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GOP nominates
Zeldin for governor
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MARCH 3-9, 2022



Roni Chastain/Herald

JOLANTA ZAMECKA, a vice chair of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, helped organize a vigil in Glen Cove that drew a large crowd.

Vigil in G.C. calls for peace in Ukraine

BY WILLIAM SHEELINE

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A crowd of roughly 400 gathered last Sunday in front of the Killenworth mansion in Glen Cove to protest the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Owned by Russia, Killenworth is used as a retreat by diplomats and their families, although it was not clear if anyone was there on Sunday.

People came from all over Long Island, and some came from as far away as New Jersey, to peacefully condemn the actions of Russian President

Vladimir Putin. They were also there in solidarity, expressing support for the Ukrainian people. For two hours, what was referred to as a “vigil” included emotional speeches by elected leaders and Ukrainian-Americans.

The crowd was diverse, with some waving Ukrainian flags and holding sunflowers, which have become a symbol of the Ukrainian struggle. Others raised signs bearing slogans like “Stop the Bloodshed” and “Putin is a Murderer,” in English and Ukrainian. Many had

CONTINUED ON PAGE 3

Glen Cove's St. Patrick's Day Parade is coming back

BY LETISHA DASS

ldass@liherald.com

Glen Cove's annual St. Patrick's Day parade is returning this year, on March 20 at 1 p.m., after a two-year hiatus resulting from the coronavirus pandemic. The parade will mark its 33rd anniversary in Glen Cove since former City Councilman Brian Fitzpatrick and the Ancient Order of the Hibernians of Glen Cove created it.

“It started relatively small,” Robert Lynch, a member of the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, said. “Over the years it has become one of the biggest

parades in Glen Cove.”

According to the website NYC St. Patrick's Day Parade, New York's parade started in 1762, 14 years before the signing of the Declaration of Independence. The parade was made up of Irish ex-patriots and military that served with the British Army in New York. Because wearing green, a sign of Irish pride, was banned in Ireland, the parade gave the Irish community the freedom to celebrate their culture.

In Glen Cove, the parade starts at Forest Avenue, by Dosoris Lane, and travels down School and Glen streets.

Over the years it has become one of the biggest parades in Glen Cove.

ROBERT LYNCH

St. Patrick's Day
Parade Committee

For the city's first celebration, 35 gallons of green paint was used to augment the yellow lines on the streets along the parade route, according to a 1989 issue of the Glen Cove Record Pilot.

Signs proclaiming “Cead Mile Failte,” meaning “a hundred thousand welcomes,” were on display, commemorating the start of the local tradition.

The collaboration of Fitzpatrick and the Hibernians on the first parade led to the creation of the Parade Committee, a non-profit charitable corporation that relies heavily on sponsors

and corporate donations.

Lynch noted that although Fitzpatrick was a councilman, the committee has always been separate from City Hall. “It's never been sponsored by the city,” Lynch said. “The city is very helpful to us, but it's all a private thing.”

The first parade was on

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

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GOP nominates Lee Zeldin for governor

BY CRISTINA ARROYO RODRIGUEZ

carroyo@liherald.com

On Tuesday, the GOP announced its nomination of 1st District Congressman Lee Zeldin for governor and former NYPD Deputy Inspector Alison Esposito for lieutenant governor, on the second day of the 2022 GOP Convention at the Garden City Hotel, after over 85 percent of the county Republican delegation voted for Zeldin.

"I want people to feel like they're back in control of the government again...this is a rescue mission to save our state," said Zeldin, a former senator, attorney, and Army Reserve major, who gained national attention by defending former President Donald Trump amid the 2019 Ukraine scandal impeachment hearings and contesting the 2020 election results.

Zeldin stated that his day-one priority as governor would be ending all Covid mandates, re-employing anyone who lost their jobs to these, ending the masking "child abuse" in schools and strengthening parental choice. He also talked about "Backing the Blue," enacting voter ID for elections, keeping zoning control local and standing with the Ukraine.

County Executive Bruce Blakeman nominated Zeldin, urging Long Island residents to turn out to vote, stating, "My whole life I would've loved to be governor of this state, but I'm not the right candidate — this is a moment in history that we have the opportunity to nominate someone that is the right person, at the right place, at the right time."

Three other GOP candidates were seeking the nomination for governor: former Westchester County Executive Rob Astorino, Andrew Giuliani, son of Rudy Giuliani who served in Trump's White House, and millionaire fund manager Harry Wilson,



Photos by Christina Daly/Herald

CONGRESSMAN LEE ZELDIN was nominated for governor at the GOP's convention on Tuesday.

whose home county Republican delegation of Fulton ultimately backed Zeldin.

Zeldin had reached out to the 27-year NYPD veteran Esposito last year, tapping into the spiking crime and bail reform messaging that proved successful in the recent Nassau and Suffolk County elections.

"The NYPD and other police around the state...have been turned into enemies," said Esposito, a SUNY graduate, when accepting the nomination. "My officers have a fear in their eyes, but this is a different fear...the fear in the eyes now was of them losing their jobs and potentially their freedom," she exclaimed.

Esposito also criticized critical race theory, Covid mandates and "other shenanigans" regarding the lack of parental "choice" in schools. Other convention

speakers echoed Esposito's and Blakeman's concerns, also adding high taxes, corrupt Democratic politicians, and undocumented immigrants.

"New York Republicans are putting our money where our mouth is and proving to the people of this state that we are serious about ending the public safety crisis created by the Democrat Party," said NYGOP Chairman Nick Langworthy in a Feb. 23 statement.

Republicans also nominated global financier Paul Rodriguez, former Newsmax host Joe Pinion and litigation attorney Michael Henry to challenge Comptroller Thomas Dinapoli, Sen. Charles Shumer and Attorney General Leticia James, respectively.

Republicans, however, have a historical uphill battle in statewide elections, where



TOWN OF OYSTER Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino attended the Republican convention.

Democratic voters outnumber registered Republicans by a two-to-one margin. A Republican has not won a state race 20 years, since George E. Pataki secured a third term as governor in 2002, after defeating Democratic Mayor Mario Cuomo.

Pataki spoke on the first day of the 2022 GOP Convention, identifying woke culture as the Democratic party's weakness and saying of President Joe Biden, "We need a Republican Congress to hold this president accountable, we need a Republican Senate to hold this leader accountable, and to get the United States headed in the right direction."

The 2022 midterm state primary elections for governor, senate and congressional offices will be held on June 28.

Rally calls for end to war in Ukraine

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

yellow tape around their arms, a show of support for the citizen-soldiers fighting for the country's safety and democracy.

"We just want peace — we are a peaceful people," said a Ukrainian woman who asked not to be identified for fear of endangering her family in their home country. "We just want to live, to raise our kids, like here, like everyone."

Several children held up signs.

"Now we have children who are shivering in shelters, who are fleeing for their lives, who are scared," one of the vigil organizers, Jolanta Zamecka, said. "We stand here in solidarity, for the children."

Zamecka, who is of Polish descent, is a vice chair of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County, in Glen Cove. The idea of a vigil, she said, grew out of a conversation she had had with her grandson before Russian forces invaded Ukraine. The boy asked what would happen to the children in Ukraine if Putin invaded. When the invasion began a few days later, she knew she had

to do something, but wasn't sure what.

She said she spoke to a friend, Fred Nielsen, a retired Marine Corps major and a civic leader in Glen Cove, who told her, "You need to stop asking, 'What can I do?' and start asking yourself, 'What can I do?'" And thus, the idea for the rally was born.

The event began with Zamecka and Nielsen leading a moment of silence for the people of Ukraine. Then the many Ukrainian-American attendees led the crowd in singing the country's national anthem.

Father Varcilio Basil Salkovski, of St. Josephat's Monastery in Lattingtown, led the gathering in prayer in Ukrainian and English. "For the millennium history of Christianity and Ukraine, we have withheld many, many invaders, many invasions from our neighbor from the East," Salkovski said. "And once more ... we will withstand."

Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews, a former Glen Cove councilman, led the crowd in singing an updated version of "We Are

Standing Here Together," which was sung during the civil rights movement. Some of the words were changed to refer to the crisis in Ukraine.

The next speaker was Mitya Wycoff, a Jewish Ukrainian-American Holocaust survivor from Glen Cove. He recounted his experiences in a concentration camp, where he was one of only 127 survivors of the 54,000 who were imprisoned there.

"We can see today the suffering in our motherland, where I grew up, went to university," Wycoff said. "These are murderers coming to Ukraine, to take the lives of the Ukrainian people."

He made it clear that he was not condemning any ethnic or cultural group. "We're not against nationalities," Wycoff said. "We're against the war."

When U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi spoke, he said "good morning" in Ukrainian. He asked that everyone be peacemakers, and to stay unified.

