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**North Shore
beach cleanup**
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**Remembering
Irene Poulos**
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Roksana Amid/Herald

THE HISPANIC CHAMBER of Commerce celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by welcoming new members, who are networking to establish stronger relationships in the North Shore community.

Hispanic Chamber of Commerce celebrates its heritage

By **ROKSANA AMID**
ramid@liherald.com

The North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce celebrated Hispanic Heritage Month by focusing on what unites the diverse Latino and Hispanic communities, rather than what divides them.

As part of the Sept. 15 celebration at The View Grill, Hispanic Chamber President Ever Padilla led the organization in singing

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

County delivers funds to combat opioid addiction

By **WILL SHEELINE**
wsheeline@liherald.com

Nassau County has nearly \$70 million collecting a little dust in a bank account — but not for long. County Executive Bruce Blakeman has earmarked \$2.5 million for opioid addiction treatment, and local hospitals, clinics and other community organizations should expect millions more.

“We are committed to make sure that all of the money goes toward the three goals that the money was provided for,” Blakeman told reporters last week. “That is prevention, education and treatment.”

The money was part of a \$26

billion national settlement with opioid distributors in February — AmerisourceBergen, Cardinal Health and McKesson — as well as Johnson & Johnson, for what has been alleged as their role in creating the opioid addiction epidemic in the first place.

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services officially declared a public health emergency in 2017 — the same year more than 600 people on Long Island died of opioid overdoses, according to a 2019 report from the Fiscal Policy Institute.

The \$70 million represents roughly 7 percent of the funds allocated to New York intended specifically for Nassau County, first hammered out more than a

I’m so glad that these opioid companies are finally being held responsible for what they’ve done to our kids.

DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON
Nassau County legislator

year ago.

The money, Blakeman said, will go a long way toward reducing the strain on health care providers and addiction specialists. The county is already working on spending another \$15 million

— something the county executive said he hoped could be an annual disbursement to help combat the opioid epidemic.

But although there is still a lot of money left, Blakeman said his administration was working slowly and carefully to ensure that all funds go where they’re needed.

Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, representing the county’s minority

caucus, emphasized the historic importance of the funding, but said she hoped Blakeman and Republicans might move faster to get the \$70 million distributed to those who need it most.

“I’m so glad that these opioid companies are finally being held responsible for what they’ve done to our kids,” DeRiggi-Whitton said. “In my opinion, I support (Blakeman) for being care-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6

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Roksana Amid/Herald

BEFORE THEY WERE invited to dance to traditional Hispanic and Latino music, new chamber members like Angie Najera introduced themselves and their businesses.

Hispanic Chamber welcomes new members

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

the national anthems of countries that had gained their independence and encouraged attendees to dance to diverse traditional Latin and Hispanic songs.

The Hispanic Chamber serves and connects the Hispanic community while helping small businesses and to empower the economy of Hispanic businesses on Long Island's North Shore.

Padilla, a native of El Salvador, formed a Hispanic chamber when he discovered that Glen Cove's Latino population had increased by more than 25 percent since 2010, according to the United States Census Bureau.

There were businesses operated by, or catering to immigrants, but Padilla found language and cultural differences created a barrier between business owners and the usual resources and organizations that were supposed to help them. He decided a Hispanic Chamber of Commerce would appeal to those businesses and connect them with the help they needed.

Padilla said that since the creation of the Hispanic chamber, organizations like the Gold Coast Business Association, the Kiwanis Club and the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce have reached out to the Hispanic chamber to collaborate on projects such as food drives.

"I think right now we are in the best position we have ever been in as a Spanish community because we are integrated with the English-speaking community," said Padilla.

National Hispanic Heritage Month is celebrated from Sept. 15 through Oct. 15 recognizing the contributions and influences of Hispanic Americans to the history, culture, and achievements of the United States. The month also celebrates Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua, who all gained their independence on Sept. 15.

Meanwhile, Mexico celebrates its Independence Day on Sept. 16, followed by Chile's Independence Day on Sept. 18. It spans between two months to encompass Columbus Day, or Dia de la Raza, "Race Day," which falls on Oct. 12, and recogniz-

es the cultural fusion of indigenous America and Spanish heritage.

For many new members like Huntington resident Jasmine Rivero, this was the first-time networking with business owners on the North Shore. Rivero, owner of Creative Enrichment Services, came to the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce to meet professionals so that she can assist students who are struggling in the community.

Rivero's business serves as an academic resource and success program for Spanish-speaking students. Rivero, a first-generation Cuban on her father's side, understands the struggles many students face. Her grandfather was removed from school for behavioral issues and a lack of resources.

Her experience as a former bilingual kindergarten teacher at Glen Cove's Deasy Elementary led to the creation of her 10-week program, which focuses on providing Spanish speaking students with the tools they need to reach personal and academic goals. It helps students become more active in their communities, and helps to find non-academic alternatives after high school if needed.

"Academics are important, but the kids who don't want to go to college, the ones where school isn't working out for them, they're building community relationships and getting internships in trade," Rivero said.

She wants students to have a clear path after graduation, and be part of businesses in their own communities.

The Hispanic chamber doesn't limit membership by location. Islip Terrace residents Johnnie Najera and his wife Angie Najera joined the chamber to network with Hispanic businesses for their recently incorporated nonprofit organization Wings of Hope.

"Our vision is to serve between corporations and communities to help organize grants and fundraisers," Johnnie said.

Wings of Hope which incorporated this year, hosted a back-to-school backpack giveaway on Aug. 28, where more than 450 backpacks were distributed to students in need.

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Will Sheeline/Herald photos

JASPER, A DIAMONDBACK terrapin, was there as an example of the importance of protecting local wildlife. Amar, above left, Asha, Vee and Shay Jhaveri cleaned Tappen Beach.

