

GLEN COVE  
**HERALD**



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MARCH 17 - 23, 2022



Tammy Lanham/Herald

**U.S. REP. TOM** Suozzi comforted Galyna Semenkova, a Ukrainian-American, while she spoke of her daughter Kseniia Isaien's inability to obtain a visa to leave Ukraine and come to live with her in Oyster Bay. At left was Semenkova's daughter Jenya.

## Options are limited for refugees

BY LAURA LANE  
llane@liherald.com

Galyna Semenkova held a large posterboarded photo of her daughter Kseniia Isaien's wedding last July 17 in Ukraine. The photo is typical — an exuberant bride with her new husband, surrounded by their family.

Eight months later, the newlyweds are refugees on the run, seeking shelter from strangers in foreign lands. And Isaien's family in Oyster Bay is powerless to bring the couple to the U.S. to live with them temporarily while the war rages on in Ukraine.

Jenya Semenkova, 36, Galyna's older daughter, asked for help at a news conference on Monday at St. Josaphat Ukrainian Basilian Mon-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 12

## Glen Cove barbershop is named 'Moscow' no longer

BY LETISHA DASS  
ldass@liherald.com

For more than 30 years, customers knew it as Moscow Hairstyling. But as of Tuesday, the right side of the retail duplex at 260 Glen St., has a new name: Cove Hairstyling.

Edward Gavriyelov, who took over the shop in 2014, made the change for two simple reasons — his dislike of Russian President Vladimir Putin, and his even greater dislike of Putin's invasion of Ukraine.

"I just want to be far from this thing, because I am just not agreeing with what is going on over there," Gavriyelov said.

The name honoring the Russian capital was coined by the barbershop's original owner, Slava Yabek, who wanted to honor the city where he was born.

"I am from Moscow, and that's why I call it Moscow," Yabek said. "I wasn't afraid to call [it] Moscow because I had no doings with politics."

Yabek passed on the business after more than two decades of to Gavriyelov, a native of Uzbekistan who lives in Queens. Gavriyelov had worked with Yabek before his retirement, and originally kept the Moscow moniker.

Yabek knows about the name change and has no problem with

**I hate what's going on. I hate the war.**

**EDWARD GAVRIYELOV**  
Owner, Cove Hairstyling

it. The barbershop belongs to Gavriyelov now, he said.

Some 3 million people have fled Ukraine since Russia began its invasion Feb. 24, according to the United Nations. Some 1.8 million have sought refuge in Poland.

Russia continues to bombard Ukraine, especially its capital, Kyiv, targeting in many cases residential buildings and Metro sta-

tions, according to news reports.

"I hate what's going on," Gavriyelov said. "I hate the war."

Yabek was a refugee himself when he came to the U.S. Although he was born in Russia, he says he doesn't care much for his ethnicity. In fact, he's more likely to identify himself as Jewish.

"We [are] peaceful people. We [do] not support to be in war with

the politics," Yabek said. "Politics bring people to the big problem ... to global war, which nobody wins."

Although some businesses have suffered financially from names associated with Russia, according to reports, Gavriyelov says his customer base has remained stable. That's because they appreciate his talent and skills.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

# Concert to help Ukraine coming to Glen Cove

BY LAURA LANE

llane@iherald.com

Gigi Ferrante and Carol Waldman said they see a strong connection between the suffering Jews experienced during the Holocaust and what Ukrainians are experiencing now. What better response can there be to all of the suffering than to host a fundraiser in the form of a concert. And Glen Cove's Holocaust Memorial & Tolerance Center of Nassau County is the perfect location, they said.

"We are trying to provide humanitarian relief for what's going on there," said Waldman, the former director of the Glen Cove Senior Center. "And music is a vehicle to honor and acknowledge the Ukraine heritage and culture."

She has been assisting Ferrante, of Glen Cove, in arranging for the Concert for Peace on March 27. A trio of professional performers, which include two Ukrainians, will be performing a classical concert. Both Jewish and Ukrainian music will be performed that day.

The two women hope to raise over \$10,000, for the United Ukraine Relief Committee, a non-profit created in 1944 to help those in need. The organization is currently focusing on Ukraine, where they are providing humanitarian aid.

"I think if I can inspire people to do something that it will make me feel really happy," said Ferrante, who came up with the idea of a concert. "People asked me, what's the rush? We could do the fundraiser six months from

now but there may not be a Ukraine then."

Ferrante thought of the idea after seeing her daughter, Paloma Ferrante, a professional cellist, perform a concert to honor the Greek Jews who died in the Holocaust. She decided to bring a concert to Glen Cove to help the Ukrainians.

"The Ukrainians are being persecuted," Ferrante said. "I'm hoping the concert will relieve some of the pain."

She worries about the musicians in Ukraine who are being forced to leave their instruments when they flee. She said, the instruments are like their child or significant other. She has asked the UURC to make sure that some of the funds raised are given to musicians too.

"When I called them, they said I was the first person to think of the musicians there," she said.

Ukrainians, singer Hanna Golodinskii and pianist Pavel Gintov, will be performing with Paloma. The 39-year-old said she freelances and is looking forward to playing Ukrainian music, which she has never played before. The music is melodic, she said.

"They need donations in Ukraine,"

Paloma said. "They are basically nomads there."

Dr. Eve Lupenko Ferrante, a former Glen Cove city councilwoman, is helping too. She has been working on gift baskets. Lupenko Ferrante said she feels personally connected with what is happening in Ukraine because her first husband is Ukrainian.

"I'm the kind of person who wants to help other people," she said. "And I hope to be a good example for others so they will do good. I feel a bond with these people."

## Concert for Peace

March 27

3:30 to 5 p.m.

Holocaust Memorial  
& Tolerance Center  
of Nassau County  
100 Crescent Beach Road  
Glen Cove  
Reservations required at  
concertforpeace@gmail.com



Courtesy Gigi Ferrante

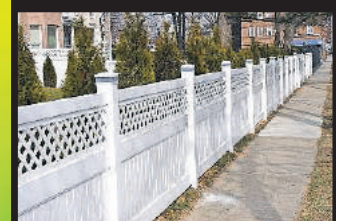
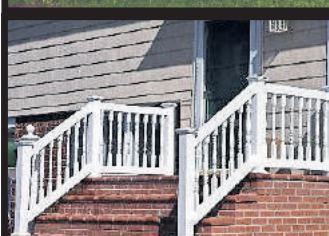
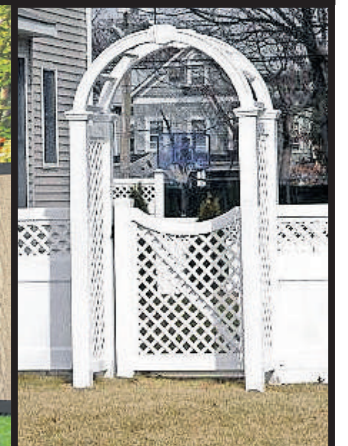
**PALOMA FERRANTE, OF** Glen Cove will perform.

The Holocaust Museum is the perfect location for the concert, she said, because it is not just a memorial to those from the Holocaust. It is also a place to teach today's generation about tolerance and being respectful to everyone.

She is proud that the concert will be held in Glen Cove. "Whenever someone needs something in Glen Cove the people come out in droves to help," she said.

Waldman said the concert will also serve to help those who want to help. "All of us have been sitting with the feeling of helplessness and want to do something to help," she said. "The idea is not to sit back and watch in horror, but to make a difference in people's lives."

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# HERALD NEIGHBORS

GLEN COVE HERALD – March 17, 2022



Photos courtesy John O'Connell

**ROBERT LYNCH, OF** the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, far left above, introduced Eric Hill, aide to the grand marshal; grand marshal Gerry Herbert and aide Carolyn Masterson McGillicuddy.



**GLEN COVE RESIDENT** and Ancient Order of Hibernians member, Gerry Herbert, has been honored as the grand marshal.

## Glen Cove St. Patrick's Parade set for Sunday

**T**hree times are a charm for the grand marshal of this year's Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade, Gerald "Gerry" Herbert. The parade is a go this year after a covid-caused two-year hiatus, and it will step off at 1 p.m. March 20 from Finley Middle School in Glen Cove.

Herbert received his sash and the honor of leading the parade, along with two aides to the grand marshal: educator Carolyn Masterson McGillicuddy and auto specialist Eric Hill, at The View Grill during an afternoon luncheon on Sunday, organized by the parade committee.