"We can't let this become cause for division, both here in the United States and with our allies in NATO," Suozzi said.

County Legislator Joshua Lafazan, a grandson of a Holocaust survivor, condemned Putin's claims that Ukraine is run by Nazis. "I'd like to remind Putin that Ukraine is the only country in Europe with a Jewish prime minister and Jewish president," Lafazan said.

Volodymyr Tsyalkovsky, a communications liaison for Ukrainian Americans of Long Island, spoke of Ukraine's history, and how Putin's attempt to destroy the country has failed to destroy its people.

"There have been many invasions in the history of Ukraine — they've tried to divide and weaken us," Tsyalkovsky said, "but Ukraine has never been as strong as it is today."

When State Assemblyman Charles Lavine spoke, he reminded the attendees that the battle against authoritarianism does not stop at the Ukrainian border.

"I was reminded of when Haile Selassie, emperor of Ethiopia, called on world leaders to stop the Italian invasion of Ethiopia," Lavine said. "He told them, 'It's us today, it's you tomorrow.'"

Long Island officials and Ukrainians rally

March 3, 2022 — GLEN COVE HERALD

BY LETISHA DASS

ldass@liherald.com

Love, fear, and worry resonated in the air while Ukrainian Americans from Long Island patriotically sang for their native Ukraine, as a plea for the United States to take a stand in solidarity against Russia after the nation's invasion of Ukraine.

"It is time for you to raise your voice as well and fight back together with us," Volodymyr Tsyalkovsky, a Ukrainian American from Great Neck said on Saturday outside the Killenworth mansion in Glen Cove as he, fellow Ukrainian Americans, Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman, Congressman Lee Zeldin, a Republican from Shirley, who is running for governor, and Glen Cove Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck demanded that President Joe Biden expel the Russian diplomats from the compound that is used as a holiday retreat.

"We don't need them here and let's get this property back on the tax rolls, so the people of Nassau County and Glen Cove don't have to finance thugs and dictators and people who invade innocent countries," Blakeman said.

"To the people inside that compound, if you are watching us: I am your mayor, I am your neighbor, please do whatever you can to stop this mad man Putin from the actions he is taking," Panzenbeck said. "It has gone too far. It can end now."

Zeldin noted that precedent was set to possibly close the compound when former president Barack Obama seized Killenworth in 2016 as punishment for Russian interfering in that year's presidential election.

Though the U.S. has imposed several sanctions on Russia, Blakeman said blocking Russia from the Society for Worldwide Interbank Financial Telecommunication, a global banking system, should be made to deny Russia the ability to transfer funds and operate their economy.

"If we do not stop the Russian aggression now, [it] will flow into NATO countries which we have a treaty obligation to fight," Blakeman said. "If we do so, then American blood will be shed, so we have to stand firm and resolute."

Zeldin added that the sanctions must



Neil Miller/Herald

OUTSIDE OF THE gates of Killenworth mansion in Glen Cove, protesters consoled a woman crying after the news conference to condemn and expel Russian diplomats from the compound.

be powerful enough to be a deterrent for Russia to not move forward. "I believe that Russia is now a state sponsor of terror with their actions," Zeldin said. "I believe that Russia should be cut off with secondary sanctions on their banking system."

A boycott of all Russian products was called forward by Blakeman and Zeldin. "Get rid of your Russian vodka. Do not do anything that would support the Russian economy," Blakeman said.

"Instead of relying on adversaries abroad, we can use domestic energy production to reduce that reliance," Zeldin said.

Diana Smykiv, a 15-year-old from Mineola, and Diana Shykula, a 16-year-old from Levittown, have family in Ukraine and are worried about their safety. "Our families are put in danger," Shykula said.

Smykiv's aunt and cousins have been able to flee to Poland, but her grandparents are unable to travel because they do not have passports. "It's just so scary," Smykiv said. "You can't do anything but think about it because you're so scared

that one day you will wake up and find out that someone has died."

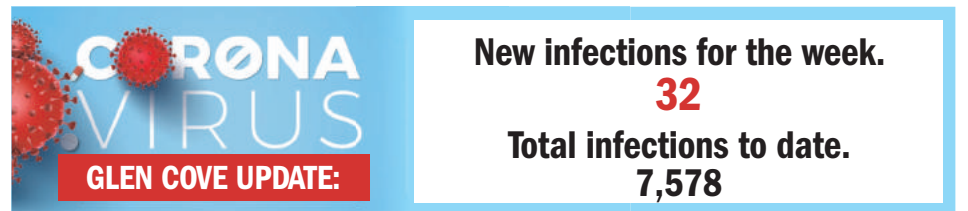
On Thursday night after hearing about the Russian bombings, Shykula immediately tried to contact her friends in Ukraine to find out if they were okay. She was the first to person to break the news to her friends about the attack in country's capital Kyiv. "When I first found out, I was in pure shock," Shykula said. "I was texting all of my friends in Ukraine, and it took them a while to get back to me and I was really scared."

Olga Tsymbalysta, of Levittown, came to the United States from Ukraine in 2004. She still has family in the country and said she wants the war to stop. "They are

regular people," Tsymbalysta said. "It is not their fault. Sleepy Joe should do something about it and politicians should start talking. It needs to end."

"Never has a conflict played out before our eyes quite like what we've seen over the past few days where average everyday Ukrainians have rose up to take courageous control of their destiny," Zeldin said.

"We want the people of Ukraine to know, that here in Nassau County, we are behind you," Blakeman said. "And it is also a message to our president that weakness invites danger and now is the time for America to be strong and to enact further sanctions."



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City prepares to celebrate with a big parade

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

March 5, 1989. Since then it has been moved to the first Sunday after St. Patrick's Day, Lynch explained, so it doesn't have to compete with other parades, and is more convenient for participating groups.

The first grand marshal was John Sweeney, a former Glen Cove postmaster. But the honor is not exclusive to community members. In 1990, New York City Police Detective Steven McDonald, of Malverne, served as grand marshal, four years after he was shot in the line of duty in 1986.

According to the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Committee, McDonald was a folk hero who strongly advocated for the Catholic faith and people who have sustained life-threatening injuries like him.

This year, Gerard "Gerry" Herbert, a Glen Cove resident and local business owner, has been chosen for the honor. As grand marshal, Lynch said, Herbert's role is to choose a charity to be the recipient of donations, and Herbert chose the St. Vincent de Paul Society, which helps community members who are experiencing hardships.

Bagpipe bands, local fire and police departments, and antique cars have taken part in the parade in the past. Lynch added that a variety of ethnic groups and organizations have been involved as well, including the Sons of Italy, St. Patrick's Spanish Ministry and the Chinese Cultural Association of Long Island in the 2019 parade. Many wear outfits reflecting their culture, and play their native music. "It's very, very colorful for the parade," Lynch said.

At the end of the inaugural parade in 1989, the Hibernians held a reception at the Polish National Home. To honor tradition, the St. Patrick's Day Committee will host an after party at St. Patrick's Church. There will be live music, a cash bar, a corned beef dinner, and perfor-



Courtesy Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Committee

DETECTIVE STEVEN MCDONALD was the grand marshal of the 1990 St. Patrick's Day Parade in Glen Cove.

mances. Admission will be \$20 per person for those over age 13 and free for children.

This year's parade has more meaning than usual. Lynch noted that because it has been canceled for the past two years, people are anxious to get outside and gather again, and the event will give them that opportu-

nity.

"It's kind of like the opening-up of society after Covid," Lynch said. "It should be a big one. It's kind of historic after the last few years."

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COMMUNITY UPDATE

Friday, March 4

Meditation for dealing with the stress of modern life

The ancient tradition of meditation has become even more valuable for people of our modern times. Join the Glen Cove Public Library's virtual workshop presented by John Bednarik and sponsored by Hillside Library to learn how meditation can be used to cope with the challenges of everyday life and reduce stress. Register for free at www.glencoverlibrary.org.

Saturday, March 5

Hybrid Yoga Class

Join Kim Mercadante at the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library for six hybrid sessions of yoga class. There will be a class March 5, 12, 19; April 2, 9 and 16 at 9:30 a.m. This class is geared towards beginners. The cost is \$30 per person and payable at the time of registration. Checks are preferred but cash will be accepted and there will be no refunds. Non-residents are welcomed to join.

Live performance at St. Lukes Church

Seac Cliff Arts Council presents a live performance by the father and son duo, Frank and John Ferrara, at 7 p.m. Celebrating the release of their second album, John will be playing "A Lesson in Impermanence." For further information, email seaccliffartsCouncil@gmail.com. Refreshments will be served.

