, Fife had moved to Canada as one of the 60,000 Americans protesting the Vietnam War. He made a spectacular life there on many levels, both personal and professional.

Now as he approaches the end of his days, he has consented to an extended film interview with his protégé, Malcolm MacLeod. MacLeod imagines this

will be a tribute to the peace movement and Fife's role in it. What unfolds is an extraordinary story of a life filled with mystery, contradictions and fabrications. Fife insists his wife of 40 years, Emma, be present as he reveals abandoned families, corrupt bargains and dangerous subterfuges. As the primary narrator, Fife appears very unreliable with each story he shares, which are both fascinating and contradictory. The other characters, including Emma, question details and chronology. Is it his memory or his moral compass that is faulty? The reader is left to decide if this is a truly good man or a diabolical charlatan. Highly recommended!

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

OBITUARIES

Margaret A. Zaller

Margaret A. Zaller of Glen Cove died on March 12, 2021, at age 94. Beloved wife of the late Charles. Dear sister of the late Rose Paparillo, Ursula LePesquer and Raphael Paparillo. Adored aunt of Paul and Eugene LePesquer. Mrs. Zaller was a member of the Glen Cove Sons of Italy and a member of the Glen Cove Senior Center. She was a former teacher in the West Hempstead school system. Arrangements entrusted to the Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove, www.dodgethomas.com. Interment is private.

Maureen R. Rooney

Maureen R. Rooney of Glen Cove passed away March 5, 2021, at the age of 65. Beloved sister of Kevin, Joseph (Kathleen), Brendan (Guadalupe), Timothy (Julie), Theresa, Peter F. Jr. (Christine) and Eileen McCarthy (Patrick). Maureen was also the cherished aunt and grand-aunt to many loving nieces, nephews, grandnieces, and grandnephews. Her kind soul and warm smile will be missed by her extended family and friends. Private funeral services will be held at Whitting Funeral Home, 300 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Head, www.whitting.com. She will be buried next to her parents, Peter and Gertrude, who predeceased her, at Nassau Knolls Cemetery, Port Washington.

Joseph E. Dioguardi Jr

Joseph E. Dioguardi Jr., of Bayville, known as "Jed" to his family and friends, died on March 5, 2021, at age 84. He was born in Glen Cove in 1936 and grew up in

Sea Cliff, attending Chaminade High School, Villanova University and Brooklyn Polytechnic, where he obtained his bachelor of science degree in civil engineering. A veteran of the U.S. Navy, he served from 1959-1962. He worked for 60 years as a land surveyor and civil engineer in Nassau County and was a member of the NYS Association of Professional Land Surveyors and the American Society of Civil Engineers. He was a devoted husband of 55 years and loving father, father-in-law and grandfather. Husband of Mariema, father of Joseph E. III (Vanessa), Maria Wright (Patrick), Paul (Kate) and Anna Moyano (Steven). Brother of Angela Morin. Grandfather of Jed, Brendan, Brian, Matthew, Teddy, Charlie, Gabriel and Sebastian. Also survived by cousins, nieces and nephews. Visitation held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove, www.dodgethomas.com. Mass held at St. Gertrude's RC Church. Interment Locust Valley Cemetery. Donations may be made to: Missionaries of Charity Haiti Mission, 727 NW 17th St. Miami, Florida 33136; or Society of St. Vincent de Paul St. Gertrude's Conference, 28 School St., Bayville, NY 11709; or North Shore Soup Kitchen at northshoresoupkitchen.org.

Stuart Jay Hurwitch

Stuart Jay Hurwitch of Cedarhurst died suddenly on March 5, 2021, at age 64. Beloved soul mate of June Levine. Dear brother of Ellen (Mark). Also survived by several loving cousins. Member of the Congregation Tifereth Israel. A friend to many and loved by all. Interment service held at Lebanon Cemetery, NJ. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove, www.dodgethomas.com.

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OPINIONS

The party of Lincoln becomes the party of George Wallace

The 2020 presidential election produced the highest voter turnout in American history. Both candidates received record numbers of votes. This was America at its best, but not for the Republican Party. So it's no wonder that legislatures in dozens of states have proposed more than 200 laws, aimed

mostly at Black voters, that would dramatically cut voter turnout.