The Glen Cove parade committee had first announced Herbert would be the grand marshal for the 2020 parade,

but it was canceled due to the coronavirus pandemic, as was the 2021 parade. Lisa Forgione, the parade chairwoman, couldn't think of a better group that would have the numbers "2020, 2021, 2022" written on their sashes.

In addition to the sash ceremony, the event is used as a fundraiser to not only put on the event, but to also raise funds for its designated charity: the Society of St. Vincent de Paul.

The parade committee feels this year's parade will be the best one ever. There will be over 50 groups marching, an after-parade party featuring non-stop Irish music, performances by Irish step dancers and a stirring massed pipe bands performance by the pipe bands that march in

the parade. And it's a family affair intended for everyone to enjoy.

After-party details: Sunday, 2:30 p.m. to 6 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish Hall. \$20 donation: Full corned beef dinner, cash bar. Children under 13 free.

For more information, visit the parade website at [www.glencoveparade.com](http://www.glencoveparade.com), call or text (516) 782-7494, or email [anpiobaire@aol.com](mailto:anpiobaire@aol.com). The Glen Cove Parade Committee, Inc. is a 501 (c) (3) charitable corporation, and all contributions are tax-deductible.

*Submitted by Roni Jenkins*



**SEAN BASDAVANOS, PRESIDENT** of the Mike Moran Division 8 of the Ancient Order of Hibernians in Glen Cove, far left, presented Hill with an award for service to the division and AOH.



**ROBERT LYNCH, OF** the St. Patrick's Day Parade Committee, left, presented grand marshal aide Carolyn Masterson McGillicuddy.

## NEW EVENT DATE: APRIL 5, 2022



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Glossy Magazine April 5

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Community Newspapers

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The award-winning Herald Community Newspapers group — covering Nassau County's North and South shores with hard-hitting news stories and gracefully written features — seeks motivated, energetic and creative editors & reporters to join our dynamic (and awesome) team!

This exciting and fulfilling position offers a unique experience to learn from some of the best in the business. Historically, reporters who have launched their careers with us have gone on to The New York Times, Newsweek, Newsday, the New York Daily News, New York Post, CNN, BBC, NBC News and The Daily Mail, among many others. We look for excellent writers who are eager to learn, enhance their skills, and become well-established and respected journalists in our industry.

#### TO APPLY:

Send a brief summary in the form of a cover letter describing your career goals and what strengths you can bring to our newsroom, along with a resume and three writing samples,  
to executive editor Michael Hinman at  
[mhinman@liherald.com](mailto:mhinman@liherald.com)

## CRIME WATCH

■ On March 3, at 5 a.m., the Glen Cove Police arrested 28-year-old Brian Perez, of Glen Cove, for two counts of seventh-degree criminal possession of a controlled substance.

After being released without bail, Perez walked to a local business on School Street in Glen Cove where he allegedly stole \$44 worth of cigars. He was arrested again by Glen Cove Police and released on an appearance ticket without bail. At approximately 12:40 p.m. on March 3, Perez was arrested by Nassau County Police in East Garden City at Neiman Marcus, where he allegedly stole \$1,854 worth of merchandise.

Perez was previously arrested by Glen Cove Police on Jan. 25 for a domestic incident in which he was charged with assault, robbery, menacing, unlawful imprisonment and criminal mischief. He will go to Glen Cove Court on March 22 for his Glen Cove charges.

■ On March 12, a 26-year-old male from Glen Cove was arrested for aggravated family offense, first-degree criminal contempt, second-degree harassment, second-degree menacing, and resisting arrest on Smith Street.

■ On March 9, a 51-year-old male from Glen Cove was arrested for aggravated driving while intoxicated, driving while intoxicated, suspended registration, and unlicensed operation on Landing Road.

■ On March 9, a 28-year-old male from Glen Cove was arrested for criminal mischief and second-degree aggravated harassment on Valentine Street.

■ On March 6, a 40-year-old male from Glen Cove was arrested for third-degree

assault and criminal obstruction of breathing on Valentine Avenue.

■ On March 2, a 65-year-old male from Glen Cove was arrested on second-degree assault and fourth-degree criminal possession of a weapon on Landing Road.

■ On March 1, a 41-year-old male from Glen Cove was arrested on two counts of endangering the welfare of a child and two counts of unlawfully dealing with a child on Maple Avenue.

■ On March 1, a 43-year-old male from Glen Cove was arrested on two counts of first-degree criminal contempt, aggravated family offense, fourth-degree criminal mischief, and second-degree menacing on Petite Place.

■ On Feb. 26, a 59-year-old male from Glen Cove was arrested for third-degree menacing on Center Street.

■ On Feb. 26, a 28-year-old male from Glen Cove was arrested for two counts of second-degree aggravated unlicensed operation, Vehicle Traffic Law Equipment violation, and unlicensed driver on Arterial Highway.

■ On Feb. 21, a 40-year-old male from Glen Cove was arrested for second-degree criminal contempt and second-degree harassment on Coles Street.

■ On Feb. 24, a 28-year-old male from Glen Cove was arrested for third-degree assault, two counts of second-degree unlawful imprisonment, criminal mischief, two counts of fourth-degree grand larceny, criminal contempt, aggravated criminal contempt, and aggravated family offense on Laurel Avenue.

*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.*



**New infections for the week.**

**33**

**Total infections to date.**

**7,632**

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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# Ukrainian-American hears of horrors

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

One of those customers is Elijah Schimkewitsch, whose mother grew up in Ukraine. The Glen Cove resident has been a regular at what was Moscow Hairstyling since he was an undergraduate student back in 2012. He wasn't aware Gavriyelov changed the barbershop's name, but that made no difference to Schimkewitsch.

Schimkewitsch's mother immigrated from Kyiv in 1994. She still has family there and in other parts of Ukraine.

"My mom, she's been a wreck," Schimkewitsch said. "She's just on the phone all day talking through conversations with family and friends."

Ukrainian men between 18 and 60 have been drafted and recruited into the conflict since the day before the Russian invasion. Although women have a chance to flee, many Schimkewitsch has spoken to have decided to remain in Ukraine.

"I know a lot of wives who did not really want to leave the homestead or didn't feel so safe," he said. "So they kind of stuck around, even though there's tons of refugees who have crossed the border."

One woman Schimkewitsch talked to lost her husband last year. She decided to stay in Ukraine because of her vision — she had suffered a detached retina.

"She's just thinking it's over for her," Schimkewitsch said. "It's really sad."

Schimkewitsch did reach one of his cousins on Tuesday who has been wearing Ukrainian military garments and



Courtesy Letisha Dass

**EDWARD GAVRIYELOV, THE** owner of Moscow Hairstyling, decided to change the name of his barbershop to Cove Hairstyling.

carrying an M16 rifle. Even without any military or ammunition training, he is ready to go to war.

"He just has a lot of pride for the country," Schimkewitsch said. "He got his wife and their baby across the Poland border, and he is defending the homeland."

A Ukrainian anesthesiologist told Schimkewitsch his wife and daughter were able to escape to the United States, but the doctor had to stay behind to fight.

Schimkewitsch has noticed other com-

munity efforts to bring awareness and aide to Ukrainians. He has sent cash to family members there, and donated to the U.N. Children's Fund.

"I'm glad that there's a global outcry defaming this whole military effort," Schimkewitsch said.

"I didn't want to [be] too much political, but I guess this was the only way," Gavriyelov said. "I disagree with the politics of President Putin."

## Lavine holds drive for Ukraine

Ukrainian Americans of Long Island and State Assemblyman Charles Lavine are hosting a humanitarian collection drive for needed supplies that will be sent directly to the victims of the war in Ukraine.

The following is a suggested list of items that are most in need: clothing, toothpaste, dental floss, mouthwash, toothbrushes, soap bars, hand sanitizers, feminine hygiene products, shampoo/conditioner, deodorants, razor/shaving cream, toilet paper, paper towels, wet wipes/baby wipes, baby diapers, microwaves, pots and pans, new sheets, pillowcases, band-aids, gauze, alcohol/disinfectant wipes, boxes of masks, hand warmers, flashlights, nail clippers, hairbrushes and shopping totes/bags.

Donations should be delivered to Lavine's district office at 1 School St., # 303-B, Glen Cove, N.Y. 11542. Drop off times are Monday to Friday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.