Sunday, March 6

The Fire of His Love: Prayer and the Life of the Spirit

At St. Boniface Martyr in Sea Cliff, Deacon Tom will moderate the presentation of "Catholicism," an acclaimed series by author, speaker and theologian, Bishop Robert Barron from 2:30 to 4 p.m. The discussion will be an exploration of the spiritual, moral, and intellectual treasures of Catholic faith using locations, scripture, art and literature. A 55-minute episode will be shown on Sunday afternoons, followed by a short discussion. Refreshments will be served. To register, email stbondcntom@gmail.com, or call



Courtesy Catholic Health

St. Francis Hospital Outreach Bus

The Catholic Health St. Francis Hospital and Heart Center outreach bus will be parked in the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library parking lot from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on March 4 to provide free flu shots and health screenings. Screenings include a brief cardiac history, blood pressure, and a simple blood test for cholesterol and diabetes for adults 18 and older. No appointments are required.

the parish center at (516) 676-0676.

Monday, March 7

Upgrading your septic system with public funding

See how you can be eligible to receive grants as much as \$20,000 or more from Nassau County to replace your septic system! Katherine Coughlin, Water Quality Improvement Coordinator with the North Shore Land Alliance will show you how to help improve Long Island's water supply and save you money at 7 p.m. on Zoom with the Bayville Free Library. Register for free at bayvillefreelibrary.org for the Zoom link.

Tuesday, March 8

Bayville Book Club

This month the book club at Bayville Free Library will discuss The Personal Librarian by Marie Benedict. This meeting will be held in the library meeting room at 1:30 p.m. Masks are required regardless of vaccination status. Register for

free at bayvillefreelibrary.org and those who prefer to attend virtually will receive a Zoom link upon registration.

Who Runs the (Ancient) World? Girls!

For Women's History Month, Bayville Free Library will be hosting a virtual discussion about five magnificent and lesser-known women rulers of the ancient world at 7 p.m. Archaeologist Patty Hamrick will be covering topics, such as how gender roles worked in different societies, the multiple ways women were able to claim power, and how traditions of feminine leadership have shaped not just our past, but our future. Register for free at bayvillefreelibrary.org for the Zoom link.

Atria Glen Cove reopens

Atria Glen Cove senior living invites the community to sip, savor, and smile as they celebrate its grand reopening on March 8 from 4:30 to 6:30 p.m. The first floor of the Atria was closed because of the damages caused by Ida. Register by March 4 by contacting Judith Rivera at

(516) 242-0165 or email Judith.Rivera@atriaseniiorliving.com

Wednesday, March 9

My Betsey: The Remarkable Wife Of Alexander Hamilton

Elizabeth Schuyler and Alexander Hamilton came from widely different family backgrounds, yet their marriage was a great success. Schuyler lived for 50 more years as a widow salvaging the reputation of her distinguished husband and working on behalf of orphans and public education in New York. Learn about their eight children, her reaction to his affair with Maria Reynolds and his fatal duel with Aaron Burr in 1804 at the North Shore Historical Museum at 7 p.m. Register for the virtual event at www.northshorehistoricalmuseum.org. Members will have to pay a fee of \$10 and nonmembers will have to pay \$15 to attend.

Thursday, March 10

All you need to know about arthritis

The number of people living with arthritis is rising at an alarming pace. Current CDC estimates show that arthritis affects almost 53 million or 23% of adults and one in four patients with arthritis is living with severe joint pain. Northwell Health's Dr. Marie Labarca, Rheumatology specialist will discuss the risk factors for getting arthritis and what to do if you have it already from 1 to 2 p.m. at a virtual event hosted by the Glen Cove Public Library. Labarca will cover several types of arthritis that predominantly affect our community. The event is courtesy of Nassau Libraries Health Share and sponsored by Hillside Library. Register at www.glencoverlibrary.org and a Zoom link will be sent the day before the event.

Glen Cove Downtown BID annual meeting

Glen Cove Downtown BID will be holding their annual meeting on March 10 at 6 p.m. at the Metropolitan Bar and Restaurant. Glen Floors will be celebrating its 90th Anniversary this year. In celebration, the meeting will honor Glen Floors for 90 years of dedication in serving the community. To register, call (516) 759-6970.

HAVING AN EVENT?

Items on the Community Update pages are listed for free. 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 adurkin@iherald.com

5 things to know about your town

- The 11th Annual Town of Oyster Bay Long Island Blues Winter Classic will take place on March 5th at the Town of Oyster Bay Ice Skating Center.
- The Locust Valley Board of Education is meeting on March 8 at 7:30 p.m. for their budget presentation.
- Glen Cove City Council will be meeting on March 8 at 7:30 p.m.
- The Sea Cliff Board of Trustees will hold their next meeting on March 7 at 6 p.m.

Celebrating International Women's Day

The City of Glen Cove will present a panel of inspiring and groundbreaking women to celebrate International Women's Day at 6 p.m. on March 7 at City Hall. The event will be moderated by Councilwoman Marsha Silverman.

The panel features Hon. Elaine Philips, the first female Nassau County comptroller; Phaidra Knight, J.D., the first African American inducted into the World Rugby Hall of Fame; Martine Materasso, the first female chief of New York City Police Department and commanding officer at NYPD's 41 precinct; and Dawn Riley, the first female or male to sail in three America's Cup and in the Whitbread Round the World Race twice.

Allocation of \$2M for Nassau's SEPTIC program

The Nassau County Legislature voted unanimously on Monday to appropriate an additional \$2 million in New York State Environmental Facilities Corporation grant funds toward supporting the county's Septic Environmental Program

to Improve Cleanliness program.

Since its launch in late 2020, the program has provided eligible Nassau County homeowners and small businesses that discharge less than 1,000 gallons a day of wastewater up to \$20,000 in grants toward the installation of environmentally sound alternative wastewater treatment systems to replace existing systems that may be failing or otherwise outdated.

"Ninety percent of Nassau County is sewerred, and 90 percent of the 10 percent that is not sewerred is found within the 11th Legislative District," Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton said. "Not only will this supplemental funding benefit thousands of North Shore property owners but expanding the SEPTIC program will go a long way toward protecting our drinking water and safeguarding our precious natural resources from nitrogen pollution."

For further information, go to www.nassaucountyny.gov/septicreplace.

More funding for New York Homeland Security Office

On Monday, the Nassau County Legislature unanimously approved the allocation of roughly \$455,000 in funding received through the New York State

Office of Homeland Security's State Law Enforcement Terrorism Program, which provides law enforcement agencies with resources to purchase and/or supplement their capabilities in detecting, disrupting and preventing acts of terrorism.

Out of the \$455,070, roughly \$133,000 will be set aside for Nassau County Police training and exercises; \$32,000 for fringe benefits and \$290,070 dedicated toward equipment purchases.

"At this critical moment in the history of the world, protecting Nassau County residents from all domestic and foreign threats to their safety and security must be our top priority," Nassau County Legislator Joshua Lafazan, a Democrat from Woodbury, said. "Every dollar that we can dedicate to equipping and training our law enforcement professionals to prevent terrorism is money well spent, and I thank New York State for delivering this crucial funding in support of Nassau County's outstanding first responders."

