

CORONA VIRUS
COMMUNITY UPDATE
 Infections as of June 22
4,103
 Infections as of June 13
4,101

HERALD



HEAD of the CLASS
 LONG ISLAND
TEACHER AWARDS
 Pull Out



Audubon Society comes to Landing
 Page 3



New restrooms at Morgan Park
 Page 4

\$1.00 VOL. 30 NO. 26

JUNE 24 - 30, 2021



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

PANDORA HERSEY OF Glen Cove, who grew up in the South, shared some of her experiences with racism at a Juneteenth ceremony last Saturday.

Community members mark Juneteenth with a ceremony

BY JILL NOSSA
 jnossa@liherald.com

It has taken more than 150 years, but the significance of June 19, 1865, has finally been recognized nationwide. Last week, just days before the anniversary of the end of slavery in the United States, Juneteenth became a national holiday, though some Glen Cove residents had not known about the date until recently.

"I never heard about it

until this year," said Pandora Hersey, 79, of Glen Cove.

Hersey grew up in the South before moving to Glen Cove after graduating from college in 1964. Born and raised in Virginia, she said that segregated schools and restaurants were the norm in the 1940s, '50s and '60s, and racist policies prevailed at shopping centers and other public places. The schools for Black students were "inferior," in terms of the buildings

and the quality of supplies, she said, "but we had really good teachers."

Hersey recalled that Black high school students had to walk a mile or two from their homes to get to a bus stop, because buses wouldn't pick them up, even though white children were picked up at their homes.

Hersey attended Virginia State University in Peters-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

Silverman tops unofficial primary totals

BY JILL NOSSA
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The Democratic primary election took place on Tuesday, a contest that had seven candidates vying for six spots on the Glen Cove City Council ticket.

According to the Nassau County Board of Election's unofficial results, the winners include current council members Marsha Silverman, Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, Danielle

Fugazy Scagliola, Eve Lupenko Ferrante and John L. Perrone, as well as Roderick Watson. Councilman Rocco Totino had the least votes as of press time, potentially pushing him off the ticket for November's general election. All absentee ballots must be received by June 29, according to Cindy Silletti, leader of the Glen Cove Democratic Committee, so the final numbers will be complete next week.

Democratic primary results for Glen Cove City Council

Marsha F. Silverman	549
Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews	491
Danielle Fugazy Scagliola	472
Eve Lupenko Ferrante	455
Roderick Watson	400
John L. Perrone	390
Rocco A. Totino	370

Camp, Covid, and cabin fever

By LEAH DWYER
newsroom@liherald.com

Glen Cove is back for another summer filled with camp. People are excited and nervous to get out of their homes, off their screens and outdoors face to face. Of course, this summer's camp will look a bit different from the usual Youth Bureau camp and Glen Cove City Camp people are used to.

"We're back, we're hoping for a normal summer," Spiro Tsirkas, the executive director of Glen Cove's Department of Youth Services and Recreation, said. The camps will begin July 6.

The camps are attempting to run as normal as usual while upholding a standard of safety.

According to Tsirkas and Sandra Potter, the youth program coordinator, both camps will be running with smaller enrollment numbers and less trips.

Glen Cove City Camp will be located at Landing Elementary School this year, which will allow the camp to be within walking distance from Morgan Memorial Park.

"I believe in utilizing what we have," Tsirkas said. "We have a lot of

beaches, we have a lot of parks, we have facilities, and it's a shame not to expose our kids and our youth to these."

Tsirkas and Potter both said they noticed a mix reaction from parents, noting that some parents are a bit hesitant, while others are excited to be able to get their children off their electronics.

"They [parents] want their kids to be out and about," Potter said. "They don't want them to be on a screen, they want them to be out and doing activities and socializing."

Despite the drive to get kids outside, hesitation is evident in the enrollment numbers. The Youth Bureau camp normally sees about 80 kids enrolled, and the number for city camp is usually roughly 500; this year the Youth Bureau has about 60 kids and City Camp has about 100 kids enrolled.

Due to the hesitation and nerves some are feeling, the city is also offering one-week sports camps.

The camps were put in place,

according to Tsirkas, "so they can get a little flavor of summer programs and slowly get back into things."

In order to ensure safety throughout the camps, off-site trips have been limited.

According to Angela McCarthy, the city camp's pee-wee program coordinator, "we're getting a lot of the trips to come to us."

Some groups will see things like music programs, arts and crafts programs, and vendors.

However, trips are not fully eliminated; kids will still be going to places like the movies and Adventureland.

Other protocols include individual craft bags containing supplies like crayons and markers for each child in the Youth Bureau camp, and individual craft supplies for each City Camp group.

"I feel very comfortable," said McCarthy. "I'm confident in the fact that we can follow all the protocols and keep everyone safe."

A lot of the Covid regulations have not been set in place, as they continue to change daily. Currently, McCarthy said that masks and social distancing precautions are expected to remain in place for the summer. As someone who has been a staff member at city camp for about four years, McCarthy said she is "saddened" by the distancing, as it makes interacting with kids very different from past years.

"It's sad that the kids can't really mesh," she said. "You have to really stay within your group and you can't really venture out of that."

Despite all the protocols and smaller numbers, the staff members seem confident in having a fun and normal summer this year; hopeful this will give kids the opportunity to get away from their screens and begin returning to how things used to be.

"New friendships are made, sometimes through these summer programs their friendships last a lifetime," said Tsirkas. "Camp is for kids to just be social again and not be stuck behind a computer screen and experience life as a youth."

I'm confident in the fact that we can follow all the protocols and keep everyone safe.

ANGELA MCCARTHY
Camp Coordinator

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HERALD SCHOOLS



Photos courtesy Glen Cove City School District

THROUGHOUT THE SPRING, third-graders looked for birds and other wildlife in the area.

Landing students spread their wings

Third-graders at Landing Elementary School in the Glen Cove City School District have been learning about birds and bird calls while using their own bird guides to identify different types of bird species. The students studied the patterns of bird migration and engaged in bird walks complete with binoculars.

Recently, Alexa Doeschner, principal of Landing School, obtained a grant through the Theodore Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary and Audubon Center, funded by the Sierra Foundation, for third-grade students to receive four outdoor science lessons within the “For the Birds” unit. The unit covers protecting birds and their habitats, conservation, bird adaptations and patterns.

The grant also allowed Landing to receive a large native plant garden, and to award several third-graders scholarships to the summer program associated with the sanctuary. Students were chosen for the scholarship based on teacher recommendations. Students who will attend the camp will participate in various outdoor activities and learn about the wildlife and nature that surrounds them.



THIRD-GRADE STUDENTS AT Landing Elementary School took a trip outside for a bird walk and used binoculars to study the wildlife.

STUDENTS WERE GIVEN field guides to help them identify the native birds.



JULIE NELSEN, EDUCATION manager at the Theodore Roosevelt Bird Sanctuary, speaks with students about the different physical characteristics of various birds.

Bathroom renovation is complete at Morgan Park

By LEAH DWYER

newsroom@liherald.com

Long gone are the days of choosing between holding it or taking the long walk to the upper bathrooms from the beach at Morgan Memorial Park. What other towns might view as a small, unnoteworthy feat, the citizens of Glen Cove will be thrilled to know that the bathrooms at Morgan Park are open for use. After four years of closure, the official ribbon cutting for the bathrooms located near the beaches of the park took place on June 17.

During his speech, Glen Cove Mayor Tim Tenke took time to thank the Department of Public Works Director Lou Saulino, department members Rocco Graziosi, Vinnie Martinez, Jr., Nick DeSantis, and Nick Gragas from Westar Construction Group and his team for their work in completing the project.



Leah Dwyer/Herald

A RIBBON-CUTTING TOOK place to celebrate the opening of the new bathrooms at Morgan Memorial Park.

CRIME WATCH

Arrests

■ On June 13, a 24-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for second-degree menacing, obstruction of breathing and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon on Landing Road.

■ On June 15, a 31-year-old Locust Valley male was arrested for DWI and parking violations on Hendrick Avenue.

■ On June 17, a 38-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for three counts of second-degree menac-

ing, fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon and obstruction of breathing on Elm Avenue.

■ On June 19, a 46-year-old Glen Cove female was arrested for DUI and leaving the scene of an auto accident on Shore Road.

■ On June 19, a 38-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested for second-degree criminal contempt on Elm Avenue.

■ On June 19, a 21-year-old Glen Cove female was arrested for second-degree aggravated harassment on Bridge 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.

Virtual tribute for Glen Cove resident Bill Friedlieb

Glen Cove's Congregation Tifereth Israel (CTI) plans a virtual tribute to long-time congregant Bill Friedlieb to be held on Sunday, June 27 at 5 p.m. The tribute will raise funds to support the congregation's educational programs for children and adults.