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# COMMUNITY UPDATE

## Friday, March 18

### Hello Dolly!

Come to the North Shore High School Theatre at 7:30 p.m. and Saturday, March 19 at 2 p.m. and 7:30 p.m. to see Hello Dolly! The romantic and comic exploits of Dolly Gallagher-Levi, turn-of-the-century matchmaker and “woman who arranges things,” are certain to thrill and entertain audiences again and again. Tickets can be purchased at [www.northshoreartsangels.org](http://www.northshoreartsangels.org)

### Andy Aledort & The Groove Kings

Still Partners will be celebrating the release of Andy Aledort & The Groove Kings new double CD, Light of Love from 8 to 11 p.m. For more information, call Still Partners at (516) 200-9229. To order a personalized CD, head to [andyaledort.com](http://andyaledort.com)

## Saturday, March 19

### Rebuild the VFW

U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi will host a fundraiser called Rebuild the VFW on March 19 he to benefit VFW Post 347, at the Polish National Home, 10 Hendrick Ave., Glen Cove at 2 p.m. There will be dinner, beer, wine and music. \$50 per person. For further information, contact Suzanne Anderson at [Anderson.Suzanne15@gmail.com](mailto:Anderson.Suzanne15@gmail.com) or (516) 456-0506.

### Deep Roots indoor winter market

Head to 100 Village Square (12 Bridge St. for GPS), Glen Cove for the Deep Roots Indoor Winter Market, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. The Market offers locally grown vegetables, farm fresh eggs, meats and dairy, fresh baked breads and sweets, and more. Includes weekly guest art and craft vendors.

## Sunday, March 20

### Meet Niall O'Dowd

In honor of Irish-American Heritage Month, stop by Theodore's Books for an afternoon with author and journalist, Niall O'Dowd as he speaks about and signs copies of his history book, “George Washington and the Irish: Incredible Stories of the Irish Spies, Soldiers, and



Hiram Alejandro Duran/Herald

## Susan Page in conversation with Steve Israel

Head over to Theodore's Books in Oyster Bay for an evening celebrating Women's History Month at 7 p.m. on Tuesday, March 22. Join award-winning Washington Bureau chief of USA Today, Susan Page as she sits in conversation with Theodore's owner Rep. Steve Israel to discuss Page's biography, “Madam Speaker: Nancy Pelosi and the Lessons of Power.” The discussion will be followed by a book signing. This event is free and open to the public. For more information call Theodore's Books at (516) 636-5550.

Workers Who Helped Free America.” The event is free and open to the public. For more information call Theodore's Books at (516) 636-5550.

## Monday, March 21

### Locust Valley Mah Jongg group

The Locust Valley Mah Jongg group meets at the Locust Valley Library every Monday from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Please bring your own set. For more information, contact Michael Vinas at (516) 671-1837 or [mvinas@locustvalleylibrary.org](mailto:mvinas@locustvalleylibrary.org).

### The Three Little Pigs Challenge

Come to the Oyster Bay-East Norwich Public Library for an in person event for children (K - 4) at 4 pm. Join Little Engineers NY and challenge little engineers to build houses that will protect pigs from the big, bad wolf. All the supplies needed to build homes of straw, sticks, and brick are included. Call the library at (516) 922-1212 for further details.

### Programs and Services for Veterans

Find out about improved changes to Veterans Affairs Vet Center programs including new eligibility that opens the door for more military service members to receive services at the Bayville Library. Sponsored by the Nassau Vet Center in Hicksville, N.Y. The speaker will be Sharran Chambers-Murphy, Army Veteran and Veterans Outreach Program Specialist. Register for free at [bayville-freeibrary.org](http://bayville-freeibrary.org).

## Tuesday, March 22

### Calming basic hybrid yoga

Join Yoga Instructor Debra Monaco at the Annex at the Gold Coast Public Library from 1 to 2 p.m. for an hour of basic Yoga to try to relax during this time of high stress. This class will be offered as a hybrid class. If you are registering for an in

person spot, please stop at the library to do so. There is a non-refundable \$35 fee due at time of registration for in person classes. For more information, call the library at (516)-759-8300.

### Staying safe on our streets

The Bayville Free Library will be hosting a panel on street safety over Zoom at 7 p.m. Did you know that Long Island is home to some of the most dangerous roads in the U.S.? Join an expert pedestrian and bike safety panel from the New York Coalition for Transportation Safety for an eye-opening, virtual workshop about New York state laws and technologies meant to protect you. For details contact Kristy Fumante (516)-628-2765.

## Wednesday, March 23

### Conversations in Coe Hall

Come to the Planting Fields for a discus-

sion of historical women from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. In the spirit of Mai Coe's legacy, this conversation will celebrate the women of Planting Fields both in the past and the present during Women's History Month. Featuring Planting Fields Foundation's leadership team, this conversation will explore the impact of women at Planting Fields in the early 20th century and today. Admission is free.

### Alice DeLamar

Come to the North Shore Historical Museum at 7 p.m. Explore the incredible life, legacy, and quest of Alice Antoinette DeLamar – nicknamed “the richest bachelor girl in the U.S.” upon her father's passing. Led by writer Nona Footz, this discussion will take a deep dive into the DeLamar family lore, Alice's mysterious life and the long lost memoir that explained it all. In person.

## Thursday, March 24

### Library Board Meeting

Head over to the Locust Valley Library for their monthly board meeting at 7 p.m. in the MNA Community Room. The meeting is open to the public, and all are welcome. For more information call the library at (516) 671-1837.

## 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](mailto:adurkin@iherald.com)

## 5 things to know about your town

- The Sea Cliff Village Board of Architectural Review will hold a meeting on March 22 at 7 p.m.
- The Glen Cove City Council will be meeting on March 22 at 7 p.m.
- Muttontown Village Hall will be hosting a School Attendance Review Board meeting on March 23 at 7 p.m.
- The North Shore Schools Board of Trustees will be having their budget adoption meeting at the North Shore Schools Library on March 24 at 7:45 p.m.

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# Michael Hinman becomes Heralds' executive editor

Michael Hinman is the new executive editor of the Herald Community Newspapers. Stuart Richner, the CEO of Richner Communications Inc., and publisher of the newspaper group, made the announcement last week. Hinman succeeds Scott Brinton, who had led the editorial department since 2016.

Herald Community Newspapers include nearly two dozen publications and more than 20 reporters and editors. Hinman will also oversee *The Riverdale Press*, the Bronx paper he joined as editor in 2017, helping the publication win 29 state awards during that time, including the New York Press Association's top honor last year, recognizing general excellence.

Joining Hinman's leadership team is longtime *Nassau Herald* editor Jeff Bessen, who becomes the *Heralds'* new deputy editor.

"I'm excited to see two longtime members of the Richner Communications family take on expanded roles," Stuart Richner said. "For the past five years, Michael has been a steadfast steward of *The Riverdale Press'* legacy of excellence. Now he brings his hard-nosed journalism and innovative storytelling to the *Herald* newsroom.

"Jeff has been a leading voice in the *Herald* newsroom for more than a decade," Richner added. "In the newly created deputy editor role, Jeff will further infuse his dogged reporting into our 20-plus editions of the *Herald*."

"I know that under Mike and Jeff's leadership, our newsroom will continue to be the premier source of local news for Long Islanders. I look forward to seeing how our award-winning team finds new ways to serve our communities."



Jeff Bessen

Although he was born and raised in rural Pennsylvania, Hinman spent most of his adult life in central Florida. His work ranged from neighborhood newspapers like the *Zephyrhills News* and *The Laker*, to the larger Sunbelt Newspaper division of *The Tampa Tribune*. He also spent years as a real estate reporter for the *Tampa Bay Business Journal*, as well as the Sarasota-based *Business Observer*.