Minority Leader Abrahams opposes nominee for consumer affairs director

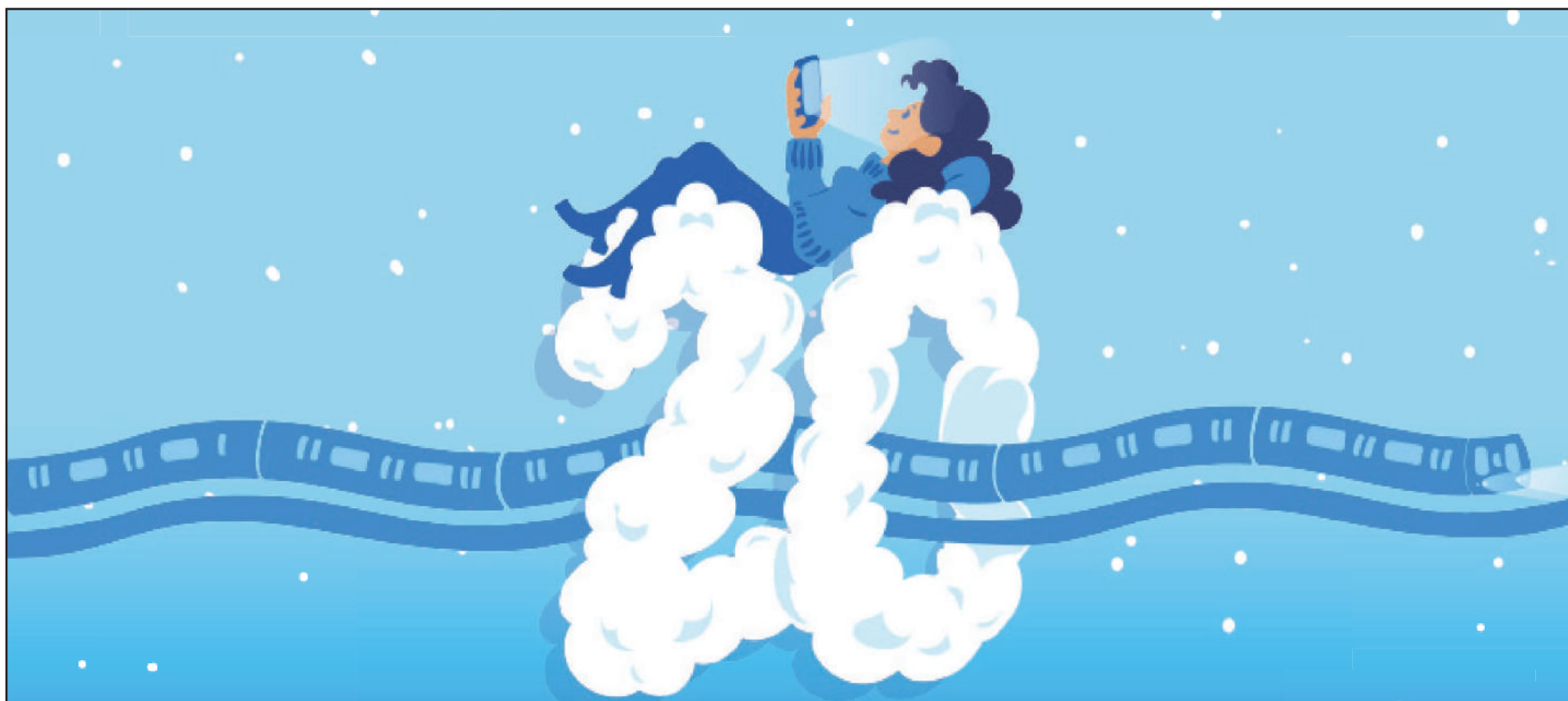
Citing his past record of violating a Nassau resident's civil rights at the behest of former County Executive

Edward Mangano's political benefactors, Nassau County Legislature Minority Leader Kevan M. Abrahams opposed County Executive Bruce Blakeman's nomination of John "Rick" Capece to serve as Commissioner of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

Capece's nomination was approved by a 13 to 6 vote of the Nassau County Legislature on Feb. 28. Capece, who previously served as chief of detectives in the Nassau County Police Department, retired in disgrace in 2013 after he and former Police Commissioner Thomas Dale "targeted Randy White, a 29-year-old Roosevelt man, on behalf of a political benefactor who sought to influence White's testimony in an election fraud case," *Newsday* reported.

White sued the county and received a \$295,000 settlement.

"Through his actions during the Randy White scandal, John 'Rick' Capece flagrantly violated Mr. White's civil rights," Abrahams said. "It is absolutely mindboggling that the Blakeman administration is rolling out the red carpet for Mr. Capece's return. For the sake of our residents, I pray that Mr. Capece proves me wrong."



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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

GCHS senior Elana Greim receives grant to fight global warming

Bethpage Cares at Bethpage Federal Credit Union announced the relaunch of Difference Makers, a youth empowerment initiative that first launched in January 2020 but then was paused because of the coronavirus pandemic. The program was developed to empower young individuals to come together to support their local communities by providing grants ranging from \$250 to \$5,000 to students and student groups from 5th grade through college undergraduate, who share a desire to develop a project-focused program to benefit the community.

Among the many recipients, 12th grade student at Glen Cove High School, Elana Greim, 17, received the Difference Makers grant for her environmental club this year. With this money Greim was able to purchase recycling bins for 115 classrooms at the high school. She believes it's more important than ever to create recycling programs to help combat global warming, and to help make the earth a cleaner place, one step at a time.

To apply for a financial grant, visit Bethpage's website at www.bethpagefcu.com/community/volunteer. Students will be asked to submit a brief business plan, their budget, a timeline, and the community impact the project will provide.



Courtesy Bethpage Federal Credit Union

GLEN COVE HIGH School student Elana Greim, right, received a grant from Bethpage Federal Credit Union's Difference Makers program to help implement a recycling program at GCHS.



Courtesy North Shore Biz Network

DEBORAH ORGEL-GORDON, NSBN founder; Kim Alfalone, owner of Artisan Jules and Gracie Donaldson, NSBN promotions manager held a successful Cash Mob in Sea Cliff.

North Shore Biz's Cash Mob boosts awareness for businesses

North Shore Biz Network hosted a Cash Mob on Feb. 5 at Artisan Jules Gifts & Goodness, at 215 Glen Cove Ave. in Sea Cliff. The community was invited to patronize Artisan Jules that day which boosted sales and brought awareness to this local business. As for the customers,

they were in for another treat too—a vodka tasting, courtesy of Felene vodka.

To learn more about cash mobs and other events by North Shore Biz Network, please visit www.northshorebiznetwork.com.

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UNDER 40

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Hochul to lift school mask mandate Wednesday 11

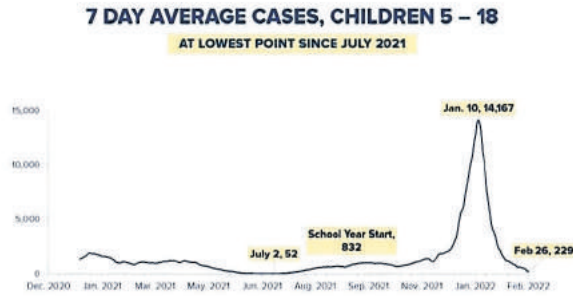
By **REINE BETHANY** and **LETISHA DASS**
rbethany@liherald.com, ldass@liherald.com

Governor Kathy Hochul announced on Sunday that the state requirement for children in school and child care to wear masks indoors would end on March 2.

In defense of the mask requirement so far, Hochul said that when she was sworn into office six months ago, her priority was to get children back to school, but that wearing masks was the best guarantee for children's safety, especially since no pediatric vaccine was available until November.

Using a series of large diagrams, Hochul demonstrated her use of positivity rates, hospitalizations, CDC guidance, and consultations with "the educational community, whose voices needed to be heard – our commissioner of education, our parents, our PTAs, our school superintendents, our school administrators, and our school unions," in the process of deciding whether or not to require masks.

From a high of a seven-day average of 14,167 positive pediatric Covid cases as of Jan. 10, with 38 children hospitalized, the numbers have dropped steadily for 48 days. Now, across the state, the seven-day average of pediatric cases is 226, and only 7 children are hospitalized with Covid.



Office of the governor of New York state

NEW YORK STATE Governor Kathy Hochul used statistical diagrams to support her decision to end the requirement for children to masks indoors in schools and childcare.

Hochul said that communities designated higher risk had the option to enact more restrictive measures, but the state would not enforce a mask requirement in those areas.

In response to Hochul's announcement, County Executive Bruce Blakeman said, "While I believe the governor's decision to end her unconstitutional mandate is too little too late, I am happy that parents will soon have the power to decide what is best for their kids, and our students will finally be able to return to normal and see the smiling faces of their friends again."

Glen Cove School District announced on Monday that masks would be optional to students and faculty in school and

on school buses, in accordance with the mandate lift starting Wednesday.

The district is awaiting an update from the Department of Health and the State Education Department for further guidance regarding other Covid-19 protocols such as social distancing, quarantining, and isolation. Superintendent Dr. Maria Rianna said that the district is expecting the updated guidance in the following week.

"We are hopeful that there is not another surge in the future and that we can safely move forward and out of this pandemic era," Rianna said.

Norma Iona, Deasy Elementary School PTA vice president, said she and her son were happy that the mandate

was lifted, since this year her son began to complain about having to wear the mask.

"They continue to say kids are resilient and are just fine with sitting with a mask but I think it started to become challenging to sit through a full day of school masked and shielded," Iona said.

She added that she was relieved that the children no longer have to sit behind a shield while at their desks.

"My son was in pre-K when this started; he is now in first grade," Iona said. "His primary experiences in a learning environment have been majorly altered socially and educationally. I am hoping this is the beginning of the rainbow."

Lia Di Angelo, a parent of a Robert M. Finley Middle School and Landing Elementary School students, said in school it is still a good idea to have masks on. "For kids, having a rule to just keep the mask on at least while they are indoor in small spaces ... especially through the wintertime when everybody is sneezing and coughing, I think it's useful," Di Angelo said.

She added that the masks help lower her family's exposure to possible viruses and germs and her children are used to wearing the masks and that it does not bother them.

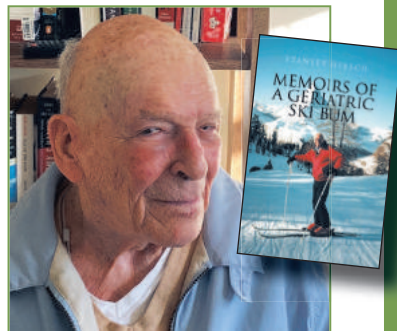
Rianna said there are no new Covid cases since children have returned after spring break.