Friedlieb has filled many synagogue posts during his 33 years of membership. He has served as the congregation's president and treasurer, has chaired the ritual and cemetery committees and, for many years, has hosted "Torah Talk with Bill," a weekly class devoted to discussion of topics related to Torah and Jewish thought, values and history. The June 27 tribute to Friedlieb will include a video highlighting the honoree's life, family, career, community commitments and love of Jewish learning.

Of the many roles Friedlieb has filled at CTI, he finds "Torah Talks with Bill" to be most especially rewarding. "I enjoy teaching because it took me a long time to learn, studying with several rabbis of differing denominations," he said. He added that having spent years learning Talmud "it is my pleasure to be able to pass on Jewish learning to others and discuss it with them." Friedlieb also mentioned his gratifying work with others over the years, helping to move the CTI congregation toward the practices of modern-day Judaism, bringing the congregation's practices to more closely reflect the prevailing practices of the community.

Friedlieb retired from the New York City Police Department as a deputy inspector then went on to become chief investigator for the New York State Commission of Investigation. He and his wife, Susan, share a blended family of five children.

Many in the CTI and Glen Cove communities have come forward to offer goods, services and experiences that are



Courtesy Bill Friedlieb

BILL FRIEDLIEB, HONOREE of a June 27 virtual tribute by Congregation Tifereth Israel

on auction in connection with the tribute. Among them are a sunset cruise on a private yacht, a wine tasting conducted by a professional sommelier, meals with prominent local officials, home décor and houseware items, art works, nutrition and financial planning counseling sessions, personal items such as jewelry and watches, a guided kayak tour through Hempstead Harbor, tutoring, travel adventures, golf getaways and many, many more.

Visit <https://cti.afrogs.org/#/index> or call the CTI office at (516) 676-5080 to obtain tickets to attend the June 27 virtual tribute, to bid on any of the items on auction, or to sponsor a journal ad. Tickets prices start at \$18 for a single ticket and continue to a wide range of sponsorship opportunities.

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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The Glen Cove Herald USPS 008886, is published every Thursday by Richner Communications, Inc., 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. Periodicals postage paid at Garden City, NY 11530 and additional mailing offices. Postmaster send address changes to Glen Cove Herald, 2 Endo Blvd. Garden City, NY 11530. **Subscriptions:** \$50 for 1 year within Nassau County, \$60 for 1 year out of Nassau County or by qualified request in zip codes 11542, 11545, 11547, 11548 or 11579 **Copyright © 2021 Richner Communications, Inc. All rights reserved.**



Courtesy Tab Hauser

MAESTRO DAVID STEWART WILEY CONDUCTED ORCHESTRA Long Island at Morgan Park

Fireworks and concerts return to Morgan Park

By **ABIGAIL CARMONA**
newsroom@liherald.com

Bring out the blankets and chairs because the City of Glen Cove is bringing back its annual Fourth of July firework show, along with entertainment and a children's bicycle parade.

"Our residents really look forward to the Fourth of July. It's something to really celebrate our nation and to give back to them after the distraught year and a half we had," Mayor Tim Tenke said.

The city's annual July 4th celebration was cancelled last year due to the rising number of cases from the coronavirus pandemic. As cases continue to drop and the number of vaccinations start to rise, there is no better way to celebrate than with fireworks and entertainment on Independence Day.

The patriotic day will begin with the children's bicycle parade, which will meet at Finley Middle School horseshoe at 9:30 a.m. and depart promptly at 10 a.m. Riders are encouraged to decorate their bicycles, strollers, wagons etc. with the nation's colors as they ride to downtown and Village Square. Refreshments will be served through the parade.

The celebration will continue at Morgan Park Memorial at 7:30 p.m. with entertainment sponsored by Morgan Park Summer Music Festival with Orchestra Long Island.

"The musicians and I are thrilled to be back at one of our favorite venues and encourage people to come out and celebrate with some great music by Orchestra Long Island," Conductor David Stewart Wiley said. "There will be a variety of diverse American pieces played from Victory at Sea by Richard Rogers to patriotic salutes, marches, and tributes to veterans."

"The Morgan Park Summer Music Festival is happy to help provide the concert to kick things off," Morgan Park Summer Music Festival Chairman Congressman Tom Suozzi said, "and are excited about getting back to normal after the dark days of Covid-19."

In August, the Summer Music Festival will bring in more summer concerts that will be announced in July. "Our volunteer team is excited to bring back a full concert series next summer," Suozzi said.

Glen Cove's July 4th fireworks will begin with Orchestra Long Island performing Tchaikovsky's 1812 Overture, with fireworks displayed by the Grucci.

Starting at 6 p.m. Landing Road, Germaine Street, and McLoughlin Street will be shut down for the July 4th celebration. Parking at Morgan Park Estates and Shorecrest are for the area's residents. In case of rain, the fireworks and entertainment will be moved to Monday, July 5, at 7:30 p.m.

Social distancing is recommended.

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The Glen Cove IAC includes community leaders representing a variety of human and social service agencies serving the Glen Cove area. It reflects Glen Cove's rich cultural, ethnic and religious diversity and meets monthly to identify and address changing needs in the community.



2021
Graduation

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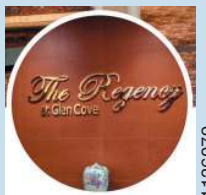
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Heralds honor Long Island's top teachers

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

The Herald Community Newspapers group held its first live Zoom awards show to honor Long Island teachers for their outstanding work inside and outside the classroom.

The Herald Head of the Class Long Island Teacher Awards ceremony was hosted by the Herald and RichnerLIVE, presented by Bank of America and sponsored by Geico.

Jordan Sabinsky, who teaches kindergarten at Searingtown Elementary School in the Herricks School District, won the Bank of America Rising Star Award.

Nancy Aquino, who teaches second grade in the Baldwin School District's Steele School, took home the honor for top elementary school teacher.

Grace Dong-Janeo, who teaches at Hempstead Middle School, was the top middle school teacher.

And Rebecca Rodriguez, a foreign language teacher in the East Rockaway School District, was the top high school teacher.

Eric Feil, the Herald's director of business development, hosted the event, announcing the winners and interviewing them about their achievements. "What a night this is going to be as we celebrate the top teachers across Long Island," Feil told the online audience as the ceremony began. "We've all had a teacher in our lives who has made a lasting impact, who was truly special — whether they saw something in us that they brought out, inspired us, or gave us the confidence to go and learn something and apply something new to the world ... Now, tonight, we are here to honor them."

Stuart Richner, president and CEO of Richner Communications, thanked viewers for joining in for the night and shared his view of the most influential teachers in students' lives.

"Even before Covid-19 and even before teachers were declared essential workers last August, we all knew just how essential they were ... It has always gone without saying that our schools are the true heart and soul of Long Island," Richner said. "Top educators motivate students in countless ways and create atmospheres of understanding, compassion and curiosity. The most influential teachers go above and beyond, and their impact is felt both inside and outside the classroom. The impact of a great teacher can last a lifetime."

Richner shared how he still fondly recalls the lessons that his sixth-grade teacher, Mr. Stuart Brock, taught about being confident and taking the lead, and always sticking up for those without a voice.

When Richner first started holding discussions about the idea of honoring Long Island's top teachers, he said he knew it would be vital to receive community input. The awards nomination process was open to the public and generated more than 300 nominees, from students, parents and teachers to local business owners.

"Throughout the pandemic, we have seen our educators meet countless new



Photos by Nicole Alcindor/Herald

JORDAN SABINSKY, WHO teaches at Searingtown Elementary School in Herricks, won the Bank of America Rising Star Award.



challenges, and they are more deserving than ever of recognition for their passion, determination and dedication," Richner said. "Thank you to everyone who took the time to nominate a teacher and for sharing the moving stories about why you felt they should be honored."

Nassau County Executive Laura Curran, of Baldwin, who served on the Baldwin Board of Education before she ran for the County Legislature, spoke directly to Long Island's teachers at the awards ceremony. "I've got kids in school myself, and I know how hard you all have worked this past year and a half pivoting, learning new technology on the fly, making sure that kids got the knowledge, resources, information and preparation needed to succeed," Curran said. "I am truly grateful for all of your work and a huge congratulations to all the winners and finalists tonight."