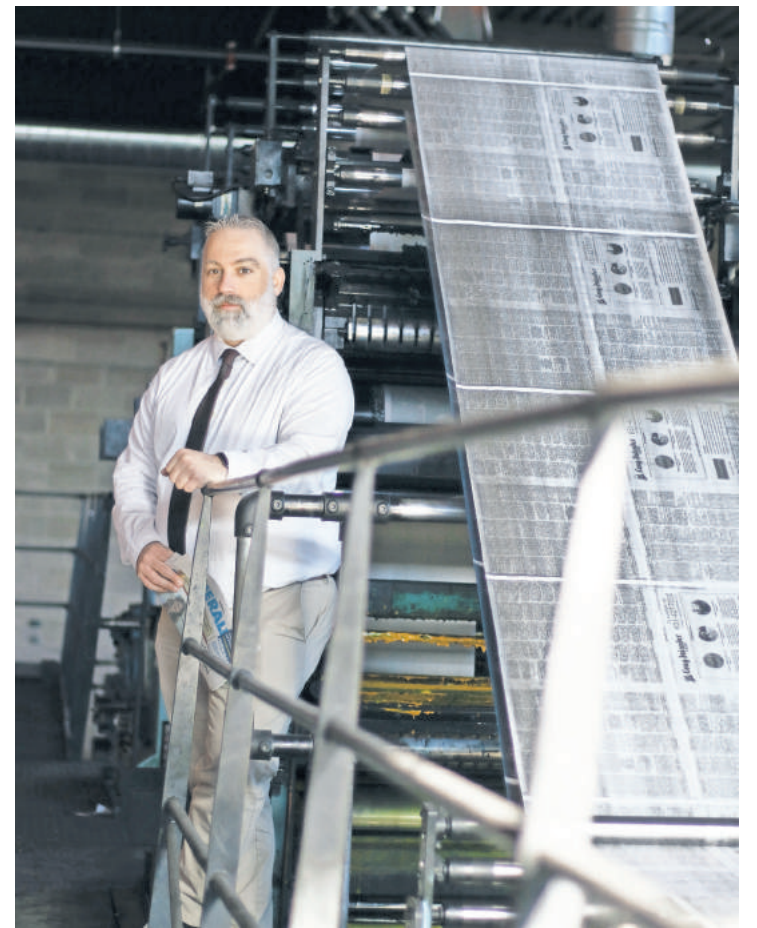
During his time with the *Business Journal*, Hinman won a top business reporting award from the Society of Professional Journalists for his series of stories focused on the failed Trump Tower Tampa project.

"Our communities are filled with stories just waiting to be told," Hinman said. "This is why neighborhood newspapers like the *Heralds* are so vital. We are renewing our mission to find those stories and share them — to inform you, to help you, and hopefully even make you smile from time to time."

Before his tenure covering the Five Towns, Bessen was editor of the *Islip Bulletin* and *Suffolk County News*, which covered several communities on Suffolk County's South Shore.

Bessen has won a number of awards from the New York Press Association and the Press Club of Long Island over the years, most recently as the Press Club's runner-up for non-local news and features in 2021, and for narrative in-depth reporting/series in 2020.

"The *Heralds* have always had the community in mind when producing their award-winning stories," Bessen said. "We aim to deepen that commitment with a stronger focus on the broader issues — such as politics — that impact our readers."



Christina Daly/Herald

**MICHAEL HINMAN, WHO** spent the past five years as editor of the Pulitzer Prize-winning *Riverdale Press*, is the new executive editor of the Herald Community Newspapers. Nassau Herald Senior Editor Jeff Bessen has become the Heralds' new deputy editor.

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# Turn down the volume

## Hearing is easy to take for granted — especially for kids

“But they won’t have fun if the music isn’t loud!”

This was the response from a parent after someone had the audacity to suggest the music be turned down at an elementary school outing. The children had everything at their disposal for the makings of a good time: ice skates, game tokens, snacks and soda, and their friends.

Yet this mother and most of the others somehow felt that unless the adults had to shout to be heard, the children couldn’t possibly have fun.

Studies show that noise pollution is correlated with hearing loss which in turn impacts speech, language and cognitive, social, and emotional development.

Noise is also correlated with sleep disorders, increased blood pressure, poor digestion, slower learning, increased irritability, and increased aggression.

Would this one party ruin their ears and cause this host of problems? Almost certainly not.

### The Problem With Noise Pollution

However, hearing loss due to noise is cumulative and permanent. You may think that no harm is being done by loud sounds since your hearing seems to return to normal once you leave the noise of, for example, a concert.

In reality, however, each exposure causes a little damage; and the louder a noise is, the less time it takes for damage to occur. By teaching your children that noise is an integral part of fun, you increase the chance that they will choose to turn up the volume when they are the ones running the show.

After all, who doesn’t want to have as much fun as possible?

### Toys Are Noisy

Parents get to define for their young children what sound is and what noise is. It starts with the toys you buy, the volume of music and television you listen to, and the loudness of other sounds to which you expose your children. Many toys are loud enough to harm your children’s hearing — even many rattles and learning devices.

Current regulations merely legislate that toys be quieter than a jackhammer!

Therefore, before you allow your child to play with a toy, you need to test it yourself; if the toy is the least bit annoying when shaken or played right next to your ear, it is too loud for your baby/child whose arms are much shorter and whose hearing is probably more sensitive than yours.

### What’s A Parent To Do?

Noise induced hearing loss is preventable. Recognizing the threat noise poses to youngsters’ health is a great first step.

**Observe and rescue:** Many infants and young children hold their ears, wince, or step back when exposed to noise (or what you might consider sound) — reactions that indicate the noise is too loud or overwhelming. Eventually they may get used to it, but this does not mean it is safe. Psychologically tuning out noise does not mean that physiologically hearing is not being affected. Avoid or minimize what noise you can, and rescue your children when they react negatively to noise.

As they get older, your children may insist they study better or sleep better or do whatever better using an earbud or having the TV on, but do their grades, sleep habits, etc. really back that up? If not, it is time to set limits on the amount of time or volume of sound.

**Model sound not noise:** If you blast your music, TV or

video games, so will your children. If you keep sound levels moderate, your children are more likely to keep levels moderate also.

If you think loud is “cool,” your children will grow up thinking loud is “cool.”

You can show your children you are willing to walk away from noise or are willing to protect yourself and them — for example, by wearing ear protection at loud movies or concerts.

**Talk about noise:** Listen when children talk about loud noise. Reflect back to your children what they are saying so they can clarify their own feelings about noise and how it affects them.

**Discuss the damage noise does:** Noise-induced hearing loss occurs slowly, so it is not obvious. Help your children learn that exposure to noise over a long period of time (i.e. TV, computer volumes turned up) causes permanent damage and that the louder the noise, the more damage occurs.

**Ask questions about the perceived advantages of noise:** Certainly blocking out conversation in awkward social situations and tuning out thinking with loud music after a rough day can be perceived as advantageous. Listen as children come up with their reasons for preferring to turn up the volume. Then brainstorm safer alternatives.

**Take advantage of peace and) quiet:** Family dinner is a great time to enjoy each other and share stories of the day without the distraction of TV or phones. Improved communication, vocabulary, and reading skills are some of the many benefits of eating together.

Find ways to enjoy quiet family time. By turning off the outside electronic noises, you can tune in to the natural sounds in your environment. Play games with or without quiet music in the background. Encourage your children to come up with other ideas for quiet activities.

**Monitor noise levels:** Is the noise from the tablet, TV, computer, or musical instrument too loud? A good rule of thumb: if you need to shout from three feet away to be heard, it is way too loud. Report to your children’s doctor any ringing or buzzing in the ear or muffled sound of speech they may mention.

**Avoid “noise confusion”:** Does the TV really need to be on in the background while you are handling the daily household chores? Are there competing TV shows spilling over from one room of the house to the next? What about one person’s music, another’s TV show and the YouTube video simultaneously streaming? Sometimes just getting rid of one source of sound (even if it is not loud) can make the atmosphere less stressful.

Five million children in the United States suffer from some degree of noise-induced hearing loss. And more noise-induced hearing loss and resultant effects are predicted to show up in young adulthood.

Do everything you can to protect your children from becoming part of this preventable statistic. Start when your children are young, with the toys they have and the situations you allow them to be in, and continue to be vigilant throughout their childhood and teenage years by offering education and guidance about noise levels.

Above photo: It is important to distinguish between sound, which is one extremely important way children learn about their world, and noise, which becomes a threat to health and well-being.



## Say what?

### Get in tune with your hearing

Once your hearing is damaged, it’s gone for good. That’s why early diagnosis of hearing loss is so important, as is understanding options for taking care of your ears! Here are some easy ways to protect your ears and your hearing health.

#### Use earplugs around noises

Approximately 15 percent of Americans have noise-induced hearing loss because of loud work or leisure environments.

Clubs, concerts, lawnmowers, chainsaws, and any other noises that force you to shout so the person next to you can hear your voice all create dangerous levels of sound. Earplugs are convenient and easy to obtain. You can also obtain custom fitted versions.

Musicians’ earplugs are custom with filters that allow a person to hear conversations and music but still reduce harmful sound levels while maintaining the quality of the original sound as closely as possible.

#### Don’t blast the sound

According to the World Health Organization, 1.1 billion teenagers and young adults worldwide are at risk for noise-induced hearing loss from unsafe use of audio devices.