GLEN COVE HERALD - March 3, 2022

Considering Assisted Living? Why Choose Atria Glen Cove...

MEET STANLEY HIRSCH

What are the elderly capable of? Ask Stanley Hirsch! He was a buyer of fine European decorative items for his family's company, and worked with experts from the Met Museum to reconstruct molds of small sculptures that French foundries broke up to hide from invading German armies. Then, at the age of 45, he took up skiing and became such an expert that two techniques are named after him. He skied worldwide until his upper 80's and authored the book *Memoirs of a Geriatric Ski Bum*. Now approaching 95, his exercise regimen at Atria Glen Cove is scaled back a bit to a 500-step stroll down the lovely halls. He's preparing to add to the cultural program with his original songs. Bravo Stanley!



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Celebrating art and autos

Artist Dean Adams spent last Saturday afternoon painting some of the cars on display at the Art and Automobiles event in downtown Glen Cove. Story, more photos, Page 3.

'She has an eye for it'

Teen creates music video for local songwriter

BY JILL NOSSA
jnossa@liherald.com

With the prevalence of iPhones, editing software and platforms such as YouTube and TikTok, anyone with a digital camera can create and share videos. Having the tools doesn't necessarily mean a person has talent, but for 16-year-old Ava Solange of Glen Cove, an amateur interest in videography led to a paid opportunity.

The high school junior already has a portfolio of completed video projects, including a professional music video. Initially she said, her interest was in photography. But, she added, "As I started working with my camera more, I realized I could film videos."

Like many teens, Ava taught herself how to use the camera by making TikTok videos, and expanded the scope of her projects. This summer, after hearing a song by singer-songwriter

Chris Armata, she decided to bigger: shoot and edit a music video. She created a video for Armata's song "Gratitude" while vacationing in Southern California, enlisting her mother and her aunt as subjects.

"I knew that I'd have some nice shots for scenery, and I thought that would go well with the song," Ava said. "I was just picturing a lot of fun dancing and a good time, because that's what the song is about — appreciating the happy moments."

After four days of filming with her iPhone and a drone, she spent two days editing down about 90 minutes of footage for the three-minute song. "I had to look for the best parts of the videos and see what rhythm of the song," she explained.

Using the drone footage in

I feel like it really captures the vibe and the feeling that the music gives you.

AVA SOLANGE

A new school year, more Covid challenges

BY JILL NOSSA
jnossa@liherald.com

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OBITUARIES

Aristea Poulos

Aristea Poulos, 90, of Glen Cove, formerly of Flushing, Queens died on Feb. 22. Poulos came from Greece in 1966 for a better American life. Beloved wife of the late Lambros; loving mother of Athanasia Loukoumis (the late Theodoros) and Bessie Ktistakis (Michael); proud grandmother of Fotios, Christos, Lambros, Maria, John Michael, and Khloe Aristea; great-grandmother of nine. Also survived by loving nieces and nephews. Visitation at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Funeral Service at the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Resurrection. Interment at All Saints Cemetery, Great Neck.

Elma Ruth Mack

Elma Ruth Mack, 85, of Glen Cove died on Feb. 22. Beloved wife of the late Charles; loving mother of Naomi, Charles Jr., Michael, Allen and Paul; dear sister of the late Mary Frost. Cherished grandmother of 15, many great-grandchildren and one great-great-grandchild. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Service held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Interment at Nassau Knolls Cemetery.

Gloria Rose Panaro

Gloria Rose Panaro, 99, of Glen Cove, formerly of Bayside died on Feb. 25. Beloved wife of the late Anthony L.; loving mother of Pamela (Peter), Glenn (Michelle), Kim (Michael) and Keith (Beverly); cherished grandmother of six and adored great-grandmother of six. Panaro loved to cook, dance, and entertain. She also loved to travel and attend church. Visitation held at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Mass at St. Rocco RC Church. Interment was private.

George Edward Rhein Jr.

George Edward Rhein Jr. of Bunnell, Florida, formerly of Glen Cove, died on Oct. 31, 2021. He was the eldest son of the late George Sr. and Mary. Survived by his sisters Rose, Terry (Peter), his brother John (Sandy), and his best friend Kevin Fergusson. His nieces and nephews included Olivia, John Michael, Jack, Julia, and Pj. He was a loving son, brother, uncle, and friend. He will be missed.

Luigi Galant

Luigi Galante, 76, of Glen Cove died on Feb. 25. Beloved husband of the late Maria; loving father of Michelle (John DiLeo), Nicola (Michelle), Felice (Jennifer), Angie (A.J.) and Giuseppe (Leslie); dear brother of Maria (the Late Felice), Phyllis and the Late Michele; cherished grandfather of nine. Visitation at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Service at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Interment at East Hillside Cemetery.

Donald J. Martin II

Donald J. Martin II, 46, formerly of Glen Cove died on Feb. 26. Beloved husband of Micheline; loving father of Hannah T. and Lily; cherished son of Katherine and the late Donald; dear brother of Donna (Tom), John (Amanda), Timmy (Marissa) and Charlie; adored son-in-law of Eddy and Teresa. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Visitation at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home on Saturday from 12 to 4 p.m. Prayer Service at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home on Saturday at 3 p.m. Interment is private.

Robert Warren Weitzmann Jr.

Robert Warren Weitzmann Jr., 88, of Lattingtown died on Feb. 28. Adored son to Robert W Weitzmann Sr. and Alminna Valentine Weitzmann; predeceased by his brother George; beloved husband of the late Carla Hubbard for 59 years; loving father of Keith (Robin), Elizabeth Brand (Leigh), Amy Tansill (Donnie), Claudia Cook (the late Bob) (Peter Golon), Bradford (Maia); proud and devoted grandfather of Rayana, Matasia, Gus, Lily, George, Caroline, Grant, Preston, Reed, Cailin, Shelby, Griffin, Bryce and Khloe.

Weitzmann devoted his life to his wife, children, nieces, nephews and grandchildren. He was always available, loyal, protective and encouraging. Weitzmann's greatest legacy was his love and devotion to his wife Carla, children and grandchildren.

After graduating from Duke University, Weitzmann was drafted and signed to play catcher for the Brooklyn Dodgers. Then, Weitzmann served his country as an officer in the US Navy and traveled the world. He also enjoyed a successful career as a contractor on the North Shore of Long Island.

While Weitzmann raised his family in Locust Valley, he was a loyal community member. He committed his time to volunteer on many boards and organizations; such as the Grenville Baker Boys and Girls Club and president of the Rotary Club for 53 years.

Visitation at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home on Thursday from 4 to 7 p.m. Service at Christ Church of Oyster Bay on Friday at 11 a.m. Interment at Locust Valley Cemetery. Donations may be made to Locust Valley Rotary Club or Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club.

Obituary Notices

Obituary notices can be submitted by individuals as well as local funeral establishments. They should be typed and double spaced. The name of the individual or funeral establishment submitting the obituary should be included. A contact phone number must be included. There is no charge for obituaries.

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

Reverse mortgages: **Another option for seniors**

If you have a lot of home equity and are 62 or older, a reverse mortgage can be a practical way to supplement your income. It can also pay for overdue home improvements, get rid of outstanding debt and more. Tapping your home's value with a reverse mortgage is not appropriate for everyone, since it's relatively expensive and can affect the legacy that you leave for your heirs. In some situations, though, it's the best option for staying in your home while easing cashflow constraints.

A reverse mortgage is a loan secured by your property, just like a regular mortgage. The difference is that you don't have to make any payments as long as one of the borrowers continues to live in and maintain the house. The principal can be paid over time, in installments if you wish or in a lump sum. Interest accrues on the outstanding balance, but the lender can never recover more than the value of the home. Your risk is fixed, the bank's is not. You must continue to pay your real estate taxes and homeowners insurance.

Depending on the type of reverse mortgage, you may receive equal monthly payments for a fixed amount of time. You may receive equal monthly payments for as long as at least one borrower lives in the home. You may receive a line of credit up to a fixed amount, which can be

used like a checkbook or credit card. You may arrange a line of credit in addition to equal monthly payments. There are also a variety of interest rate options. Your mortgage professional can explain these options in detail.

Eligibility

To qualify for a reverse mortgage, the borrower must be at least age 62. There are no minimum income or credit requirements. For most reverse mortgages, the money can be used for any purpose; however, the borrower must pay off any existing mortgage(s) with the proceeds from the reverse mortgage. A pending bankruptcy that has not been finalized may slow the process, but is not a disqualifier. Before borrowing, applicants must seek financial counseling from a source that is approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). The counseling is a safeguard for the borrower and his/her family, to make sure the borrower completely understands what a reverse mortgage is and how one is obtained.