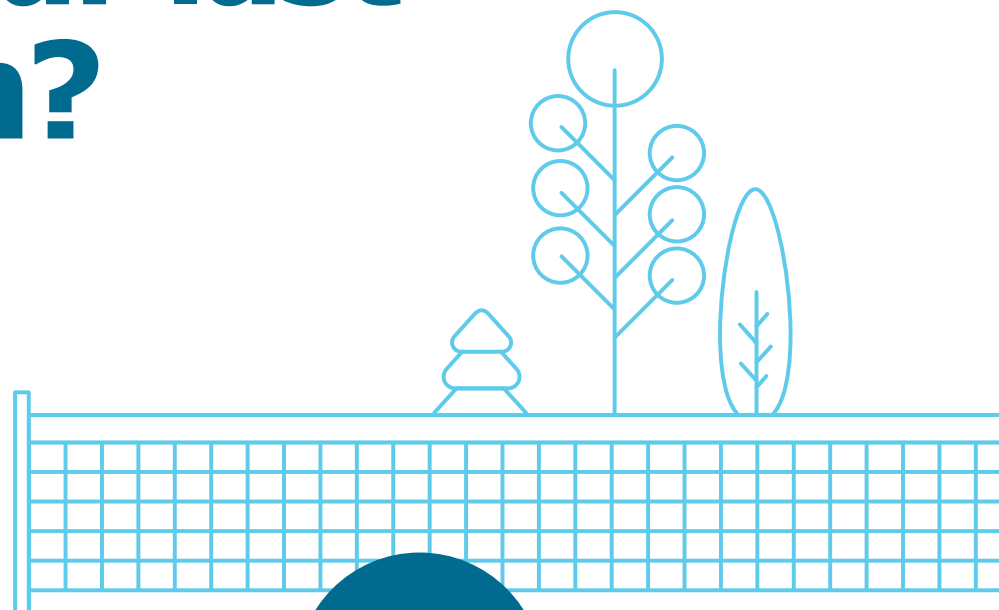
NANCY AQUINO, WHO teaches in Baldwin, was the top elementary teacher.

GRACE DONG-JANEO, WHO teaches in Hempstead, was the top middle school teacher.

REBECCA RODRIGUEZ, WHO teaches in East Rockaway, was the top high school teacher.

Not feeling the love after your last tennis match?

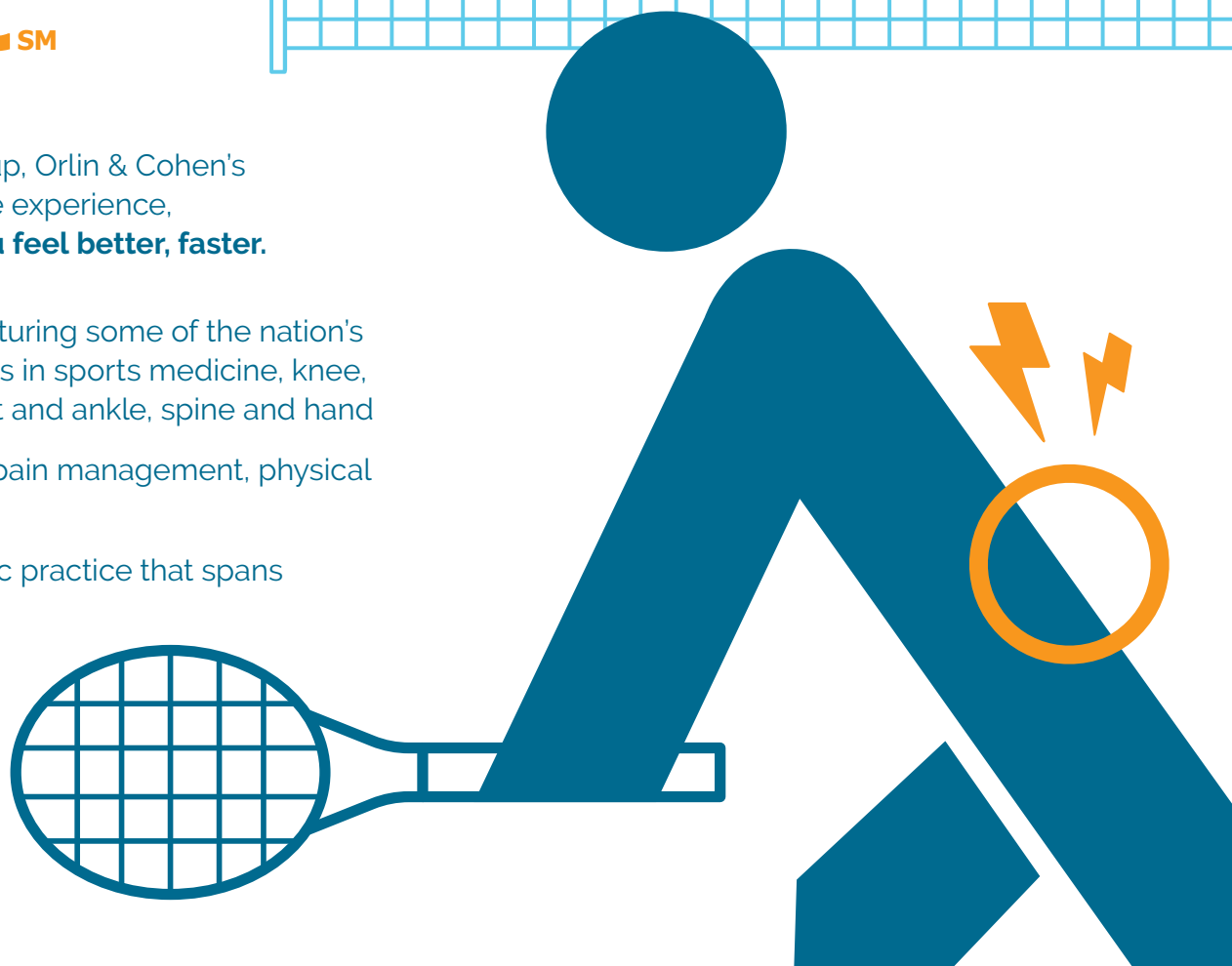
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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Friday, June 25

Movie at the Library

Gold Coast Public Library Annex, 50 Railroad Ave., Glen Head, 2 to 4 p.m. Watch "Soul" (2021) at the library. In the latest animated film from Pixar, Joe is a middle-school band teacher whose life hasn't quite gone the way he expected. His true passion is jazz -- and he's good. But when he travels to another realm to help someone find their passion, he soon discovers what it means to have soul. Room A will open at 1:40 p.m.

Saturday, June 26

Deep Roots Farmers Market

100 Garvies Point Road, Glen Cove, from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. The weekly farmers market offers a selection of locally grown vegetables and eggs, fresh baked bread, honey, seafood and more.

Oyster Bay Railroad Museum Grand Opening

Join the Oyster Bay Railroad Museum at 10 a.m. as it celebrates the grand openings of the Historic Presidential Station & the Landmark Turntable.

Sustainability and Tech Fest

From 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at American Legion, 190 Glen Head Rd, Glen Head. In partnership with Microsoft and the Town of Oyster Bay, the Boy Scouts of America are presenting the first Community Sustainability and Tech Fest. This will be a fun event with music, snacks, activity stations, giveaways, and a sustainability idea competition.

Sunday, June 27

Children's Memorial Garden Opening

From 2 to 3 p.m. Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County 100 Crescent Beach Road Glen Cove. Join the HMTTC for the official opening of their newly renovated Children's Memorial Garden.



Photo courtesy Gold Coast Cruisers

Gold Coast Cruisers returns to Morgan Park

The Gold Coast Cruisers Waterfront Car Show returns to Morgan Park on Sunday, June 27, at noon, with food courts, live entertainment and raffles. Free admission for spectators, \$25 per car and no preregistration. The show will be limited to 500 cars. The Gold Coast Cruisers, Inc is a nonprofit corporation consisting of auto enthusiasts that sponsor two car shows per year, with proceeds going to charity. The car show will be at Morgan Memorial Park, Germaine and Landing Roads, Glen Cove.

Monday, June 28

Marijuana Regulation and Taxation Act: Local Implementation of the Law

Through the NS Coalition Against Substance Abuse, 7 p.m. Learn the details of the law, get informed about the opt in/opt out choice that local leaders will have to make by the end of this year, discuss how the new laws will be enforced, and learn who to contact if you want their voices heard on the matter.

Proactive Job-Hunting Strategies for Success

Through the Bayville Free Library, at 7 p.m. Learn how to implement job search techniques that every savvy job seeker should know. This webinar helps job seekers create and commit to a job-hunting game plan that stimulates a more positive mindset, discovers more job

leads, and reflects the best professional version of themselves while job-hunting. Register at bayvillefreelibrary.org.

Summer Pool Safety Seminar

Through the Town of Oyster Bay, 6 to 7 p.m. at Bethpage Community Park, 1001 Stewart ave, Bethpage. Learn about healthy swimming techniques, basic first aid, drowning prevention and more. The seminar is open to both Oyster Bay residents and non-residents and is free to attend.

Tuesday, June 29

Espionage and Enslavement in the Revolution

Through North Shore Historical Museum, 7 p.m. Claire Bellerjeau: Espionage and Enslavement in the Revolution focuses on

the intertwined lives of two fascinating people who inhabited the margins of their time: a Revolutionary War spy whose own family never knew the critical role he played in winning America's independence and the enslaved woman whose intelligence and verve ultimately transformed the spy into an ardent abolitionist.; go to nshmgc.org to register.