If many of the proposals were ever to become law, America would be turning back the clock to the dark Jim Crow era when states deliberately prevented Blacks from going to the polls. There is no

secret behind the Republican effort to stop them from casting ballots. Thanks to massive turnouts in states like Michigan, Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, Joe Biden was elected president.

Biden often says, "Here's the deal." And here's the deal: The Republican Party has morphed into a white man's party. It is slowly but surely being outvoted by minorities in the inner cities and the suburbs. If you can't win fair and square, why not change the rules to stop large voter turnout? What's the excuse for these draconian laws? According to the Republicans, the 2020 election was riddled with voter fraud.

Over the past four months, 60 state and federal judges, many of them appointed by former President Donald Trump, have ruled that there was no fraud in any of the election counts. As late as this month, an Arizona judge fined the state Republican Party for bringing a "frivolous" lawsuit, claiming that there were "voter irregularities." Had Biden won the election by a narrow margin, the voter-fraud argument might have had an impact, but he defeated Trump by seven million votes.

Here's a sampling of the kinds of bills that have been introduced by state legislators. In Alabama, the legislature is being asked to ban the distribution of water bottles to voters who are standing on line at the polls. In addition, it has

been proposed that voters pay a fee to vote, just like the historic poll taxes that were thrown out by the courts decades ago. In Alabama, legislators want to ban Sunday voting to prevent churches from encouraging "souls to the polls."

A number of states want to ban absentee ballots, just like the ones that Trump himself cast as late as the first week of March in Palm Beach County. Arizona legislators want to ban all forms of mail-in voting, and want voters to have absentee ballots notarized. Those proposals are aimed at Latino voters, who helped elect former astronaut Mark Kelly to the U.S. Senate as a Democrat.

Most of us want to believe that many forms of subtle racism have been eradicated, and that we're on the road to becoming a more inclusive nation. Sadly, almost all of the bills being considered in so many states are aimed at depressing black turnout. The same meanness that dominates at the state level is part of the rhetoric in Washington D.C. Sen. Ron Johnson, a lightweight from Wisconsin, recently stated that he wasn't afraid of

the rioters who broke into the halls of Congress, but he would have been concerned if they were Black Lives Matter protesters.

Sen. Lindsey Graham complained bitterly after the passage of the Covid-19 relief bill, that the aid to black farmers was like "reparations."

Other minorities aren't doing much better during the process of filling cabinet positions for the Biden administration. U.S. Rep. Deb Haaland, of New Mexico, was confirmed as secretary of the interior with only four Republican votes in the Senate. She is the first Native American cabinet secretary in U.S. history, but failed to get the approval of Republicans senators who have large numbers of Native Americans in their states.

Similar voting patterns have been recorded for other minority nominees. One has to wonder why the party of Lincoln seems to be gradually becoming the party of George Wallace.

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.



**JERRY
KREMER**

Springing into the future, very, very slowly

March 2021: embracing the change.

Covid-19 isn't something that has just afflicted us; it changed us in ways that are irreversible. It set us on paths from which there is no return. And the change isn't all bad. I think about going back to "normal," and I

realize that "normal" is elusive. We stepped into the river as the coronavirus surged, and we are stepping out now, in a different place.

What is normal, anyway? Was spring 2019 normal? We were deep into the presidency of a man who damn near

brought our democracy crashing down around us.

That four-year political rampage and the emergence of a deadly pandemic are inextricably tied together as historical events; there is little doubt that a more robust, organized federal response could have saved people. But it was the time of Trump and the time of Covid-19, and they met in a spiral of mayhem and grief. Were his lies about the virus and his failure to respect scientific guidance normal in any way? Was it normal to ridicule the wearing of masks when that one simple, inexpensive precaution could have saved lives?

Who would possibly want to reweave what some saw as the "normal" racist threads running through our culture before Black Lives Matter emerged, before Amanda Gorman spoke at the inauguration, before the issue of institutionalized racism came out of the shadows?

We've been far from normal for quite some time. In this moment we have to figure out how to go forward, taking the lessons learned from our communal experience with politics chaos and a pandemic.