If you like to enjoy music through headphones or earbuds, you can protect your ears by following the 60/60 rule. The suggestion is to listen with headphones at no more than 60 percent volume for no more than 60 minutes a day. Earbuds are especially dangerous, as they fit directly next to the eardrum. If possible, opt for over-the-ear headphones. Don’t forget that any loud music, not just music played through headphones, presents a risk for noise-induced hearing loss.

#### Give your ears time to recover

If you are exposed to loud noises for a prolonged period, like at a concert or a bar, your ears need time to recover. What’s more, researchers have found that your ears need an average of 16 hours of quiet to recover from one loud night out.

#### Stop using cotton swabs

It’s common for people to

use cotton swabs to clean wax out of their ear canal, but this is not advisable. A little bit of wax is not only normal, but it’s also important. The ears are self-cleaning organs, and wax stops dust and other harmful particles from entering the canal. Plus, inserting anything inside your ear canals risks damaging sensitive organs like your ear drum.

If you have excess wax, you can clean around the canal with a damp towel — gently. You could also use ear wax removal solution. This softens the wax so that it will eventually flow out on its own. The best solution is always to seek professional care when possible.

#### Keep your ears dry

Excess moisture can allow bacteria to enter and attack the ear canal. This can cause swimmer’s ear or other types of ear infections, which can be dangerous for your hearing ability. Be sure you gently towel-dry your ears after bathing or swimming. If you can feel water in the ear, tilt your head to the side and tug lightly on the ear lobe to coax the water out.

#### Get up and move

Did you know that exercise is good for your ears? It’s true. Cardio exercises like walking, running, or cycling gets the blood pumping to all parts of your body, including the ears. This helps the ears’ internal parts stay healthy and working to their maximum potential.

#### Manage stress levels

Stress and anxiety have been linked to both temporary and permanent tinnitus (a phantom ringing in the ears). High levels of stress cause your body to go into fight or flight mode, an instinctual reaction that fills your body with adrenaline to help you either fight or flee from danger. This puts a lot of pressure on your nerves, blood flow, body heat, and more. It’s commonly thought that this pressure and stress can travel up into your inner ear and contribute to tinnitus symptoms.

Above photo: With over 48 million Americans affected by hearing loss, it is vital to be vigilant in protecting our ears and preserving our hearing today so that our ears serve us well into tomorrow.

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# Suozzi asks president to fix 'quirk in the law'

March 17, 2022 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

astery in Lattingtown, arranged by U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi. Her mother and Jenya's husband, Benjamin Schwartz, accompanied her. There are many Ukrainians on the North Shore, she said. But not everyone can speak up.

"We are a close family," Semenkova said. "My younger sister is bouncing from country to country, and we can't continue with our life normally because of what is going on."

Her mother tried to hold back tears, but could not. "I feel bad — this is a terrible situation," she said. "The only obstacle for us is for them to get a visa."

But that's impossible, because a section of the Immigration and Nationality Act requires that anyone applying for a tourist visa must show they have a residence abroad and plan to go back. Kseniia, 28, and her husband, Oleksandr, 33, fled Odessa the week the Russian invasion began, and can't guarantee that they will be able to return to their home.

Suozzi wrote a letter to President Biden last Friday requesting his help to allow Ukrainian refugees to live with their families in the U.S. "The Administration could increase the refugee cap, set up a humanitarian parole program, or create a special refugee program," Suozzi wrote. "There are currently 1,009,874

Ukrainian Americans living in the U.S. Many of them are willing to temporarily host their Ukrainian refugee family members until the war ends and Ukrainians return to rebuild their country."

Semenkova said that the tourist visa application process is costly, and many documents must be completed before an applicant can even get an appointment at the U.S. embassy in Italy, where her sister and her husband are now. Semenkova paid for the application and completed the paperwork, but when the couple arrived at the embassy, they did not receive any help.

"The second the agent saw that they had Ukraine passports, he started crying," Semenkova said. "He said he has family in Ukraine, and understood what my sister is going through. But he said he can't give them the visa because of the situation in Ukraine."

During the news conference, Semenkova FaceTimed with her sister and brother-in-law, who were in a car, driving through Italy. Asked how they were doing, Oleksandr said it was "a tense time."

"We have no relatives here," Kseniia told Suozzi. "We want to come to the U.S.

just for a few months to be with our family."

Noncitizens can stay in Europe for only 90 days, which concerns Semenkova. And she worries how her sister will communicate, she said, because Kseniia speaks Ukrainian, Russian and English, but not Italian.

Even so, Semenkova is grateful that they left Ukraine. "We forced them to leave," she said. "They were in denial. The U.S. embassy had closed in Kyiv, which we took as a first sign it was serious."

Although the Isaiens left, they didn't take much with them, perhaps because they didn't hear or see any of the signs of the invasion. Semenkova said that her sister has two pairs of jeans, two sweat-shirts, some documents and her dog. "They've been driving across Europe, sleeping in their car, God knows how many miles," she said.

Semenkova said she never applied for a green card for her sister because the process takes seven to 10 years. Additionally, the card-holder has to live in the U.S. for six months of the year. Kseniia never wanted to live in the U.S., Semenkova said.

**I**t's not just news to us. It's my heritage being destroyed.

**JENYA SEMENKOVA**  
Oyster Bay

## Glen Floors, city fixture, marks 90 years

By LETISHA DASS

ldass@liherald.com

A warm welcome is given to every customer that walks through the door of Glen Floors on Glen Street where employees can be found waiting at the counter to fulfill a customer's floor designing desires. Glen Floors, owned by the Capobianco family, a staple in Glen Cove, is celebrating its 90th anniversary this year.

Antonio Capobianco, an insurance and window shades salesman, settled in Glen Cove in 1920 from Corona Queens. According to Lou-Ann Thompson, a Glen Floors employee for 37 years and current store manager, Capobianco was able to help everyone with their housing needs even in finding a refrigerator or mattress.

Capobianco's son, Fred Capobianco, had worked for G&G Furniture when he was 14-years-old. But then he was given a chance to install linoleum flooring and caught the flooring design bug, said Thompson.

From then, the decision to open Glen Floors sprouted as the father and son duo saw that there was a need for the flooring business in Glen Cove. The carpet and flooring store opened in 1932 near the Glen Cove Police Station on Glen Street after Fred dropped out of high school. "It was kind of an evolution," Thompson said.

Then, it moved to 68 Glen Street. Finally, through the Glen Cove Urban Renewal Project, the family bought their current location in 1984 at 30 Glen Street, where they continue to sell carpet, area rugs,



Photos courtesy Glen Floors

**THE CHILDREN OF** the late founder of Glen Floors, Fred Capobianco, from left, Jane Rodier, Jerry Capobianco, Carol Nelson and Bill Capobianco, and Bill's son-in-law, Michael Capobianco, continue Fred's legacy at Glen Floors.

linoleum flooring, vinyl tile and floor and window treatments.

About four generations of the Capobianco family have worked in the store. Throughout the years, almost every member of the family, including children, grandchildren, and a few great-grandchildren have worked in Glen Floors.

Jane Rodier, one of Fred's daughters,

started working at Glen Floors in 1998 as its bookkeeper to help her sister, Carol Nelson, but she helped years before at the business when she was child with filing. And Rodier's two sons had worked as a sales associate and an installer for the store. "We were all involved at one point in our lives," Rodier said.

Out of Fred's 17 children, Jerry Capobi-

She is hoping that the U.S. government will create a temporary visa so Ukrainian refugees can come and live with their families. "They should be able to work and pay taxes until there is no war and they can go back home," Semenkova said. "We aren't asking for taxpayers to pay for my family's stay. We will support them with everything they need."

Suozzi said the existing visa requirements are a "quirk in the law," and added that the situation in Ukraine is unique, and that refugees should receive temporary protection status, at the very least.

Deacon Andrew Kornelyuk, of the St. Josaphat monastery, said at the news conference that some of his cousins, an aunt and an uncle are unable to leave Ukraine. He has been able to communicate with them only by texting.

But Kornelyuk remains hopeful for his homeland. "We believe God is more powerful than evil," he said. "I think we will overcome this tyranny. I feel like we need to keep our faith strong."

Semenkova said that in addition to her sister and brother-in-law, her mother's family is also in Ukraine. And the brother of a friend is fighting the Russians.

"It's not just news to us," she said. "It's my heritage being destroyed. I don't sleep well, and when I do, I am constantly waking up to check my phone. My mother sleeps with a phone in her hand."

anco, Bill Capobianco, and Carol Nelson along with Fred's son-in-law Michael Capobianco own the business and live in Glen Cove today. "We really are a main stay in the town," Rodier said.