Wednesday, June 30

Clean Water Rye: Community Forum with Save the Sound

From 3 to 6 p.m. at Jay Heritage Center 210 Boston Post Rd., Rye. An in-person forum on water quality, stormwater management and river, marsh and coastal restoration opportunities in Rye, New York. Discuss local environmental challenges and learn about opportunities for restora-

tion with fellow community members and practitioners. Register at savethesound.org

Curator's Corner: Harvey Milk and Reclaiming the Pink Triangle

Through Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center From 12 to 1 p.m. In this virtual "Curator's Corner", the Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center's Museum and Programming Director, Dr. Thorin Tritter, will discuss an image of Harvey Milk that is included in the museum's final gallery, highlighting his role as an "upstander." The presentation will also explore the gay right's movement in the 1970s and its effort to reclaim the meaning of the pink triangle, which had been used to identify gay men in Nazi concentration camps. Register at hmtcli.org.

Thursday, July 1

Mini Golf Outing

Bayville Adventure Park, 8 Bayville Ave, Bayville at 6 p.m. Join the Oyster Bay Lions Club for a fun, family-friendly night of miniature golf at Bayville Adventure Park. If you arrive after 6 p.m., you will still be able to play all 18 holes with your group. Tickets are \$20 and can be purchased through the Oyster Bay Lions Club's Facebook page.

HAVING AN EVENT?

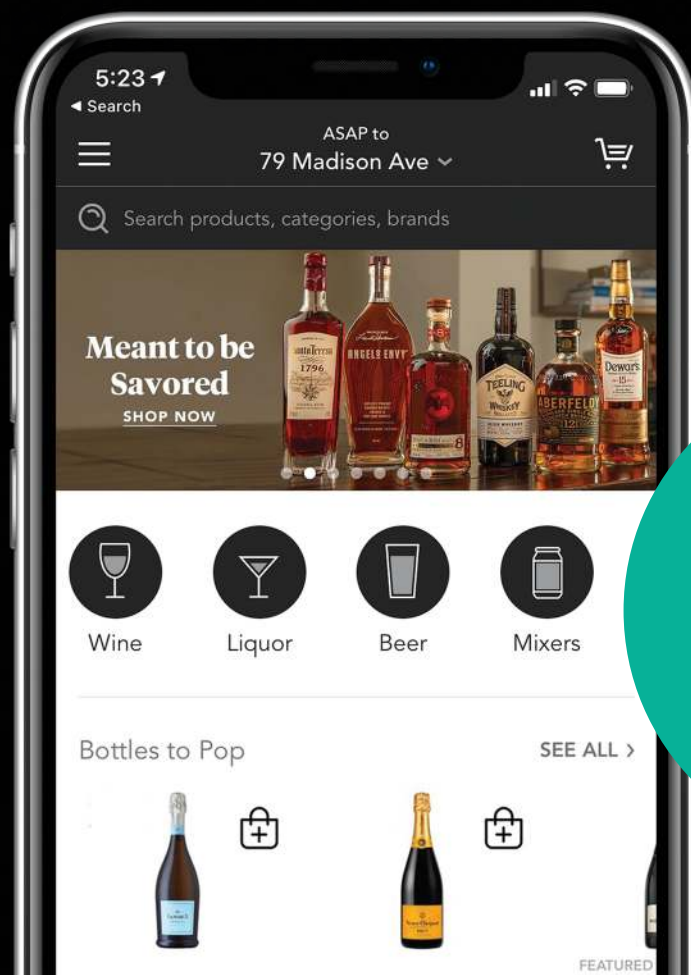
Items on the Community Update pages are listed free of charge. The Herald welcomes listings of upcoming events, community meetings and items of public interest. All submissions should include date, time and location of the event, cost, and a contact name and phone number. Submissions can be emailed to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

5 things to know about your town

- Fitness in Village Square takes place every Saturday at 10 a.m. in Glen Cove.
- The Oyster Bay Town Board will meet on June 29, at 10 a.m.
- Glen Cove Downtown Sounds free concert series begins July 2.
- The Oyster Bay Music Festival opens on June 27.
- The Long Island Pride Pet Parade is on June 26 at 11 a.m. at 73 Garvies Point Rd.

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Courtesy Nassau BOCES

JUAN PINILLA (THIRD from left) of Glen Cove, who attends Nassau BOCES Barry Tech, was presented with the prestigious George Farber Outstanding Student Award by Board Trustee Robert "B.A." Schoen (second from left) and Barry Tech Principal Peter Dalton (third from right). Family, administration and school staff were also on hand for the presentation.

Glen Cove student honored

Juan Pinilla of the Glen Cove City School District, who attends Nassau BOCES Barry Tech, earned the prestigious George Farber Outstanding Student Award this year. The award celebrates a variety of Juan's remarkable attributes, including passion, perseverance, enthusiasm, outstanding character, scholarship and a willingness to help others.

Juan was honored during an individual award ceremony this spring, featuring a special presentation of his award plaque by administrators and Nassau BOCES Board members. He was further honored with a personalized lawn sign and a \$100 check from the Nassau BOCES Educational Foundation.

When Juan came to the United States from Colombia, it was the third time in his life that he had to relocate to a new country and learn a new language. After only just two short years studying audio/video at Barry Tech, he was working in the field and applying to colleges to study audio, video, lighting and live shows production. Juan has been named Barry Tech Student of the Quarter, held a place on the High Honor Roll for the past two years, and was inducted into the National Technical Honor Society. He was selected to represent his school during Lobby Day in Albany, and volunteered to DJ at the Jerusalem Avenue holiday party for students with developmental challenges.

"Juan exemplifies the very best of Nassau BOCES," District Superintendent Dr. Robert Dillon said. "He embodies the true spirit of George Farber. He has shown kindness to other students, exhibited an excellent work ethic and demonstrated outstanding commitment. He has eagerly shared his knowledge and made contributions to his community. Juan's story is an inspiration to us all."

For the past 14 years, outstanding students have been earning this award in memory of former Nassau BOCES Board President George Farber, whose passion for improving the lives of students was surpassed only by his love and care for them. Farber was the longest-serving board member in Nassau County, having served from 1971 to 2009.

To see the Nassau BOCES George Farber Outstanding Student Award virtual ceremony and to see the stories of this year's winners, visit www.nassauboces.org/outstandingstudents.

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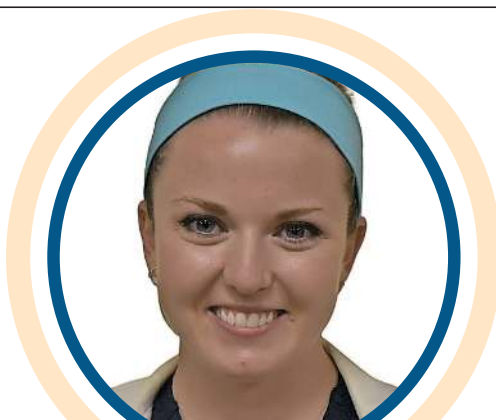
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CAITLIN CARPENTER

GARDEN CITY

Nurse practitioner,
Glen Cove Hospital



I had been a registered nurse for years, but only had five months of experience as a nurse practitioner when Covid hit. We had a massive influx of patients and had to open up additional units, and patients were getting moved around. It sounds chaotic, but there was a sense of calm because everyone communicated well and worked well together. But the staff was spread out more, and one unit was run entirely by NPs and [physician assistants], so that was a lot to take on.

During the course of Covid, there's been ebbs and flows, with closing and reopening units. Right now, we have our normal units open, so day-to-day, it's more normal, but I do feel like everyone at the hospital has gotten closer.

On a personal level, during the height of

Covid, in April last year, my grandfather died of Covid. My family and I made the decision to bring him to the hospital, and he was immediately put into hospice and died a week later. It was really hard, but I could see, as a nurse and nurse practitioner, that while on the news, you kept hearing that patients were alone in the hospital, they were never really alone because they had nurses with them. So that comforted me with me my grandfather because I thought, I'm here for someone else's grandparent right now, and I know there are nurses with him. Nurses were always thinking that way.

I always tried to tell the families that we were here for their loved ones and no one is going to be left alone. I think that was a really unique and difficult part of Covid.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

DOREEN MATHER

BLUE POINT

Surgical nurse specialist,
Glen Cove Hospital



I primarily focus on navigating women's health with patients getting breast reconstructive surgeries. Pre-Covid, patients could come in with a loved one, and we encouraged 24-hour visitation so someone could stay with them to provide emotional support. However, post-pandemic, it's been a very different picture. They're generally coming into the hospital by themselves.