For example, the isolation and social distancing of this year, the real aberrations, can't be over too soon for me. That will never feel normal. But there are new, good things happening now: We are getting vaccinated, and the vaccines work remarkably well. Money from the \$1.9 trillion Covid relief bill is starting to turn the wheels of the economy, getting people back to jobs and business owners back to feeding and servicing and creating product for our country.

Americans have learned that they are able to work from home better than they ever imagined. What we don't know yet is how many businesses will go forward with the home-based model. We don't know if the traditional workplace has

reached its expiration date. (I doubt it.) A hybrid model may allow us to employ the best of both worlds, at home and at remote work locations. That could improve on the old normal.

Perhaps the biggest good thing is that schools are starting to accommodate more in-classroom learning. From here in the cheap seats, it seems that closing schools was a mistake from the beginning; we should have vaccinated teachers first and at least tried to prioritize our kids' education. Going to school is normal.

I love that communities are coming together in ways they didn't before the pandemic, to help keep food on the table and find vaccine appointments for one another and drive friends to vaccine centers.

This has also been a great year for adopting dogs, or appreciating the pooches already in residence. For many, many weeks our Lillybee was the only living creature we saw or touched.

The proliferation of artsy pastimes is notable, and that, too, may hang around as a creative outlet for people who love indulging old passions and interests and undeveloped talents.

On the plus side as well, many of us weren't daily exercisers, and now we are. There was only one awful-weather day this year when I didn't get outside for at least a short walk.

The pandemic has put more people in the kitchen, pouring energy and creativity into the food they prepare. My hunch is that will diminish in direct proportion to the opening of restaurants, but again, who can say?

We learned to sublimate our need for excitement through imaginative meal planning and changing up our walks and connecting with people from our past.

We have so many new skills. I can cut hair. I can fix the TV. I can replace the A/C filter. We truly are different people from the ones who stepped into the river last March.

So, back to normal? Not necessarily. We have to figure out for ourselves, and as a society, what's worth keeping from the pre-pandemic era and what we want to embrace from the time of Covid-19, going forward.

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**RANDI
KREISS**

Many questions persist in the new hybrid reality we find ourselves in.

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HERALD EDITORIALS

State needs public-hearings overhaul

Amid all the clamor over Gov. Andrew Cuomo's alleged sexual harassment and misreporting of nursing home deaths during the coronavirus crisis last spring, you would have thought nothing else was happening in Albany at the moment. You would be wrong.

Last week, the State Senate passed a critical piece of legislation to encourage public participation in the rule-making in six key state departments — Education, Environmental Conservation, Health, Financial Services, Labor and Family Assistance. The measure, if passed by the Assembly and signed by Cuomo, would create a three-year pilot program that would require public hearings on an issue any time 125 or more residents petitioned the state government for them.

Senate Deputy Leader Michael Gianaris, a Democrat from Queens, sponsored the bill.

The measure is vitally needed. Requiring hearings when the people ask for them would shift power into their hands. Until now, the state has controlled when — and if — are held.

Six other states — Arizona, California,

Idaho, Illinois, New Hampshire and Utah — require hearings when a critical mass of people request them. New York should do the same.

"The Covid-19 pandemic taught us the crucial importance of transparency in government," Gianaris said. "We should live up to our progressive ideals and make our government truly accessible to the people it serves."

We couldn't have said it better, Senator.

If such a law had been in place last year, people who were angered and worried by the apparent undercount of nursing home deaths as the pandemic spread could have forced Health Department hearings that might have brought alleged under-reporting to light sooner.

The scandal has tainted Cuomo's otherwise sound performance in the early days of the pandemic, when many touted him as a national hero for his daily briefings, based largely on data. If he were smart, he would support Gianaris's legislation to show that he does, in fact, support government transparency.

Assemblyman Zohran Mamdani, a Democrat from Queens, is sponsoring a companion bill in the Assembly. "Creating

a program through which members of the public can demand a hearing reminds rule-makers that they are ultimately accountable to the people," Mamdani said. Agreed.

The legislation would also require public hearings to be held on evenings and weekends, so more people could attend. It would mandate that hearings be broadcast, and that teleconferencing be available. Finally, it would require that time be set aside during the hearings for public questioning of department personnel.