Understanding Potential Benefits

A reverse mortgage can be a help to homeowners looking for additional income during their retirement years, and many use the funds to supplement Social Security or other income,

meet medical expenses, pay for in-home care and make home improvements. There are also flexible ways to receive the money from the reverse mortgage: a lump sum, a monthly payment, a line of credit or a combination.

A reverse mortgage can supplement your income while allowing you to remain in your home. The proceeds are usually not taxable since they are a loan not income (consult your tax advisor). In most cases, proceeds may be used for whatever purpose you deem appropriate, whether it be retirement income, health care, travel, home improvement or spoiling the grandchildren.

Repayment Terms

If you and your spouse are co-borrowers and one of you moved or passes away, the loan is still not payable as long as one borrower continues to reside in the home. In the event both or single borrower passes away, the estate has one year in which to sell the house and repay the balance including interest, or refinance. Again, the estate is only liable up to the value of the house. If the house value declines below the balance of the loan interest, the lender takes the hit, not the estate. In the event the borrower(s) moves or sells the home, the loan becomes payable immediately. Any proceeds above the bal-

ance owed on the loan are retained by the seller

Cost And Fees

Typically, the interest rate on a reverse mortgage will be less than a traditional mortgage. Closing costs and other fees can be usually be included in the principal amount of the loan. Lenders are required by Federal law to fully disclose all the proposed costs of the loan over the life of the loan.

Bottom Line

The best way to determine if a reverse mortgage make sense for you is through a one-on-one consultation with a qualified mortgage professional. Some questions to consider:

- ✓ How long do you intend to stay in your home?
- ✓ Are there opportunities to put the value stored in your home to better use — i.e. invested at a higher rate of return than the interest rate on the loan?

An experienced and knowledgeable mortgage professional can help you answer these questions and more by discussing with you your unique situation. As with any important decision, it's important to make a educated choice.

For more information, contact Steven Eplan, Senior Management Group, Inc. at (516) 900-1500 or visit www.myseniormangement.com.

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SOUTHERN TRUST
MORTGAGE

All You Need is Love, a hit at Still Partners

BY ROKSANA AMID

llane@lherald.com

Still Partners is best known for its casual atmosphere, upscale American cuisine and most notably, the venue where local bands and musicians perform regularly.

On Feb. 12 however, Still Partners shifted gears to be a comedy club for the Love Your Neighbor's 2nd annual All You Need is Love event, in partnership with Long Island Comedy.

Comedians Scott Schendlinger, Mike Keegan and Rich Walker took over the traditionally used music stage sharing their humorous outlooks on life, and observations on the world as it copes with Covid.

Combining ticket sales, auctions and raffles, the event raised over \$4,500. Auctioned items were submitted by over 50 local businesses including CoCo Confections & Coffee, who submitted their COCO Confections & Coffee Sampler.

All proceeds benefited the Love Your Neighbor Project, a Sea Cliff based non-profit which helps local residents who are facing financial hardships.

"When we were in trouble during the pandemic, we were really close to closing," Dan Roth, Still Partners co-owner said. "[Jamie Teich] helped run a fundraiser for us which kept our doors open. Anytime she needs something, I'm always there to help her out."

During the government mandated lockdowns, Still Partners was forced to adopt a take-out menu and had to restrict indoor seating. Live concerts were a major source of revenue for the once thriving Sea Cliff business and that had to be put on hold.

Roth had an idea. He set up a GoFundMe page in 2020 to accept donations during and after a five-set musical act, which performed in his living room was live-streamed on the Still Partners Facebook page. More than \$56,000 was

raised keeping the gastropub in business.

Jamie Teich, founded Love Your Neighbor in May 2020 to help her community as they faced Covid-19 hardships. It was her personal mission to ensure that everyone in Sea Cliff and its surrounding areas had access to masks and hand sanitizer.

"We state that we're here for our neighbors in need, that's not only financially based," she said. "It's for those who are facing any sort of need, that there's a safety net in the community that can catch them."

Although it started as a small project, Love Your Neighbor eventually evolved into a registered 501(c)(3), and has hosted 30 events in Sea Cliff to date.

"What started from the place of wanting to make sure that those who were financially impacted could safely be in the world during the pandemic, turned into this organization to make sure that all of our neighbors who might be in need of something have a place to go to without shame, guilt or judgment," Teich said.

Michael Gee, a bartender at Still Partners for a decade, was tending bar the night of the All You Need is Love event.

"In general, it was really well received," he said. "We had a really great time and it sold out. All the tables were filled, it was great."

For those that were too late to secure a ticket, there was a virtual option for live broadcasting and now the event is posted on Youtube for free viewing.

"[The comedians] vibes were really good," Roth recalled. "They were clean, which I was very psyched about. It was really fun, and I think there were a lot of people who were happy here. It was something different."

He said he's not opposed to hosting another comedy night and then added that maybe next time it will be an all women comedy night.

eLEVate the Conversation

So simple

It used to be relatively easy to order pizza. Regular (eight slices in a round pie) or Sicilian (square slices with thicker crust). It was pretty basic: either A or B, or if we use a computer coding analogy: 0 or 1.

But gourmet flavors and sophisticated palates are now making it profitable to offer dozens of varieties. "Take your pick" has never been so complicated.

I could be old, I could be wrong but even with the best intentions of modernization, everything has gotten increasingly complex with more choices than the hours of the day, all with the intention to drive simplicity.

I have often tried to see the Oscar® nominated films prior to the yearly award show and the simplicity associated with this tradition is gone. In the past, screening the films meant going to movie theaters and securing DVDs within a timely release. Not super convenient, but accessible. This year, with the ever-increasing dominance of streaming services, the 2022 films come from no less than four different resources, none of which are available in a padded seat with a tub of popcorn.

And as the cell phone technology has advanced, the process of securing it simply has not improved for me. Right now, as I write this article, I am postponing time to update my apps, pair my car and call customer service for cost reductions associated

with the purchase of a new cell phone. What holds me back until the last possible moment for upgrade is the anticipation putting things back the way I had them, especially data transfer and what I need to keep, renew or reinstall before they wipe my old leased phone clean at the retail store. The exasperated salesperson chants the mantra, "Check your contacts, pictures, notes and texts" and sends me and my little pink shopping bag home with a phone filled with downloads I never really needed in the first place.

Essentially, that which was very comfortably rote is increasingly difficult. Even food shopping: a list, the online and offline circulars and going to the store was an effortless routine that is no more. Given the supply chain delays the bare shelves result in rainchecks that take up more room in my wallet than the food in my cart. Easy is no longer a choice and quite simply, simple is an option I desperately miss.

A contributing writer to the Herald since 2012, Lauren Lev is an East Meadow resident and a direct marketing/advertising executive who teaches advertising and marketing communications courses at the Fashion Institute of Technology/SUNY, LIU Post and SUNY Old Westbury.



LAUREN LEV

THE GREAT BOOK GURU

A life worth saving?

Dear Great Book Guru, This past weekend at breakfast with friends we all agreed we were looking for a good suspenseful book that we could read in a day and then get back together to discuss. Any recommendation?

—Breakfast Banterers

Dear Breakfast Banterers,

I went back and forth to Brooklyn on the Long Island Rail Road this weekend and read just the book you are looking for: "Mouth to Mouth," by Antoine Wilson. This short novel (192 pages) opens in a JFK airport ticket booth as our narrator learns his flight has been delayed. Over the loudspeaker he hears the name Jeff Wood being called. A Jeff Wood had been a casual acquaintance 20 years before at UCLA but what were the chances it was the same person?

So begins a mystery thriller where chance plays a pivotal role. Jeff invites our

narrator to join him in the first-class lounge where he tells him a story that he has supposedly never shared with anyone. Years before, shortly after graduation, Jeff was housesitting near the ocean when he saw a man drowning. After bringing him to shore and giving him CPR, the man began breathing on his own. Afterwards, Jeff became obsessed with finding out more about the man he had saved and, more importantly, was he worthy of having been saved. He learns he is a very wealthy art collector and soon stealthily infiltrates his life. Throughout, the reliability

of both the narrator and Jeff is in doubt with the truth constantly shifting until the final terrifying sentence. Highly recommended!

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



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DOB: 12/26/210
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before this Court on
Date/Time: March
10, 2022 at 9:30AM
Purpose: Permanency
Planning Hearing 4
Part:4

Floor/Room: Floor To Be
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Presiding: Hon. Ellen R.
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Location: Courthouse
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OPINIONS

War in Eastern Europe reverberates on Long Island

My heart bleeds for the people of Ukraine, an emerging democracy pulled between West and East, a former Soviet republic that only gained its independence from the USSR in August 1991, amid the sudden and precipitous collapse of communism across Eastern Europe. Now Ukraine's freedom is

once again in jeopardy because of a war that it didn't start.