As a nurse navigator, I guide the patients pre-operatively and post-operatively through their experience. And although I am not taking the place of a loved one, I have been able to develop relationships with the patients even before they come for their procedure, so they feel like they have someone they know in the hospital that can advocate for them, visit them and provide emotional support.

One of the reasons I was chosen for this role is because I am breast cancer survivor. I had breast cancer five years ago and underwent very similar procedures, so I really understand the emotional impact this is having on these women. To go through it at all is difficult, but to be in the hospital without someone to give you support is very challenging. Fortunately, things are starting to open up again, and we're starting to have visitation back. I also run a support group and have developed really close relationships with all the patients because I can understand what they're going through. It's very rewarding.

In medicine, we tend to focus on the procedures and medicines as part of the cure, but I really feel a huge component of any diagnosis or recovery is the emotional piece.

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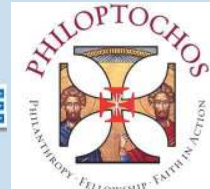


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THEIR FRONT-LINE STORIES IN THEIR OWN WORDS

CHRISTINE MURPHY

HICKSVILLE

Physician's assistant,
Oyster Bay Pediatrics,
Oyster Bay



We never closed the office during Covid. I immediately got [the illness], on March 20, 2020. My entire family got it too. I wasn't hospitalized, but I was out for six weeks. But I didn't get it from work. I got it from my husband, and then our girls got it.

I remember being scared in the beginning because no one knew anything and I have asthma. So, I went into nurse mode. I had Tylenol schedules for my three girls, for me and for my husband.

When I went back to work, a lot had closed. We had an entrance in the back of the building and a back room for Covid patients. The number of patients we'd see was cut by three quarters because people were scared to come in. It was difficult. We would see the kids first in the car and test them, which was hard to do

in a car seat. Kids wouldn't hold still, and they were crying and crying.

Emotions were crazy. The parents were happy to hear that I had had it and would ask how I handled it. I'd tell them I did great. This put them at ease. We tested the parents too because most of the time if the kid had it, the parent did too.

Now we are back at 90 percent at the office. We still have the Covid room in the back if we need it, but we haven't had to isolate anyone.

This experience made me be a little more patient with parents. I find I take my time talking to them and am more engaging. This made me more in tune with humanity in general. Things are back to normal for me. I just planned a vacation.

HERALD HOMETOWN HERO

Juneteenth ceremony marks a milestone

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

burg, an all-Black college at the time, where she took part in marches for equality. On one occasion stayed home sick, and many students were arrested. The police officers were "not nice" to the students that day, she recalled, adding, "It was a blessing that I was not there."

She recounted racist policies at stores at the time, noting that Black people had to wait to make their purchases until any white shoppers had been served first. "It was really a rough situation, but we learned to deal with it," Hersey said. "We learned to pray much and serve God, believe in the Lord Jesus Christ and move on."

Her husband, Adrian Hersey, is pastor of the Jesus Is My Boss Ministry, a non-profit headquartered in Glen Cove that provides spiritual and material support to those in need through outreach. The Herseys attended a small ceremony last Saturday morning commemorating Juneteenth, held at the home of Glen Cove City Councilman Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews and Jim Stevenson-Mathews.

Adrian Hersey, 86, said a prayer and recalled serving in the Army at a base in Georgia in the 1950s. Born and raised in Glen Cove, he had never experienced such blatant racism. Once, he said, he got onto a public bus and sat in an empty seat behind the driver. "The driver just sat there," Hersey recounted, "and I thought something must be wrong with the bus."

He noticed other Black people sitting in the back, and figured that's where they had chosen to sit. "Finally, the driver said, 'I can't pull off until you move to the back of the bus,'" Hersey said.

The Juneteenth tribute included a changing of the flags outside the Stevenson-Mathews home, a tradition that began a year ago, according to the councilman. "The changing of the flags came about in response to wanting to pay tribute to the first responders, health care workers and front-line workers," Stevenson-Mathews said, "and outwardly show appreciation for what they were doing during the pandemic."

Now, he said, he and his husband invite friends, neighbors and others in the community to come by as they take down a flag dedicated to a cause and replace it with another. "We swap out the flags every two to three weeks to shine a light on various important causes," Stevenson-Mathews said, "or to pay respect to different aspects of American history or groups, and to show how the history relates to us in Glen Cove today."

The couple have flown flags recognizing Breast Cancer Awareness Month, Women's History Month and Pride Month, as well as those honoring national heritages such as Polish and Italian Americans.

The councilman said he became familiar with Juneteenth while living in Dallas in the 1990s. The celebration has gained national recognition in recent years, though Texans have been observing it since the late 1800s. While most slaves were



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

WANDA HERSEY HELPED raise the Juneteenth flag at the home of City Councilman Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews and Jim Stevenson-Mathews.

freed on Jan. 1, 1863, with President Abraham Lincoln's signing of Emancipation Proclamation, it took over two years for the news to reach Texas. On June 19, 1865, Union soldiers arrived in Galveston, announced the end of the Civil War and read aloud an order that freed the state's quarter-million enslaved Black people.

Last Wednesday, the House of Representatives approved a measure making Juneteenth a federal holiday. Stevenson-Mathews invited people to join him for a short ceremony to mark the occasion. The attendees included the Herseys' daughter, Wanda Hersey.

"Our community is rich with history, and it is thanks to leaders in our community like Pastor and Mrs. Hersey that we have the opportunity to learn, grow and appreciate the rich tapestry that makes up our beautiful North Shore and our beautiful city," Stevenson-Mathews said. "We felt it was important to take time to remember and pay tribute to this important day in the history of our nation."

Pandora Hersey said she was hopeful that the holiday would help raise awareness of the struggles of Black people in this country, but, she added, there is still work to do on the local level to combat racism. Though there may not be discriminatory laws on the books or blatant examples of racism, she has still experienced it in Glen Cove, with people who have been "outright mean" to her and her children.

"After a while, you stop and think, if they're carrying around that much meanness, they're carrying a big load," she said. "And it will come down on their heads eventually, and they will have to answer to God. I can understand why church is the backbone of communities, particularly in the South, because you deal with a lot of things."

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Oyster Bay Music Festival returns for its 10th year

BY GEORGE WALLACE

newsroom@liherald.com

For Oyster Bay residents who have missed the annual weeklong series of "pop-up" classical concerts by young musicians that have become a part of the cultural landscape in recent years, there's good news.

The Oyster Bay Musical Festival is back. From June 27 through July 6 OBMF will celebrate its 10th anniversary with 12 free concerts.

The theme? Indispensably Music. And the locations? Some of the most beautiful gems along the North Shore, including Planting Fields, Chelsea Mansion, Cedarmere Estate, Raynham Hall Education Center, the Nassau County Museum of Art, Congregation L'Dor V'Dor, and the Western Waterfront in Oyster Bay.

OBMF started 10 years ago, with an idea to dot the town of Oyster Bay with classical music concerts, often two or three times a day, for slightly over a week.

The first year's concerts were informal affairs, according to festival co-director Lauren Ausubel, a Huntington resident. "That first year we had a flatbed truck with amplification and small groups of musicians more or less materialized in unusual and intimate settings in the hamlet to perform," she recalled. "We thought it would appeal to people in Oyster Bay to be able to experience classical music without going to the city."

Since then, the festival has rapidly grown into a community institution, with each year new local venues requesting to be a stop on the OBMF concert tour.

"We're over the moon that they're back," said Harriet Gerard Clark, executive director at Raynham Hall. "They always have such talented musicians and now we can host them in our new performance space. In the past they had to perform in our Victorian Room, it was a bit of a pinch. We could only fit about 20 people in there and with no A/C it could get quite warm. Now we seat 60, with the French doors open, and with A/C it's going to be much more inviting."

Gerard Clark was particularly pleased with the theme of the music being performed at the hall. "In this case they're playing July 4 celebrations," she said. "And as an organization that interprets revolutionary war history, we're all

about that."

The concerts feature gifted young musicians who study at Juilliard, Yale School of Music, Eastman School of Music, San Francisco Conservatory, and Hofstra, among others. Audience favorites such as the Zandieh Trio from Oyster Bay, pianist Maxim Lando, winner of the prestigious Young Concert Artists Competition, and award-winning flutist Matthew Ross will return this season. New guests include sitarist Rishab Sharma, the youngest and last disciple of Ravi Shankar, and soprano Emily Donato.

When it comes to recognition for his musical talents, Charles Zandieh, a member of the Zandieh Trio, may be considered an exemplar. He has performed extensively across the tri-state area, including solo and chamber performances at venues such as Alice Tully Hall, Carnegie Hall, the Tilles Center and Steinway Hall. His press features include articles and highlights in The Daily News and News 12 Long Island, and he was headlined on Ovation TV's original series, "Young Marvels."