The Senate passed the measure during Sunshine Week, March 14 to 20, a celebration of the 1967 Freedom of Information Act, the landmark federal legislation requiring government officials to make their records available to the public. The American Society of News Editors created Sunshine Week in 2005 to remind people of the grave need for government transparency — even today, more than 50 years after FOIA was enacted.

The message that the Senate was seeking to project was clear: New York state needs to do more to open its government to public participation. Of that there is little doubt.

Journalists should be vaccinated, too

It might seem self-serving that a newspaper would call on New York state to include journalists on the list of those eligible to receive a Covid-19 vaccine.

To a degree, that might be true. More so, however, our concern is for the public good.

Since the start of the pandemic, journalists have been on the front lines, reporting on myriad local and national stories that have shaped the past year, exposing themselves to potential harm at hospitals, marches and political rallies. They have risked their lives to inform an

anxious public, providing vital information to dispel fear and increase understanding.

Since last March, journalists have been allowed to continue their work because the government deemed them essential workers. Yet they have been excluded from the lists of those eligible for a vaccine. Why?

This isn't solely about the journalists who have done their job admirably. It's also about the public. One journalist might interact with dozens, if not hundreds, of people while covering a mass

gathering of one kind or another, and if infected with the coronavirus, he or she could potentially expose many others to harm. From a public health standpoint, leaving journalists off the list thus makes no sense.

The Press Club of Long Island, a chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists, is currently conducting a letter-writing campaign calling on Governor Cuomo to include journalists on the eligibility list. To join in that effort, go to bit.ly/30Xt1T4.

LETTERS

The Republicans in Congress are right

To the Editor:

Many Republicans in Congress voted against the \$1.9 trillion American Rescue Plan because too much of the funds were being used for purposes not directly related to Covid. And they certainly are right. Just a few examples come to mind:

- The \$1,400 to \$5,600 checks for 150 million people will be used only for the indirect effects of Covid: food deprivation, paying for medications and keeping a roof over their heads — and in the process, putting money into the economy.
- Cutting child poverty in half.
- Expanding the food stamp program.
- Expanding AmeriCorps to recruit young people to tutor chil-



OPINIONS

Let's allow schools to decide on activities

As difficult as the coronavirus pandemic has been on all of us, our children were the least equipped to handle the sudden disruption of their daily lives and routines. Ripped from in-school learning, sports and extracurricular activities and social interactions critical to their intellectual, physical and emotional development, they were thrust into a world of inactivity, isolation and remote learning. We should not continue to ignore the consequences.



**STEVE
RHOADS**

We have heard much about “following the science” and the data throughout the pandemic. We

have all accepted limits on personal freedoms imposed on us through countless, often contradictory, executive orders issued by Gov. Andrew Cuomo, simply because in the face of the unknown, that appeared to be the safest course of action. In order to “stop the spread,” we sacrificed our liberty in pursuit of the general good of all.

One year later, however, we are still ceding local control of education to a governor and a state Board of Education that continue to enforce policies that the science and the data simply do not support. Schools have safely resumed sports activities with very few, if any, Covid-19 cases and even fewer incidents of transmission. Yet while students are permitted to participate in wrestling matches, two trumpet players must remain 12 feet apart. In districts that permit in-person learning, there have been virtually no incidents of in-school transmission of the virus, yet students must quarantine if someone in their class contracts it, despite wearing masks and being surrounded on three sides by Plexiglas in classrooms. Many parents can't watch their kids play for school teams — even outdoors.

The data tell us that because of the outstanding work of our school districts, administrators, teachers, staff members and students, in conjunction with local departments of health, the in-school Covid transmission rate remains far below that of the surrounding communi-

ties. It is simply safer to have your kids in school — and it's better for them. Area school districts have proven that they can act, and have done so efficiently, even when faced with the challenge of outdated and conflicting policies imposed by Albany.

We have local boards of education because we believe as a state and a society that the best decisions for our students are made at the local level. The governor may have heard of the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District, the Seaford School District or any of our other area districts, but what does he know about local conditions in Wantagh's Mandalay Elementary

School, or Freeport High School? Probably very little, if anything.