Thompson started working in the store when she was 20-years-old after looking for a summer job. She said that she enjoyed working for Fred Capobianco and his family because they always encouraged teamwork and a work-life balance. "We all support each other," Rodier said.

"He taught me a lot," Thompson said. "It was more about being honorable and being loyal and family."

The family has been involved within Glen Cove on local committees, organizations, and sponsoring groups such as the Glen Cove Baseball and Softball Association. "They are not just a local business; they are very community-minded people," Thompson said. "They live here, they work here, they raise their families here."

The business has expanded more into fashion forward and higher-end products to fit the community's designing needs. After the recession in 2007, Rodier said the store received more select products allowing it to diversify its clientele to both upper and middle class customers.

"We [offer] tag lined fashion for your floors since 1932 and we really do believe that," Thompson said. "We believe that the flooring is the basis to which you decorate a room."

Glen Floors has full installation services and also offers floor refinishing services.

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## OBITUARIES

### Robert 'Bob' Monahan

Robert 'Bob' Monahan, resident of Dolores, Colorado, formerly of Glen Cove, died on Jan. 6. Monahan grew up in Glen Cove and spent his early years at the beaches on Long Island, as well as participating in local sports. He was in the Glen Cove High School football, basketball, and baseball teams and took part in Glen Cove baseball programs.

Monahan is survived by his wife Sally. Beloved brother of Maureen (Gary), Tommy (Kim), Kevin (Darcy), and Carol (Joe); adored by his stepchildren, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, and friends.

A memorial service will be held in memory of Monahan on March 19 at 3 p.m. at the Glen Cove Anglers Club on 30 Garvies Point Road.

### Virginia H. Hansen

Virginia H. Hansen, 100, longtime resident of Glen Cove, died on Feb. Beloved wife of the late Edward Harold Hansen; loving mother of Marjorie Elise Hansen; adored grandmother of Meredith Sigrid Hansen; cherished great-grandmother of Marcella Noelle Hansen, Thomas Parker Golden-Hansen, Madeleine Ingrid Grace Hansen.

During her teaching career, she started the speech and drama program at Manhasset High School. She was a long time active member of the First Presbyterian Church of Glen Cove.

Throughout her life, she was committed to women's equal rights encompassing educational and employment opportunities for women and worked to promote pay equity. Her family will miss her forever. Visitation was at the Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Service was at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Interment on Monday at Hillside Rural Cemetery.

### Efrosinia Destanko

Efrosinia Destanko, 89, of Ozone Park and formerly of Glen Cove, died on

March 12. Beloved wife of the late Alexander. Loving mother of Paul, Tamara and the late Michael. Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home of Glen Cove. Funeral Service and interment was at the Holy Trinity Monastery in Jordanville, N.Y.

### Nancy Piasio

Nancy Piasio, 91, of Locust Valley, died on Feb. 20. Beloved wife of the late Alfred R.; loving mother of Mark M.D. (Paula), Mary Beth Murphy (Robert), Stephen (Joan), Kenneth (Barbara), Wayne, Lisa Townley (Kenneth) and Christine Bogan (Todd); dear sister of Lucille Coluccio (Joseph) and the Late Carmine Aiello (Dorothy). Cherished grandmother of 19; adored great-grandmother of four. Visitation was private at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Mass was at Church of St. Paul the Apostle. Burial private. Donations may be made to St. Francis Hospital.

### Ralph A. Panetta

Ralph A. Panetta, 100, of Locust Valley, died on March 1. Beloved husband of the late Sadie; loving father of Ralph (Susan), Frank (Susan) and Anthony (Susan); dear brother of Joe (the late Lynda), the late Michael (Nancy) and the late Tony. Proud grandfather of Mandy, Brad, Matthew, Suzanne and Justin; great-grandfather of Ashley, Anthony, Andrew, Meghan, Lea and Lily. Visitation was at Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home. Mass was at the Church of St. Rocco. Interment at Holy Rood Cemetery.

### Obituary Notices

Obituary notices can be submitted by individuals as well as local funeral establishments. 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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## HERALD PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing shall be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, amending Chapter 180 Landmarks Preservation, of the Code of Ordinances.  
All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard.  
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LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing shall be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, to discuss establishing a fee schedule for hourly electric vehicle charging fees.  
All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard.  
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LEGAL NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Public Hearing shall be held on Tuesday, March 22, 2022 at 7:30 p.m. in the Council Chambers of Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen Street, Glen Cove, New York, to discuss adding Section 265-32.2: Municipally Managed Electric Vehicle Charging Station to the Code of Ordinances.  
All interested parties will be given an opportunity to be heard.  
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## THE GREAT BOOK GURU

### A medieval matriarch

Dear Great Book Guru,  
We were at the Metropolitan Bistro recently for the Coalition To Save Hempstead Harbor's annual Pub Crawl. What fun it was seeing so many friends enjoying the evening. While we were there, someone mentioned a new novel set in medieval times about a revolutionary, semi-historical woman who was a remarkable force for good. Any thoughts?  
—Enthusiastic Coalition Supporter



ANN  
DIPIETRO

Dear Enthusiastic Coalition Supporter,

Yes, indeed. "Matrix," by Lauren Groff, is a National Book prize finalist and was on Barak Obama's top 10 book list of 2021. Set in 12th century France and England, this short novel (272 pages) tells the story of Marie de France – half-sister to Queen Eleanor of Aquitaine. Little is known of the life of this mystic/poet so Groff is free to embellish and embellish she does.

Very tall and physically unattractive, Marie is deemed unmarriageable and assigned by Eleanor to an abbey where she is to become a nun and eventually its prioress. When she arrives at the convent, she finds a handful of impoverished, starving nuns who have been left to live in squalor. After a short time lamenting her fate, she begins a campaign to enrich the lives of these women in her care. Her talents are extraordinary and soon the abbey is a bustling, thriving place where men are banned.

There is a strong feminist message throughout the novel as we watch this young woman grow in strength and reputation. By the book's conclusion, Marie has lived a long life, "not of goodness but of greatness." A powerful story and recommended!

Would you like to ask the Great Book Guru for a book suggestion? Contact her at [annmdipietro@gmail.com](mailto:annmdipietro@gmail.com).

## eLEVate the Conversation

### Readings and railroads

It is 9:45 p.m. After a typical week of "one hour here, one hour there" moments to review student online assignments, the night's darkness and relative quiet is encouraging me to sit at the dining room table, to review more assignments. They are due no later than 11:59 p.m.

This is an atypical approach for me, but across the Wi-Fi it almost feels like I am in real time/direct contact with these procrastinators. Some are sending last minute emails, others are uploading assignments minute to minute in this last two plus hours. And I am balancing the stillness of the evening by awaiting a call from my son who will tell us the time of his anticipated eastbound train as he heads home from Penn Station prior to 11:59 p.m. that night as well.

I try to keep my mind as free as I can of the latest news reports and safety concerns New Yorkers are facing and busy myself with the student reviews of a film they screened on the portrayal of women in advertising. Ironically, this is distressing too, considering how ads have not just resulted in negative stereotyping but have also promoted violence against women in the past. The students

point out that today's messages may not be as overt as a decade ago but are just as pervasive.

It's just not an upbeat night.

It is nearing 11 p.m. and the last of the conscientious students submissions are trickling in – with a mere 59 minutes to go. My son calls with the good news: he is on route and will call again when the train arrives in Jamaica. I breathe a sigh of relief. And since reading is going longer than expected, my husband heads out after the "Jamaica" call to be on time for the train's local arrival.

When the key turns and the front door opens, the Lev men find me still reading at

the table.

"What are you doing up so late?" my son asks.

"Just doing some 'class work,'" I say, leaving out a few details with my explanation.

A contributing writer since 2012, Lev is an East Meadow resident and a direct marketing/advertising executive who teaches marketing communications courses at FIT.



LAUREN LEV

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## OPINIONS

# Let's have more cats in the White House

If it were up to me, every president would be required to have a cat in the White House.

The Bidens have dogs — Commander, a 4-month-old purebred German shepherd puppy, and Major, who was shipped back to the family home in Delaware after some unfortunate encounters with the White House staff.



**JAMES  
BERNSTEIN**

But the first family finally adopted a cat at the end of January — Willow, a green-eyed tabby. Jill Biden fell in love with the feline after it jumped up on a stage during a speech she was giving. She named the cat after her

hometown, Willow, Pa.