I was living in Eastern Europe in August 1991, serving in the Peace Corps in Bulgaria, a six-hour drive south of Ukraine along Romania's Black Sea coast. I fell in love and married in Bulgaria on Nov. 9, 1991,

the second anniversary of the fall of the Berlin Wall. I was born and raised on Long Island, and live here now, but Eastern Europe became an adopted homeland.

Many Long Islanders have ties to Eastern Europe, including close to 13,000 people of Ukrainian descent, according to census data. We can see those ties in the Eastern Orthodox churches that dot the Island — St. Michael's Ukrainian Orthodox Church in Uniondale, Holy Trinity Orthodox Church in East Meadow and St. Seraphim of Sarov Russian Orthodox Church in Sea Cliff, among others.



**SCOTT
BRINTON**

Eastern Europe is a conglomeration of ancient cultures, at once set in their ways but ever morphing in response to the push and pull of powerful nations — historically, Russia and Germany. Eastern Europeans are survivors. Ukraine will survive Russia's invasion, an act of war in violation of international law. The price that Ukrainians will pay for the takeover, ordered by Russian President Vladimir Putin, will be terrible, though.

The impact will be felt by people across Eastern Europe. Most Americans can't understand the fear of the old Soviet Union that many, if not most, Eastern Europeans carried with them during the Iron Curtain era (1945–91). They risked life and limb to secure their freedoms from the USSR in the late 1980s and early '90s. They stood in solidarity, marching en masse in their capitals' squares, demanding sovereignty.

There was an electric unity among people across Eastern Europe in those heady days. They were afraid, but they stood in defiance of a nation that had for more than four decades tried to crush their independent spirit, their freedom of thought and religion, their very way of life.

If Bulgaria had lost its newly won democratic freedoms to the communists, as was entirely possible in the early 1990s, old-school apparatchiks might have "cleansed" Bulgaria of any American "sympathiz-

ers." In that case, anyone who had had contact with an American like me could have been in grave danger of just disappearing.

This was not a wild conspiracy theory. It was a valid fear based on years of iron-fisted Soviet rule.

The census counts close to 13,000 area residents who are of Ukrainian descent.

Now, a little more than 30 years after the fall of communism, Putin, a former KGB foreign intelligence officer, threatens once again to upend stability in Eastern Europe, a region that has, through the ages, been shattered by war, including two World Wars. And, once again, Eastern Europeans fear for their future.

In the U.S., war in Ukraine is far away. The images of a Stalinesque housing complex ripped apart by Russian artillery fire, repeated many times on American and European TV news networks in the first days of the war, are perceived very differently across Eastern Europe than they are here. The expansive structure, fortified by plain cement walls, could have been most anywhere in Eastern Europe. Such an attack sends a terrifying signal to people across the region — you could be next — even if the thought is a distant one.

It is highly unlikely that Putin would roll tanks beyond Ukraine's borders into NATO-allied nations, military analysts tell us. But before the war, most of them appeared uncertain that he would invade

Ukraine, despite President Biden's warnings to the contrary.

In recent weeks the U.S. has sent some 14,000 troops to Germany and Eastern Europe to shore up the defenses of NATO allies such as Poland and the Baltic states, bringing the total number of American troops in Europe to nearly 100,000, according to The New York Times. Thus, once again, we see a dividing line drawn between superpowers in Eastern Europe.

My wife and I were listening to Bulgarian National Radio Friday night, wanting to hear how Bulgaria, a NATO ally that condemned the invasion, was reacting. The news centered on two communities — hundreds of Bulgarian expatriates living in Ukraine (who needed to be evacuated) and hundreds of Ukrainian expats living in Bulgaria (many of whom planned to drive through Romania to meet refugees fleeing Ukraine and bring them to safety). Their route would become a "humanitarian corridor."

With U.S. troops moving within firing range of invading Russian forces, and tens of thousands of war refugees fleeing across Eastern Europe, we, as Americans, must pay close attention to this conflict and do all we can to shore up Ukraine, a fledgling democracy.

Scott Brinton is a special assistant professor of journalism at Hofstra University, and editor and adviser to The Long Island Advocate, a student online publication. He is a former executive editor of the Herald.

Ukrainian Jews flee a Russian attack, again

Neither Russia nor the Ukraine has ever been a welcoming homeland for the Jewish people. Despite the singing and dancing in "Fiddler on the Roof," the play was set in 1905 czarist Russia in the Pale of Settlement, the lands of Eastern Europe, including what became Ukraine, where hundreds of thousands of

Jews lived under the boot of the Russian Cossacks.

It is estimated that more than 1.5 million Jews lived in what is now Ukraine on the eve of World War II, according to a story in The Forward last week. "Some one million of those Jews were killed in the Holocaust," the

newspaper reported, "but a 1989 census estimated that close to half a million still lived in Ukraine in 1989, before the dissolution of the Soviet Union." The story went on to say that under Soviet rule, Jews were persecuted and denied the right to emigrate, forced to hide much of their religious practice in a society "rife with anti-Semitism."

Last week, once again, with Russian tanks crossing the border, the dwindling

Jewish population was on the run. In a bizarre and nonsensical statement, Russian President Vladimir Putin said that the invasion of Ukraine would remove Nazi influences, ignoring the fact that the country's president, Volodymyr Zelensky, is Jewish.

The story of the Jewish community in Ukraine today is a minor footnote to the greater story of a nation beaten into submission by a dictator on the march. The footnote, however, resonates with me, because many of my relatives fled Ukraine and came to America in the years before World War I.

My grandfather Morris Brownstein, born in 1897, left Ukraine in 1912 on the SS Zealand. We don't know how he managed to travel from Russia to Antwerp, but he boarded a ship in Belgium for the long crossing. He was 15 years old, and he was alone. What we do know is that he made his way to Brownsville, Brooklyn, became a tailor's apprentice and found and married Anna, a second cousin.

In 1924 he applied for naturalization, was granted citizenship and was as proud of being a "yankee" as anyone who ever escaped oppression and found freedom on our shores.

For his first decade in America, Morris lived in a tenement in Brownsville, probably without running water, possibly with dozens of other new arrivals. According to Wikipedia, Brownsville was predominantly Jewish from the 1880s until the 1950s. An estimated 25,000 people lived there by 1900.

In the early 20th century, the majority of Brownsville's residents were immigrants. By 1920, when Morris was living there, more than 80,000 of the area's 100,000 inhabitants were Russian Jews, and Brownsville was known as "Little Jerusalem."

For decades, the Ukraine he left behind was a sovereign nation, pulled between the magnetic poles of the West and Russia. Historically, it has always been an uneasy homeland for Jewish people, from ancient persecutions to the pogroms of the 20th century. It seems unlikely that the nation has any chance of surviving the Russian invasion.

I believe that if a 15-year-old boy can travel across Europe, book passage on a ship and make a new beginning in a new world, then those of us who have reaped America's bounty must stand with the Ukrainians in their resistance to occupation in any way we can.

We do not know yet what will be asked of us.

When Grandpa Morris signed his naturalization papers, he pledged his heart and soul to the United States of America. He was a good citizen, a patriotic American, grateful to this country for blessings he never could have imagined as a child in war-torn Ukraine.

The Forward added another footnote to last week's invasion. According to Rabbi Shlomo Baksht, his staff was still looking into moving the 250 children from the three orphanages they run in Ukraine westward, away from the Russian border. His last message was that the effort was too late, and they were "hunkered down."

Of all the what-ifs we ponder in our lives, one of the most intriguing is what our lives would look like if our parents and grandparents and great-grands hadn't left their homes and all that they knew of the world to risk dangerous ocean passages to begin new lives, learn new work and absorb new customs in a new land.

The people of Ukraine will suffer mightily in the coming days and weeks, as Russia tramples their dreams of freedom. I think of the 15-year-old from Ukraine who made that harrowing trip 110 years ago, and I am so grateful.

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**RANDI
KREISS**

In 1912, Morris Brownstein, my grandfather, left Ukraine on the SS Zealand.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Celebrate Women's History Month

These days, we smile or roll our eyes when we hear the term “fashion police,” but leading up to the Nixon administration, wearing the wrong outfit could land an otherwise innocent young woman in hot water.

Dresses were required in Nassau County schools until 1970, when administrators finally allowed girls to wear pantsuits. It was a seemingly small change by today's standards, but every single one mattered in the movement we celebrate every March as Women's History Month.

It was President Jimmy Carter who, in 1980, issued a presidential proclamation creating what was then National Women's History Week.

“Too often, women were unsung, and sometimes their contributions went unnoticed,” Carter said. “But the achievements, leadership, courage, strength and love of the women who built America was as vital as that of the men whose names we know so well.”