But local school boards and local administrators know. And, most important, parents — who are on the front lines of the struggles their children have faced during the pandemic — have a mechanism at a local level to take part in that decision-making process.

It is time for the state and governor to stand down and allow local school boards and local officials, in conjunction with

local health departments and parents, to make decisions for themselves about how their schools should be run, what events and activities — such as graduation — should take place and how to best take care of our children. The science and the data no longer justify Albany's one-size-fits-all approach, or the damage it is doing to the developmental, emotional and physical health of our students.

To that end, I recently joined the other members of the Nassau Legislature's Republican majority to write a letter to Cuomo, Senate Majority Leader Andrea Stewart-Cousins and Assembly Speaker Carl Heastie calling on New York state to allow school districts the full discretion to decide when to safely restore extracurricular activities and other school events, including graduation ceremonies. The remarkably good job Nassau County districts have done keeping students, teachers and staff safe in school has earned them the right to decide which events may be held and how those events will be conducted. I'm hopeful that our state leaders will heed this call and return that discretion to our districts.

Steve Rhoads is a Republican Nassau County legislator representing the 19th District.

LETTERS

dren in underserved communities.

All of which will expand the economy, not exactly something Republicans are opposed to.

BOB PRAVER
Glen Cove

St. Hyacinth's clinic a model for vaccine pop-ups

To the Editor:

On March 4, approximately 500 Glen Cove-area residents — 400 seniors and 100 additional eligible residents who work in our schools — received Covid-19 vaccines at a pop-up clinic at St. Hyacinth's R.C. Church in Glen Head. I applaud Nassau County Executive Laura Curran and the leaders of Northwell Health for their ongoing efforts to deliver vaccines where the need is greatest.

Thanks to the collaborative efforts of community stakeholders, this pop-up was a well-run, multifaceted event. Cognizant of the increase in food insecurity during the pandemic, we are all so grateful to Long Island Cares for delivering food boxes, which the Glen Cove Fire Department helped distribute to families in need. I appreciate the Police Department's generous donation of hand sanitizer and their assistance with directing traffic and aiding those in attendance.

Most important, we would not have had such a successful day without such an

ideal venue. We are all tremendously thankful to Father Daniel Nash for graciously opening St. Hyacinth's doors for this life-saving event.

As inoculation efforts continue to ramp up thanks to the arrival of the Johnson & Johnson vaccine, I am hopeful that the success of this pop-up clinic will serve as a model for future vaccine distribution events in our area.

DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON
*Nassau County legislator
Glen Cove*

'If you can't do, blame'

To the Editor:

Re the March 12-18 editorial, “Cuomo's days in office appear numbered”: I take exception to the point of view of elected officials and journalists who are pointing fingers at Gov. Andrew Cuomo before his investigation is complete. I have worked in high-powered offices for decades and consider myself as a feminist. Anyone who has worked in this kind of passion-driven, intense, stressful environment knows conversations and gestures can be misunderstood or taken out of context. Yet the media and certain politicians are jumping to conclusions. I do not believe Cuomo should resign.

More important, a year ago, during the coronavirus pandemic, at a time when there was complete chaos and so much

FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



A sand piper, undisturbed — Lido Beach

unknown, Cuomo stepped up ahead of all the others and created and implemented innovative plans. His guidance was ongoing, and he was an inspiring voice for New Yorkers as well as all Americans. He asked New Yorkers to discipline themselves, an effort to stop the spread of the virus. When they did not, he said it was not OK and made decisions that were hard for the public and businesses.

Cuomo has continued to play this role, and New Yorkers still need him to get us through the pandemic and far beyond. Yes, he may have made some mistakes, but the countless lives he has saved and accom-

plishments he made during the past year far outweigh his few possible errors.

In hindsight, it's easy to sit back and find fault. I would like to ask the politicians who are not respectful enough to wait for Cuomo's investigation results before passing judgment a simple question: During the pandemic, what did you do? I don't recall hearing most of your voices. If you did less than Cuomo, in my book, you're just another case of, “If you can't do, blame.”

CATHI ROSENBERG
Sea Cliff

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