Dogs are fixtures at the White House. One famous pooch was Checkers, Nixon's cocker spaniel, whose name he evoked to gain sympathy in a famous speech in 1952 to save his spot on the Republican ticket. Nixon had been accused of improprieties relating to a fund established by his backers to reim-

burse him for his political expenses. His speech worked, and he became Dwight Eisenhower's vice president for two terms.

Checkers is buried in a pet cemetery in Wantagh.

Going back further, Franklin Roosevelt had his Fala, a Scottie; John F. Kennedy was given Pushinka, the daughter of Strelka, who had traveled into space aboard the Soviet spacecraft Sputnik, as a gift by then Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev. The Clintons had Buddy, a chocolate Labrador, and the Obamas had Bo, a Portuguese water dog.

It seems almost expected that the president will have a dog. Not so much a cat, at least not so publicly. Perhaps this is because all of our presidents so far have been men, and men are supposed to love dogs and not necessarily cats, silly as this may sound. And maybe because dogs are still considered a part of the American dream, along with the white picket fence and the station wagon (now an SUV).

But to be sure, some of our greatest presidents had cats. One of my favorites, Abraham Lincoln, doted on cats. Lincoln

left his dog, Fido, home in Springfield, Ill., when he was elected. He was given two cats by Secretary of State William Seward. He fed them from the expensive White House china. His wife, Mary Todd, disapproved, but Lincoln, who had no

love for his predecessor James Buchanan, who did little if anything to stop the rise of the Confederacy, said, "If the gold fork was good enough for former President James Buchanan, I think it is good enough for Tabby."

Lincoln was so enamored of cats, the story goes, that his attention was distracted by meowing at Gen. Ulysses S. Grant's headquarters in City Point, Va.,

during the Civil War Battle of Petersburg in March 1865, weeks before the president was assassinated.

There were other first felines. Teddy Roosevelt had a six-toed cat, Slippers, who was often spotted in the kitchen. Herbert Hoover's Persian, Kitty, roamed the floors of the White House.

The Coolidges owned Tiger, Blacky, Bounder, Timmie and even a bobcat named Smoky.

Clinton's daughter, Chelsea, had

Socks. Socks had a song, a book and a website that was all about him. He was important at the White House. The president once became enraged at the White House press corps when camera crews enticed Socks to come closer by offering him cat food.

But Socks never got along too well with Buddy the Lab, and eventually found a home with Clinton's secretary, Betty Currie.

According to presidential historians, only two of the nation's chief executives — James K. Polk and Donald J. Trump — had no pets in the White House. Polk, who was only 49 when he was inaugurated in 1845, was viewed as ultra-serious, and busied himself with annexing a bunch of states during his time in office. When asked about his petless presidency, Polk responded, "No president who performs his duty faithfully can have any leisure."

We can all think of a few presidents who would disagree.

Can we imagine a future presidential candidate whose platform would include welcoming a cat in the White House? Such a pledge would be purrrfect!

*Jim Bernstein is the editor of the Long Beach Herald. Comments about this column? [JBernstein@liherald.com](mailto:JBernstein@liherald.com).*

# War in Ukraine evokes banality of evil

Suddenly, a weekly newspaper seems just the right place to be talking about a war unfolding in real time. As I wrote last week, the minute-to-minute news of the unprovoked invasion of Ukraine leaves us feeling both horrified and helpless. We are thousands of miles away, but the



**RANDI  
KREISS**

war can feel as close as the devices in our pockets pinging out the latest news.

Writing week to week offers some perspective. As a woman born just after World War II, I am seeing this time with some distance and even hope. I believe that some-

how, the killing will stop, and the world will turn again.

Born in 1947, I have been a witness to the history of the Korean War (my dad was drafted), the Prague Spring, the Troubles in Northern Ireland, the Vietnam War, the Six-Day War in Israel, the Iraq War, the 2013 uprisings in Egypt, the brief flame of democracy in Tiananmen Square, the Afghan War, the brutal wars in Rwanda and Congo, the uprisings in Cuba and Central America.

As we watch the Ukraine invasion, the wide-angle lens offers more hope than the micro view, which is excruciating. Just a few minutes ago, the media broadcast the most recent atrocity: Russian bombs destroyed a children's hospital, burying an unknown number of children and maternity patients. This morning, the nuclear reactor at Chernobyl lost power, threatening radiation leaks, according to Ukraine authorities.

The images of war are iconic, and we have seen them before. It is the knowledge that we have been here and done that and will likely be here again that is a discouraging commentary on humanity's inability to live in peace.

I saw a photo of parents putting young children on trains to neighboring Poland, mothers and fathers with hands pressed to the hands of the sons and daughters inside, saying goodbye. We have seen this before, too, when parents in Nazi-occupied European countries sent their children off in the arms of strangers.

War has its own language, its own imagery. There is a banality to the deaths and separations and loss. We get

24/7 news streaming live from the foreign correspondents who report from the ground war as bombs explode in the background. Their work also has precedent. It was the reporters on the ground in Vietnam, like the young Dan Rather, who broadcast the truth of the conflict home to America, even as our leaders were betting on the fog of war to garner support for a wrong-minded intervention.

I saw images yesterday of thousands of people sheltering in subway stations or the basements of buildings night after night as Russian bombs flattened their cities. That made me think of the Blitz in London, when Nazi planes flew overhead every night for 57 nights, destroying buildings while people took shelter in the city's Underground.

A few days ago, The New York Times ran a front-page photo of a family hit by shrapnel as they ran down a street in Ukraine. Two children lay there dead on the sidewalk. You can see the blood on their heads and clothes. I couldn't help but remember the 1972 Vietnam War photo of a naked 9-year-old girl running from a napalm attack. At the time, readers questioned the ethics and taste of

publishing such a shocking and intrusive photograph. I thought about that when I saw the dead children on the front page of The Times.

The reporters on the ground in Ukraine are covering another war phenomenon: the displacement of more than 2 million people, fleeing the fighting. The big wars in my time have produced massive migrations, and this war, too, will destabilize the lives of all the neighboring countries. The refugees have no idea when or how they might return. How shameful that this displacement has become almost a cliché over the course of human history.

We all want to help. Every agency needs money and, according to NBC, the best way to find a reliable charity is through websites like Charity Navigator or CharityWatch, which evaluate and track charitable organizations.

The war in Ukraine is like many others in its images of bombed-out buildings and traumatized families. It is unique, sadly, for those caught in the fighting, whose lives are irreparably changed. It has also become a moment for us Americans to remember who stands with us in support of democracy, and who wears the face of calculated aggression.

*Copyright 2022 Randi Kreiss. Randi can be reached at [randik3@aol.com](mailto:randik3@aol.com).*

**H**OW shameful that it has become almost a cliché in human history.

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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## As gas prices rise, our confidence plummets

**R**emember when gasoline cost just \$2.84 per gallon? That might seem like a lifetime ago, now that drivers are finding prices closing in on \$5 for regular. But believe it or not, it was just a year ago.

It may be impossible at times to think beyond our own family budgets when it comes to skyrocketing fuel costs, but the cost at the gas pump affects everything around us that isn't sourced and produced in our own backyard. And that's pretty much everything — groceries, clothes, medicine, even this newspaper. If even a single drop of gasoline is needed to get a product from where it's created to your front door, expect the cost of that product to jump.

We haven't seen a surge in gas prices like this since 2008, when the tail end of a decade-long energy crisis spiked the cost per gallon by more than 35 percent over the previous year, according to the U.S. Energy Information Administration.

Something needs to give, and soon. Democrats in the Nassau County Legislature want to provide a little bit of help by suspending the gasoline sales tax here. That's a 4.25 percent levy, which last year amounted to 12 cents per gallon, but is now up to 19 cents. A savings of \$2 to \$3 per fill-up might not seem like a lot, but that would add up.

Sure, Nassau would lose money under

that proposal, but the county has been making at least an extra nickel per gallon over the last several months, so it could still finish ahead.

Lawmakers in Albany want to take it a step further by suspending state gas taxes. That would be a heftier savings — nearly 48 cents per gallon. But unlike Nassau, the state hasn't made any extra money during the gas price surge, because its taxes are flat, not a percentage. The state took 48 cents out of every \$2.84 gallon of gas purchased a year ago, and is taking 48 cents out of every \$4.47 gallon of gas purchased today.