By then, women were claiming their place. They were already earning more bachelor's degrees than men, according to the National Center for Education Statistics, and roughly half of the master's degrees. Four decades later, in the red-hot fields of science and engineering, women still trail men in bachelor's, master's and doctoral degrees, according to the National Science Foundation. And women still earn just 84 cents of every dollar a man makes, according to a 2020 Pew Research study.

But they have made steady, if sometimes agonizingly slow, progress. In the century since women finally earned the right to vote, they have become professionals, more financially independent, and more visible as business leaders.

And women have worked their way into the leadership positions they have long deserved. Sandra Day O'Connor became the first woman nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court in 1981. Three years later, Geraldine Ferraro became the first female vice presidential candidate on a major party ticket.

Jeannette Rankin of Minnesota might have been the first woman elected to Congress in 1916, but Shirley Chisholm broke yet another notable glass ceiling in 1969, becoming the first Black woman sent to Washington.

And then, of course, Kamala Harris finally put a woman one step away from the Oval Office, a feat that can be topped only by whoever eventually becomes our first female president.

It seemed only logical for Congress to expand the week first set aside by Carter into something more substantial, although Capitol Hill needed a little push. Thanks to the efforts of the National Women's History Project — a nonprofit promoting “multicultural women's history awareness” — Congress decreed the first Women's History Month in 1987, issuing similar proclamations each year until 1995, when Bill Clinton started the tradition of simply

having presidents issue the proclamations on their own.

The last girls who were compelled to wear dresses to school would be grandparents now. Some — especially of the younger generations, who never knew differently — might even take for granted a lot of what women have achieved.

But as far as they have come, there's still a long way to go. And to finally achieve full equality, women will depend on one another to pave the way, just as the female trailblazers of the past have done — Eleanor Roosevelt, Amelia Earhart, Susan Ahn Cuddy, Billie Holiday, Rosalind Franklin, Susan B. Anthony, Gloria Richardson.

Don't recognize a name? Then Women's History Month is the perfect time to look it up and learn more about her.

Three cheers for the women who are the leaders of our nation. Our inventors. Our entrepreneurs. Those who tend to our health, and fight our battles in court. And those whose names aren't widely known — especially those who gave birth to us, raised us, and taught us right from wrong, shaping us into the people we are today.

These women, in particular, may sometimes be taken for granted, but their contributions must never be forgotten. They make their own history, every day, in the families that ensure our society remains healthy and strong.

LETTERS

Senator Brooks is doing great work

To the Editor:

Kudos to State Senator John Brooks and his staff for their work on trying to rein in the high cost of living on Long Island. Brooks has been a leader in the fight for affordable municipal water. His support for a legislative commission on the future of the Long Island Power Authority will open the door to reduced electric rates as well.

If legislation creating the commission is passed, it will set out a roadmap for the “municipalization” of the electrical system. With full municipal ownership, electricity would be managed on a nonprofit basis, much like public water and public libraries. This is no far-fetched idea. Freeport and Rockville Centre have municipally operated power systems with rates 40 percent less than PSEG. If we take the profits out, electric rates will fall.

Thank you, Senator Brooks.

FRED HARRISON

L.I. Food & Water Watch
Merrick



OPINIONS

In March, let us note the contributions of the Irish

In addition to the world's oldest (continuous since 1762) and largest St. Patrick's Day parade up 5th Avenue in Manhattan on March 17, dozens of Long Island communities are looking forward to their local parades, including Mineola and Bethpage on March 6, Huntington on March 13, Rockville Centre on



**JOHN
O'CONNELL**

March 19, Glen Cove and Wantagh on March 20, and Bayside on March 26. New York state has more than 50 parades — not including other kinds of St. Patrick's celebrations — in March. These will all be well attended by marchers and spectators, since most parades are returning after

two years of Covid-caused hiatus.

There are thousands of St. Patrick's parades throughout the country, many thousands around the world, from Dublin to Tokyo.

Principally a chance for Irish-Americans to show their ethnic pride, our local family-oriented events are welcome signs of spring, reasons to rejoice in the pandemically safer outdoors and great opportunities for downtown businesses, with so many people lining the streets.

I've been watching or marching in such

wonderful events in honor of St. Patrick, the patron saint of Ireland, for most of my long life. Sciatica and other maladies, however, have recently removed me from the line of march and sent me to the sidelines to cheer on my friends and fellow members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians.

While parades are fun, they say little about the important role Irish-Americans have played in the past and present of our country. I wish people knew more about the magnificent contributions Irish immigrants and Irish-Americans have made to the formation and preservation of the United States, and its ongoing exceptionalism. Science, government, education, the labor movement, the military, civil rights, justice, policing, the arts, music and literature, industry, business, journalism and many other fields would be profoundly the less but for what Irish-Americans have done and continue to do.

March is Irish-American Heritage Month, a good time for all of us to learn about or remember some of the people who have made America great.

Six of the last seven presidents — and half of all American chief executives — were of Irish ancestry, including Biden, Reagan, Kennedy, Wilson, Teddy Roosevelt and Grant.

More than 25 percent of George Washington's Revolutionary Army comprised Irish-Americans. Of the country that provided him with such brave soldiers, Washington said, "Ireland, thou friend of my country in my country's most friendless

days, much injured, much enduring land, accept this poor tribute from one who esteems thy worth, and mourns thy desolation." A hero of that war, Commodore John Barry, of Ireland, was the holder of the first commission in the new United States Navy.

Two hundred fifty-seven recipients of the Medal of Honor were born in Ireland. Dan Daley was awarded two Medals of Honor for separate actions, and would have been given a third but for the fact that he already had two.

Walt Disney, actor and dancer Gene Kelly, dancer Michael Flatley, playwright Eugene O'Neill and authors F. Scott Fitzgerald and Malachy McCourt were/are Irish-Americans. Bruce Springsteen is of partial Irish ancestry. John Ford has the most Academy Awards for best director; at four. Auto manufacturer Henry Ford had Ireland's blood in his veins.

The first woman to command a NASA space mission was Astronaut Col. Eileen Collins, an Irish-American. The first American woman to walk in space was

the Irish-American Dr. Kathryn Sullivan.

Edward J. Flanagan was born in a wee stone cottage in County Roscommon, Ireland. He would become the Father Flanagan of Boys Town, in Omaha, Neb., and a beloved activist on behalf of children.

Mary Harris, a.k.a. Mother Jones, was an advocate for child labor laws. Tough Kerryman Michael J. Quill was one of the founders of the Transport Workers Union.

The list of Irish America's contributors to the greatness of our nation goes on and on. The symbols of Irish America aren't the stereotypical leprechauns, green beer, silly plastic hats and fake freckles; Irish America's significance is better found in Washington's words, the names of Irish Brigade troops on Gettysburg's gravestones, Boys Town, NASA, the American labor movement and the Medal of Honor rolls.

All Americans should celebrate Irish-American Heritage Month. Educators should teach about the heroic influence Irish-Americans have had. Librarians should create displays. Parents should show their children how deserving Irish-Americans are of honor. Many of the notable American heroes mentioned above have surely earned their own classroom lessons, from grade school to college.

I wish all Herald readers and staff a happy St. Patrick's Day!

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

It's a list that goes on and on, in every field of endeavor from politics to the arts.

LETTERS

Does Hochul have the right priorities?

To the Editor:

Replacement Gov. Kathy Hochul has endorsed legislation allowing farmers to grow marijuana in New York. That appears to be her priority over halting crime and rampant subway attacks. By permitting this bill, as well as an online betting bill, we are encouraging a generation of misfits.

Is this how we develop the future leaders of our country? Perhaps our leaders in Albany, who passed the "no bail bill," have been smoking this stuff just to test its efficacy.

PAT KING
Merrick

Conservatives, and individualism

To the Editor:

I'm a 72-year-old who already has one foot in the grave — a 1968 graduate of Mepham High School in Bellmore, and a 1972 graduate of Hofstra University — but I'm really worried about what the future will be like in our society. Since 1980, I've

watched the growth of a cold-hearted, survival-of-the-fittest Social Darwinist mentality among many Republicans in the conservative news media, on talk shows, in think tanks and policy institutes, and especially in Congress.

More and more of these folks want to abolish every single federal government social program that helps the working class and middle class. I don't think most Americans are aware of this. These people are now much more conservative than our Republican voters.

What also scares the dickens out of me is the growth of an over-the-top, extreme hyper-individualism and libertarianism, in which so many of us believe that we have no responsibilities to one another, and only a concern for me-me-me and what I want to do. And we smugly and defiantly call this selfish and self-absorbed narcissism "personal choice."

STEWART B. EPSTEIN
Rochester

CORRECTION

In re: "Roughly \$20,000 raised for VFW Post 347," [Feb. 24-March 7], the Phoenix Rising Committee cleared over \$20,000, all of which was donated to VFW Post 347.

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