The Zandieh Trio is comprised of Charles, on cello, a Juilliard graduate, who is 20, and his brothers, violinist Cameron, a Mannes graduate, 21, and 16-year-old Christopher, on piano, who is a Syosset High School student. All three are Oyster Bay Cove residents and all are products of Syosset High School.

The Zandieh brothers performed at the festival two years ago. "Last time around it certainly was an exciting experience collaborating with other artists, sharing talent and creativity," Charles said, "and we're looking forward to it again."

Like other participants in the festival, the trio is hard at work pulling together music that fits the theme of each concert scheduled.

"We feel there are a lot of pieces that will work with the various themes of the individual concerts. When it comes to "Music that Laughs," for example, there's Mozart and Haydn, both of whom were like class clowns," Charles said. "It's interesting to think about what is in our repertoire that is in sync with those themes."

For all of the concertizing, however, the core of the festival experience for

Schedule of OBMF concerts

Sunday, June 27

6:30 and 8:30 p.m. — Music that Inspires (This concert is repeated twice for social distancing)

St. John's Episcopal, Cold Spring Harbor
1670 Route 25A, Cold Spring Harbor
Opera arias of Mozart and Puccini, instrumental solos of Debussy and Schumann, and music on the sitar from Rishab Sharma.

Monday, June 28

7 p.m. — Music that Unites (This concert requires the Excelsior Pass)
Congregation L'Dor V'Dor, Oyster Bay
11 Temple Lane, Oyster Bay
Soprano Emily Donato and pianist Maxim Lando perform Samuel Barber's Knoxville Summer of 1915; music of Schoenfeld, Ravel, Rachmaninoff.

Tuesday, June 29

5 p.m. — Music that Questions
Raynham Hall Education Center, Oyster Bay
20 West Main Street, Oyster Bay

Wednesday, June 30

6:30 and 8:30 p.m. — Music that Dares (This concert is repeated twice for social distancing)
St. John's Episcopal, Cold Spring Harbor
1670 Route 25A, Cold Spring Harbor

Thursday, July 1

7 p.m. — Music that Transcends
St. John's Episcopal Church, Huntington
12 Prospect St., Huntington

Friday, July 2

(Ticketed Concert through Planting Fields)
6 p.m. — Guest Artist: Orpheus Chamber Orchestra members
presents Wynton Marsalis' A Fiddlers Tale

Planting Fields
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Saturday, July 3

1 p.m. — Music that Laughs
Nassau County Museum of Art (in conjunction with an Andy Warhol exhibit)
One Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor

3:30 p.m.

Western Waterfront Center, Oyster Bay
Pop-up concert

8 p.m. — Music that Transforms
St. John's Episcopal, Cold Spring Harbor
1670 Route 25A, Cold Spring Harbor

Sunday, July 4

Noon — Music that Celebrates
Raynham Hall Education Center
20 West Main Street, Oyster Bay
Instrumental and vocal music to celebrate the Fourth of July.

Monday, July 5

7 p.m. — Music that Speaks
A Musical Tribute to William Cullen Bryant
Cedarmere Estate
225 Bryant Avenue, Roslyn
Words of William Cullen Bryant set to improvised music, selections from chamber music masterpieces of Mozart and Brahms.

Tuesday, July 6

7 p.m. — Music that Thrills
Chelsea Mansion
34 Muttontown Lane, East Norwich
Dramatic and showy musical repertoire, including vocal scenes from popular musicals and operas, and a movement of Beethoven's 4th Piano Concerto.

students is the intense learning opportunity it provides through its Performance Intensive, an intensive "retreat" for young classical music students that includes master classes, coaching, seminars, repertoire study and more.

"The Performance Intensive is a great opportunity to share ideas on interpretation," Charles said. "Yes, we'll have some

solo performances, and some with my brothers. But they like us to collaborate with each other. We'll have enough players for some larger ensemble pieces."

And for the general public? Ausubel and fellow festival director Pippa Boris promise that "the performance talent and energy at each concert will not disappoint."

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Yelena Quiles
Purchasing Agent
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OBITUARIES

James L. Floyd

James L. Floyd, formerly of Glen Cove, died on June 3, 2021, at age 66. Brother of Ilene, Jerry, Richard, Leroy, Will and Marvin. Also survived by many cousins, nieces & nephews. Service was held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Burial at Plainlawn Cemetery.

Geraldine M. Abbondandolo

Geraldine M. Abbondandolo of Glen Cove died on June 12, 2021, at age 58. Beloved wife of the late Curtis. Loving mother of Miriah Anne (John) of Vermont. Loving daughter of Joseph and Carla Abbondandolo. Dear sister of Lena Boris (the late Gregory), Joseph (Kathy), William (Lynn) and Tom (Donna). Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and cousins. Geraldine was a loving soul who loved horses and all animals. She will be deeply missed.

Catherine F. Garofalo

Catherine F. Garofalo of East Meadow died on May 25, 2021, at age 69. Beloved mother of Judith Garofalo (Pedro) and Rosaleigh Rick (Michael). Proud grandmother of Grady, Sienna, Charlotte, Hunter and Peter. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews and family. Visitation at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Mass at St. Patrick's RC Church. Interment at Locust Valley Cemetery.

Mary Kean

Mary Kean of Glen Cove died on May 31, 2021, at age 101. Beloved wife of the late Lawrence. Loving mother of Margaret Junge (Fred) and Janice Famighetti (the late Joseph). Proud grandmother of six and great-grandmother of 13. Visitation and funeral service held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Interment East Hillside Cemetery. ent at Holy Rood Cemetery.



Jeanne K. Giambruno

Jeanne K. Giambruno

Jeanne K. Giambruno died on June 8, 2021, at age 92. Beloved wife of the late Anthony. Loving mother of Nora Semler (Marc), Mary Sachs (the late Michael), Jeanne Hollins (Wayne), Val (Ginny), Theresa, Gerard (Karen), the late James (Joanne) and Anthony (Roni). Dear sister

of the late Richard McCarroll, James McCarroll and Marilyn Lockwood. Cherished grandmother of Jonathan (Monica), James, David, Andrea (Kevin), Candace (Jesus), Chelsea, Nicholas (Arianna), Michelle (Michael), Jeanne, Anthony, John, Patrick and Kerri. Adored great-grandmother of seven. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Mass of Christian Burial at the Church of St. Rocco. Interment at Holy Rood Cemetery.

Obituary Notices

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

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OPINIONS

That old town of Albany ain't what it used to be

The general public has little or no idea how government works. Citizens may go to a town, city council or village board meeting, but they're usually there for a brief visit about some neighborhood issue, and after that there's no longer any contact with the world of elected officials. Most



**JERRY
KREMER**

of my service has been in state government, having spent 23 years in the State Assembly. When I contrast the State Legislature of my years to the current one, I must confess I have mixed emotions.

When I arrived in Albany in 1966, and through all the years that I

was in office, the makeup of the Legislature was what I think the founding fathers would have approved. There were insurance agents, teachers, bankers, undertakers, merchants and former athletes, and there was even a legislator who drove trotting horses at night. They all had some things in common, which were either prior public service or they knew

what it was like to make a payroll.

Almost all of my colleagues understood that being an elected official required time and patience. Many of them who were committee chairs had a deep knowledge of their assigned subject, and their expertise was obvious during floor debates. I often found myself in awe at how a particular member had mastered a very complex area and could speak with such intimate knowledge about a pending proposal.

Luckily, I had the chance to either listen to or be a part of floor debates that were challenging and sometimes combative. Because I eventually rose to be the chair of the Ways and Means Committee, I had the opportunity to learn the inside workings of state government, which was an experience that I cherish to this day.

But sadly, today's Legislature is no longer a carbon copy of the one I experienced. On the positive side, there are still many hard-working members who have a positive influence on the legislative process. They know what they're talking about, and their many successes in creat-

ing new laws is proof of their effectiveness. The Long Island legislative delegation, headed by Sen. Todd Kaminsky, is a very effective group, and they display sanity and knowledge when they speak out on some important issue.

That's the good news about today's Albany. But there's also a very unsettling side to the changes that are taking place. Every person has the right to run for office, and if they can get a majority of the voters to support them, they will have the exciting opportunity to serve. From time to time, some new members become a positive force in the Legislature and succeed by doing their homework.

But there are a growing number of new members who have no life experience, and are now in the public arena without a clue about what is expected of them. Some call themselves "progressive," but their positions on vital subjects are far from progressive. New laws cost money, and there should be an understanding that the average taxpayer can afford just so much.

The newcomers focus on finding ways to tax the people that they consider

"rich." They advocate punishing tax measures that are a message to New Yorkers that if you can relocate, now is the time. The number of residents and businesses that leave the state is rising at a staggering rate. States like Florida are welcoming these disenchanted people with open arms.