That money — more than \$1 billion a year — goes toward maintaining our highways and bridges, and provides hundreds of millions of dollars to the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. There was no windfall there, and so any losses, as Gov. Kathy Hochul has pointed out, could have devastating effects on New York's already stressed infrastructure.

If Nassau were to indeed suspend its sales tax, and if Congress temporarily slashed federal taxes — which account for more than 18 cents per gallon — gas prices could fall nearly 10 percent. That is, if other factors don't keep pushing those prices higher.

Congress doesn't appear ready to do much of anything, and neither does the Republican majority in the County Legis-

lature. County Executive Bruce Blakeman even went so far as to blame America's dependence on foreign oil as the key cause of the crisis, and to push for the reopening of the controversial Keystone XL pipeline.

Yet only 20 percent of the oil consumed in America is imported, and most of that comes from Canada. Before Russia invaded Ukraine, its oil accounted for just 2 percent of the American supply. It's not our dependence on Russian oil, but instead the dependence of other countries — especially European ones — that drives up price.

America already exports more oil than it imports, according to the Energy Information Administration. So it's really unclear how much of an impact opening more domestic sources would have. And when it comes to Keystone XL, it was designed to transport Canadian oil to the U.S.

There could be some light at the end of the tunnel. After gasoline prices jumped to more than \$3 per gallon in 2008, the average price plummeted to \$1.84 the following year, according to the EIA. But credit the Great Recession for that.

Another severe recession would be the worst way to solve this crisis. But if our elected leaders don't come together and act soon, an economic crash is most assuredly in our future.

## LETTERS

### Randi's out of line

To the Editor:

Re Randi Kreiss's column "A nation divided by pandemic, or splintered?" (Feb. 17-23): Kreiss calls people "stupid," and she characterizes people who like Trump as being "ignorant of science" and as people who put politics over all else.

That is disrespectful, and unprofessional.

She seems to be obsessed with attacking former President Trump rather than just pointing out his faults with respect. She calls him a "cancer." She then attacks GOP officeholders as people who are "willing to traffic in lies to keep power."

Then Kreiss proceeds to attack eight Republicans by name, and she refers to them as "reprehensible," calling one a "nut" and Trump's metastasis. This is clearly not respectable disagreement. It is literary political hostility toward Trump and Republicans, and it is unprofessional.

She calls the Republicans "a heartless group" who cruelly use the uninformed and vulnerable, and who are stepping over dead bodies in their rush toward 2024. It was clearly a political hit piece.



## OPINIONS

# Hempstead Town could have locked in lower energy prices

**A**cross the USA, headlines cite skyrocketing energy costs and the strain they are putting on American families. Here on Long Island, homeowners and businesses are feeling pain in their wallets not felt for years.

In 2019, when I was Hempstead town supervisor, I spearheaded an energy program that today would be collectively saving town residents millions of dollars on their energy bills. It would have been the first such program on Long Island, and if it had moved forward, participating residents' and businesses' utility bills town would now be 50 percent lower, according to published National Grid rates.

Sure enough, the Town of Brookhaven just implemented the program, and I applaud Supervisor Ed Romaine and the town board for their leadership. But the Hempstead Town Board killed the program in 2019, without explanation and without reason in a move that demonstrated a callous disregard for town taxpayers.

While I was supervisor, I learned

about a program called "Community Choice Aggregation," which allows municipalities to enter the marketplace to collectively negotiate for better energy costs for their residents and businesses. The theory is that thousands of residents' bargaining power exceeds that of any individual. The program is strictly regulated by the state Department of Public Service to ensure that residents are protected, and the program only moves forward if there are demonstrable savings.

There is a regulated process: A municipality must first pass enabling legislation to allow it to seek vendors. After that, it does so by way of a bidding process. Once a vendor is chosen, a second resolution, awarding a contract, must be passed. Then the vendor negotiates on behalf of the municipality, obtaining the best rates and, with a third resolution, the municipality approves a contract for residents at those rates. There are strict notice requirements and opt-out options to protect residents.

In August 2019, I offered the first resolution to begin the process. The Long Island Association, the LiiNCS, multiple civic associations and residents voiced their support for it and the Town Board passed it. The project went out to bid to, and after a bipartisan review process, a

vendor was selected.

At a Town Board meeting that December, I put forward a resolution to award the contract so the selected vendor could begin negotiating with utility providers. But a motion was made to table the proposal.

"I urge my colleagues to change their minds," I pleaded, "because we have the opportunity right now to deliver some savings to our residents in this town. And this will only move forward if residents save money, and if we delay this, there is very little chance that any resident will be able to save money this season."

Nevertheless, every councilmember voted to table the item, and stopped Community Choice Aggregation from moving forward.

Had the resolution passed that December, the vendor would have had a generous 90-day window to negotiate rates, a period that would have stretched from January or February to April or May 2020. That March, coronavirus shutdowns caused the price of energy to plummet. Energy was trading at such historic lows that town residents could have gotten rates on natural gas not seen in roughly a decade.

National Grid records show that the average price for natural gas in March

2020 was 39.1 cents per therm, and in April, 34 cents. The town could have locked in a fixed rate in this range — and likely a bit lower — for years. The average price per therm last month was 72.4 cents — roughly double.

Skyrocketing costs are painful to all, and crippling to those on fixed incomes. There was zero risk in moving forward with this program, only a potential upside — and residents would now be saving 50 percent on their National Grid bills.

I urged incoming supervisor Don Clavin to take up the program after I departed Town Hall, but he and the board have taken no action to move it. My deputy visited other municipalities to urge them to explore Community Choice Aggregation in the hope that that might pressure Hempstead. Brookhaven is moving on the program, and other municipalities aren't far behind. The sensible voices of those who actually serve residents need to prevail in Hempstead and across New York state. The alarming headlines about energy prices continue, and constituents would be wise to demand that those in office move this program forward when rates are favorable.

*Laura A. Gillen, who served as Hempstead town supervisor from 2018 to 2021, is a candidate for the U.S. House of Representatives in New York's 4th Congressional District.*

**S**ure enough, the Town of Brookhaven just implemented a program I proposed.



**LAURA A. GILLEN**

## LETTERS

This is not the first or only time that Kreiss has written a scathing anti-Republican/Trump column in the Herald. ("Is it fair to ban Trump from social media?" July 8-14, 2021.)

DAN MONK SR.  
*Freeport*

## In Nassau, we'll say no to 'Don't Say Gay'

To the Editor:

Recently, a so-called "Don't Say Gay" bill, which would ban teachers from talking about sexual orientation or gender identity in primary schools, was introduced in the Florida state legislature. The measure would also allow parents to sue school districts if they think a violation occurred.

A lead sponsor of this measure filed an amendment in February to require schools to inform parents within six weeks of learning that a student identifies as LGBTQ+. The amendment allows for no exemption in cases where there is a reason to believe outing the student would result in abuse, neglect or abandonment.

As a committed ally of the LGBTQ+ community, I am disgusted by every wrinkle of this abusive proposal, which is nothing short of an act of state-sanctioned cruelty directed at America's marginalized, vulnerable youth. I am horrified by the strong likelihood that it will pass and be signed into law.

The Florida bill is part of a nationwide assault that has reached more than a dozen statehouses, and I am not so naïve to think that this fight could not arrive at our doorstep at some point in the future. That's why I'm continuing the fight to enshrine county-level protections focused on gender identity in our human rights law and am preparing legislation to create an LGBTQ+ Advisory Board to investigate challenges the community faces here in Nassau County so that we can implement solutions.

At a time when the LGBTQ+ community is under attack across America, I am committed to doing all I can to elevate Nassau County as a beacon of acceptance and affirmation.

ARNOLD W. DRUCKER  
*Plainview*

*Nassau County Legislator, 16th District*

## FRAMEWORK by Christina Daly



At the Milleridge Inn, the color of the week — Jericho

# **KEEP NORTH SHORE STRONG!**

Don't Mess With Success...



## **HIGH ACHIEVING ACADEMICS**

North Shore High School students had the **SECOND HIGHEST** passing rates per senior on AP/IB exams of all schools on Long Island in Spring 2021 (per Newsday data).



## **OUTSTANDING SPORTS TEAMS**

North Shore High School has already won **SIX CONFERENCE/COUNTY** titles this school year!



## **TOP-NOTCH LANGUAGE PROGRAMS**

North Shore offers **FIVE** world languages, starting with Mandarin in Kindergarten (plus Spanish in Kindergarten starting in Fall 2022). Most elementary schools offer no language instruction.

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Support Our Schools  
Support Our Community**

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