I have had over a dozen conversations in the past six months with people who aren't Jeff Bezos types but who are giving up on New York because they see what has happened and fully expect times to get even worse. It's bad enough that so many people's lives have been decimated by a year of Covid, and now they face punishing program after program that threaten their ability to survive economically.

There is no magic formula to change the direction of state politics. Maybe an aroused public will take action on Election Day, but that's probably wishful thinking. What some people call good change I call a calamity.

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.

Covid-19 took so much, even our words

Once upon a time, a *super-spreader* was a nifty tool for installing grout during a tiling job. Then we blinked, a virus leaped from a bat to a person and the world wobbled on its axis. Within weeks we crashed from a functioning society, with reasonable expectations for living

full lives, to a dysfunctional country coping poorly with a global pandemic.

In our new reality, super-spreader has been repurposed to mean a social gathering where people sick with the coronavirus infect large numbers of other people.

In the old times, you could buy a super-spreader for \$31.88. And chances are it wouldn't kill you.

Covid-19 has transformed not just the way we live and go to work and school, how we shop and how we access medical care, how we travel and how we raise our children. The virus has hijacked our language.

A *mask* is now universally recognized as a face covering to protect people from the coronavirus. The lowly cloth worn to

cover nose and mouth can also be a charged political statement. Not wearing a mask in a place where masks are mandatory is an act of defiance.

Only two years ago, face coverings were pretty much associated with surgeons, Halloween or certain religious observances. Now we conduct our lives by where and how we wear our masks.

We need a dictionary of the pandemic.

What about the word *refresh*? You may think of a splash of cold water or running a comb through your hair, but I think of spending many hours for many days in a row trying to get appointments online for our vaccines. I would go to the designated site and then begin refreshing, over and over, hoping to land a shot. Eventually I did, after an unreasonable amount of repetitive key clicking.

Before the pandemic, when I heard the word *bleach*, I thought of how much clothing I've ruined by splashing Clorox in the wrong places. But then, at the peak of the Covid surge around the country, there was the former president suggesting that people might inject bleach into their bodies to fight the virus. It was a singular moment in presi-

dential briefings; the lunacy of the suggestion prompted Dr. Deborah Birx, on the stage to one side of the president, to twist her face in a silent agony of disbelief. It erased for all time the notion that bleach is just bleach.

Will anyone ever hear the words *refrigerator truck* again and not flash back to the grim parade of trucks repurposed as morgues and lined up outside New York hospitals? Perhaps the new word associations are a kind of PTSD. I was driving on a highway recently, and when a refrigerator truck pulled alongside, I instantly recalled the dark days of New York City in the grip of the

virus.

For all my life, *Q* has been the regal 17th letter of the alphabet. Now, *Q*, short for *QAnon*, is inextricably tied to the political fringe group that metastasized among millions of Americans, spreading false information about the pandemic and misinformation about the scientists on the front lines of fighting the disease. Not to mention that *Q* followers have challenged the results of the 2020 presidential election and supported the Jan. 6 insurrection at our Capitol. I cannot hear *Q* without feeling anxious for

our democracy and our ability to have free and safe elections.

How many of us were familiar with the term *flatten the curve*? And yet we heard that every day for months as scientists urged us to isolate and mask up to stop the awful surges of the pandemic. Those three words are changed forever in my mind.

Even the word *virus* is heard differently. We have known viruses in our time, but this one quickly assumed Infectious Disease Hall of Fame status. We have protection from measles and polio and mumps. But for a long time, we were completely vulnerable to the Covid super bug.

Once upon a time, a *pod* was thought of as a covering of a pea or a storage unit. Suddenly a pod became a small, safe group of family members or friends who socially distance together to limit exposure to Covid. The word even became a verb: to pod with a friend in the interest of mutual good health.

Language is a living thing, evolving over time. The pandemic experience has co-opted our shared lexicon. It has appropriated words and led us to coin new ones to describe a time of profound loss and grief.

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**RANDI
KREISS**

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Established 1991
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HERALD EDITORIALS

A year of progress on police reform

Justice for George Floyd came swiftly in New York.

So began our June 18-24 editorial last year. We were referring to a 10-bill raft of legislation that Gov. Andrew Cuomo signed in the wake of George Floyd's murder at the hands of police in Minneapolis.

Among several measures, the legislation:

- Repealed the state's 1976 50-a statute, which shielded police officers' disciplinary records from public view. (In the Floyd case, the Minneapolis police officer who killed him, Derek Chauvin, had 18 disciplinary infractions on his record.)

- Banned police from using chokeholds.

- Required state troopers to wear body cameras.

Cuomo also signed an executive order requiring local police departments to develop community-oriented policing

plans that were formulated with public input. Plans had to be submitted to the state by this April. The governor gave the people a role in determining how they would be policed.

There was much talk on the right of how such measures would impede police work and endanger officers. Quite the opposite, the legislation has only increased police transparency, slowly but surely building public trust. Tens of thousands of good police officers who do their jobs without incident had no problem with the state's reform package.

Improving police relations in communities of color could take years, if not decades. The sense of unease and fear that too many Black people feel toward police had been brewing since the creation of the nation's first police department in New York City in 1844. It will take time to heal. New York state is, however, headed on the right path.

At the same time, Nassau County and

the Police Benevolent Association at last recently reached an agreement to require officers to wear body cameras. We wonder why it took so long, particularly given that the Village of Freeport had adopted them as early as 2015 — the first municipality in New York to do so — and why county officers will be paid \$3,000 annually to wear them. Wearing a body camera, after all, requires no extra effort, no additional work, on an officer's part.

We are pleased to see, though, that officers will be wearing them as early as this fall.

Undoubtedly, we, as a nation, have a long way to go before we finally achieve a racially just society. We have seen unarmed Black men killed by police in other parts of the country in recent months. Each death is a tragedy that we hope and pray will not be repeated.

The year since the death of George Floyd was a start toward reform.

Juneteenth comes to Nassau County

Gov. Andrew Cuomo last June signed an executive order proclaiming Juneteenth an official New York holiday, on which state employees now receive a paid day off. It was the right move.

On June 17 this year, President Biden signed a measure designating Juneteenth a federal holiday. That, too, was the right move.

On April 9, 1865, Confederate Gen. Robert E. Lee surrendered to Union Gen. Ulysses S. Grant at Appomattox Court-house in Virginia, ending the Civil War, the bloodiest conflict in American history, in which an estimated 498,000 soldiers died in battle. With the surrender of the South, slavery ended with the stroke of a pen.

But not quite. News of the emancipation of slaves did not reach Texas, a slaveholding state, until June 19, 1865. That day, Union forces arrived on Galveston Island to free Texas's slaves, who rejoiced in the streets. Since then, Juneteenth — a blend of June and 19th — has been celebrated in Texas. It officially became a state holiday there in 1980, but as of 2019, only Texas had recognized it as a paid holiday for state employees.

There were, astoundingly, 14 Republican members of Congress who voted against the measure to create the national holiday, saying that they objected to the use of "Independence Day" in the legislation, or that the nation didn't need another federal holiday. (There are now 11.)

There should have been no reason for dissent on this legislation. The United States did not truly become the "land of the free" until all of its people were free. Until that June day in 1865, they were not. The country should acknowledge that fact. A federal holiday forces us to confront our history.

Last weekend, it was wonderful to see people across Nassau County gathering in parks to celebrate with song and food or in the streets to march, reminding us that we have many miles to walk before we achieve the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.'s vision of a society in which "little Black boys and Black girls will be able to join hands with little white boys and white girls and walk together as sisters and brothers."

LETTERS

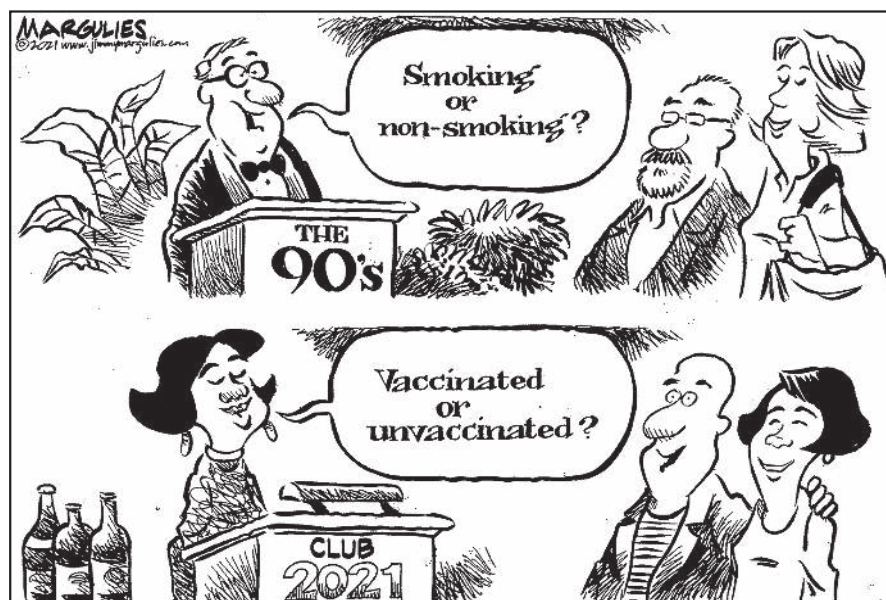
Ranked-choice voting is my choice

To the Editor:

Re Jerry Kremer's column "Ranked-choice voting? Not my choice" (June 10-16):

Like Jerry Kremer, I consider myself somewhat old-fashioned in some respects, but unlike Mr. Kremer, ranked-choice voting is my choice indeed. It was hoped that the much-anticipated voting in New York City would proceed without problems or glitches, allowing the city's primary voters to rank their choices for candidates and vote their consciences. Two RCV bills recently considered by the State Legislature would expand the system statewide and to general elections, not just primaries and special elections. Ranked-choice voting is gaining momentum and traction.

RCV eliminates the "spoiler effect," allowing voters to



OPINIONS

Critical race theory as critical thinking

The Florida state Board of Education recently banned the teaching of critical race theory because all topics taught in Florida schools must be “factual and objective,” and CRT asserts that “racism is embedded in American society and its legal systems in order to uphold the supremacy of

white persons.”

Florida Gov. Ron DeSantis, an early contender for the 2024 Republican presidential nomination, denounced CRT because, he said, it teaches children “the country is rotten and that our institutions are illegitimate.” Teaching CRT is also banned in



ALAN SINGER

Tennessee and Idaho.

In response to this assault on history, school districts across the United States are racing to report that they teach critical thinking, not critical race theory, although it is unclear whether the opponents of teaching U.S. history, with all its warts, inconsistencies and systemic racism, understand the distinction.

In a joint statement, the American Historical Association, the American Association of University Professors, the American Federation of Teachers, the Anti-Defamation League, the National Council for the Social Studies and 75 other educational organizations denounced a string of legislative propos-

als across the country that “target academic lessons, presentations, and discussions of racism and related issues in American history in schools, colleges and universities.” They charged that the bills infringe on “the right of faculty to teach and of students to learn”; “substitute political mandates for the considered judgment of professional educators”; and are designed to prevent an “honest reckoning with all aspects” of America’s past.

In some circles, vehement opposition to CRT has become the new code phrase for rallying white opposition to full rights and citizenship for African-Americans. During the Civil War, white racists and anti-war Copperhead Democrats accused abolitionists and Republicans of promoting miscegenation, race-mixing leading to biracial children that would eventually replace the white race.

In a 1981 interview, Lee Atwater, a Republican consultant and confidant of Presidents Ronald Reagan and George H.W. Bush, explained how coded language worked. Because you could no longer openly use racially offensive terms, “you say stuff like forced busing, states’ rights and all that stuff,” but the people you are appealing to know exactly what you mean. When Reagan ran for president, he attacked “welfare queens” driving around in Cadillacs. A television ad for Bush associated his Democratic opponent, former Massachusetts Gov. Michael

Dukakis, with Willie Horton, a Black man convicted of murder who committed other serious crimes after taking part in a release program.

The controversy over CRT erupted in Commack when members of a group called the Loud Majority disrupted two public meetings, interrupting Board of Education members and speakers in the audience, including students who were trying to explain how they felt slighted in a curriculum that ignored who they were. Instead of silencing the disruptors or requiring them to leave, board members and district officials kept trying to explain the curriculum to people who were not interested in listening.

Kimberlé Crenshaw, who teaches law at UCLA and Columbia University and was an early proponent of critical race theory, described it as “an approach to grappling with a history of white supremacy that rejects the belief that what’s in the past is in the past, and that the laws and systems that grow from that past are detached from it.”

In the 1990s, social scientists and educational researchers began to employ CRT as a lens to understand the persistence of race and racism. It became controversial when then President Trump denounced CRT as part of his response to The New York Times’s 1619 Project. To rally his supporters during his re-election campaign, Trump declared, “Critical race theory is being forced into our

children’s schools, it’s being imposed into workplace trainings, and it’s being deployed to rip apart friends, neighbors and families.”

As a former high school social studies teacher, I embrace the effort by the National Council for the Social Studies to promote critical thinking based on an evaluation of evidence. I find CRT to be an important lens for engaging students as critical thinkers, and I believe it helps teachers involve students in a broader discussion.

The European Enlightenment is often known as the Age of Reason, because Enlightenment thinkers tried to apply scientific principles to understand human behavior and how societies work. Many of the earliest Enlightenment thinkers were from England, Scotland and France, but the idea of using reason and science spread to other European countries and their colonies. In the U.S., Thomas Jefferson and Benjamin Franklin are considered Enlightenment thinkers. Some historians, including me, point out that the Age of Reason in Europe was also the peak of the trans-Atlantic slave trade, when millions of Africans were transported to the Americas as enslaved laborers for plantations.

Dr. Alan Singer is a professor of teaching, learning and technology and the director of social studies education programs at Hofstra University. He is a former New York City high school social studies teacher and editor of Social Science Docket, a joint publication of the New York and New Jersey Councils for the Social Studies.

We shouldn’t just think of the history of white supremacy in the past tense.

LETTERS

chase the candidates they actually prefer without fear of giving an advantage to candidates who are considered totally unacceptable. The system tends to give better representation to women, ethnic minorities and other groups that are traditionally under-represented in our political system. There is less fear of splitting votes among similar candidates by gender, ethnic group or ideology.

RCV elections also tend to be more civil, producing less caustic, negative campaigning. Candidates are motivated to avoid alienating voters who might give them a ranking that might actually elect them as the votes are transferred to them from losing candidates. Ranked-choice voting is more likely to result in a deeper discussion of the actual issues rather than personal attacks.

Ranked-choice voting is not old-fashioned, though it was used in the 1930s and ’40s for City Council general elections in New York City, Yonkers and Long Beach. For many, these elections exemplify a gold standard for democratic participation in the electoral process — RCV was combined with proportional representation, giving many groups and

political parties a true voice in government, proportional to their actual voting strength in their communities. The RCV/PR systems of that earlier, progressive time did much to eliminate — for a while — the entrenched bossism of political machines. The reform was unfortunately eliminated by the Red Scare movement of McCarthyism.

JIM BROWN
Secretary,

Green Party of Nassau County

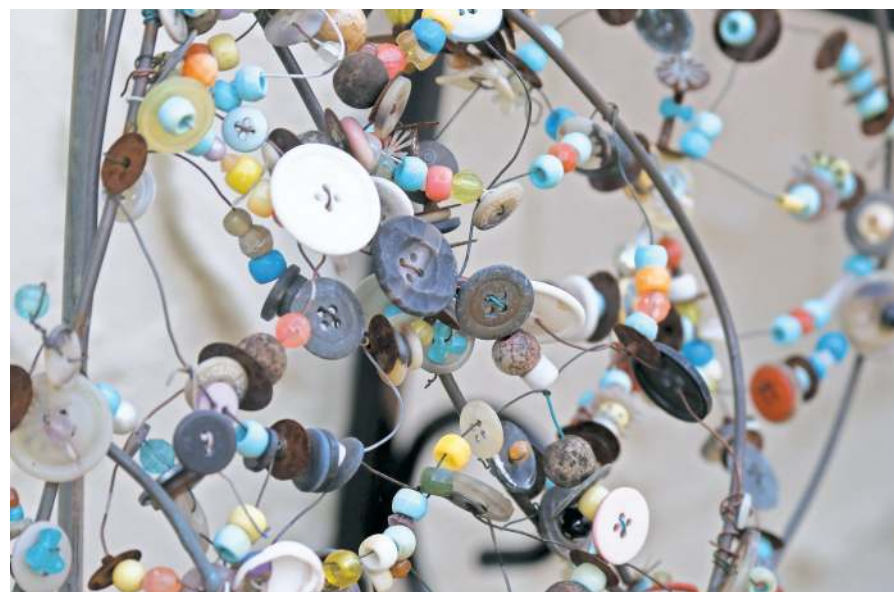
Are we really that racist, Randi?

To the Editor:

I totally disagree with Randi Kreiss’s column “Are we immune to Texas-style xenophobia?” in the June 10-16 issue. She repeats the rubbish that America is a terrible racist nation. That is not true, and she knows it!

How could Barack Obama have been elected two times, and how could our current vice president, Kamala Harris,

FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



A button sculpture in a secret garden — Sea Cliff

be in office if Randi is correct? She is mouthing the lies of the Democratic Party and helping them capture total power in our country.

I urge her to wake up and reconsider her position!

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