Young, old, and those in between clean beaches

By **WILL SHEELINE**

wsheeline@iherald.com

Members of the community gathered on the morning of Sept. 17 to help keep their beaches cleaner and safer for the local wildlife. 115 Hempstead Harbor residents participated in “Coastal Cleanup,” sponsored by the Coalition of Hempstead Harbor to mark International Coastal Cleanup Day. The coalition’s efforts were also directed at gathering information to help scientists.

Residents and environmental activists gathered at Sea Cliff and Tappen beaches, as well as Town of North Hempstead Beach Park and Morgan Park Beach, to take out the trash.

The garbage included everything from cans, plastic wrappers and even tires, but they found by far the most common piece of trash on the beach were cigarette butts, which are the most abundant form of plastic waste in the world.

Carol DiPaolo, the Coalition’s water-monitoring coordinator, said the coastal cleanup has been held since 1992 as part of the International Coastal Cleanup, a program of the Ocean Conservancy, a non-profit environmental advocacy group that helps formulate ocean and water policy.

The International Coastal Cleanup has helped remove more than 348 million pounds of trash from beaches worldwide.

DiPaolo emphasized that this was the first time that they’d managed to garner enough support from the wider Hempstead Harbor community to be able to have a cleanup covering both sides of the harbor.

“We contacted all of the municipalities who were totally supportive, and reached out to other organizations,” DiPaolo said. “It’s all new, not knowing how people are going to be distributed around the harbor. Usually there are big crowds here, so now we’re all over for a longer time, so we’ll see how it goes.”

The coalition worked with numerous other organizations to get the event running smoothly, including Sea Cliff’s Environmental Conservation Commission. The congregation of Tifereth Israel of Glen Cove led the cleanup at Morgan Park Beach, while environmental group Transition Town Port Washington organized the work at Town of North Hempstead Beach Park.

Volunteers for Wildlife, a wildlife hospital and education center based in Locust Valley, also partnered with the Coalition for the beach cleanup. It had a tent at Tappen Beach where they answered questions about wildlife and the threat littering and trash pose. Sheila Doolan, one of the volunteers from the organization, explained that their goal is to help injured animals, and that the beach cleanup would go a long way towards preventing animal inju-

ries.

“We get upwards of 3,000 animals a year at our facility,” Doolan said. “We use the animals in our care who are non-releasable, so we use them to go out to schools and libraries and places like this where we can let people know that these are the animals we want to care for, and one of the ways we can do that is cleaning up our beaches.”

Jasper, a diamondback terrapin native to the Northeastern United States, was the animal they brought with them to the beach that day.

Since she is too old to learn how to survive, Jasper instead provided interested children and volunteers an opportunity to learn a bit more about the animals that call Long Island home.

The gloved volunteers spent three hours picking up 375 pounds of trash across all four beaches, gathering data as they did.

Lisa Cashman, the Coalition’s Associate Director, explained that the information then goes to the American Littoral Society, and from there to the Ocean Conservancy, so that they can ultimately help make national and statewide policy changes to ensure local beaches, the Sound and the ocean, stay clean for the next generations.

“It’s more than just picking up our trash,” Cashman emphasized, “it really is a chance to catalogue and take a look at what’s going on in our ecosystem.”



LISA LONIGRO, RIGHT, and her daughter Willow collected a bucketful of trash in the Coalition to Save Hempstead Harbor’s Coastal Cleanup.

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HERALD



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.

A new school year, more Covid challenges

BY JILL NOSSA

...the high school took the
brunt of the storm."
...the high school had more

'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.

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

AVA SOLANGE

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 of

biggie, shoot and edit a music video. She created a video for Armata's song "Gratitude" while vacationing in Southern California, assisting 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 30 minutes of footage for the three-minute song. "I had to look for the best parts of the videos and see what the rhythm of the song," she explained.

Using the drone footage in

CRIME WATCH

Arrests

■ A 20-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested on Sept. 4 for criminal mischief and harassment 2nd degree and menacing 3rd degree on Putnam Avenue.

■ A 35-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested on Sept. 4 for aggravated DWI, DWI and numerous VTL violations on Glen Cove Avenue.

■ A 22-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested on Sept. 6 for criminal contempt 2nd degree on Woolsey Avenue.

■ A 21-year-old Locust Valley male was arrested on Sept. 7 for criminal possession of stolen property 5th degree, unregistered vehicle, improper plates and other VtL violations on Glen Cove Avenue.

■ A 24-year-old Glen Cove male was

arrested on Sept. 8 for criminal possession of a weapon and menacing 2nd degree on school St.

■ A 40-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested on Sept. 8 for assault 3rd degree, obstruction of breathing 2nd degree and act in manner injure child less than 17 on Dogwood Avenue.

■ A 47-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested on Sept. 11 for criminal contempt 2nd degree and harassment 2nd degree on Summit Place.

■ A 25-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested on Sept. 13, one charge each of assault 2nd degree and 3rd degree and criminal possession of a weapon 4th Degree on Alexander Place.

■ A 41-year-old Glen Cove male was arrested on Sept. 14 for assault 3rd degree, obstruction of breath and act in manner injure child less than 17 years old on Landing Road.

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.



Tab Hauser/Herald

And... he's safe!

Danny Neice narrowly missed a tag by Ryan Nardon at second base during the Guns vs. Hoses softball game on Sept. 9 at John Maccarone Memorial Stadium in which the Glen Cove Fire Department beat the Glen Cove Police Department 17-16.

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Church of the Holy Resurrection founder dies

By WILL SHEELINE
wsheeline@liherald.com

When Irene Poulos died on Sept. 1, at age 92, the North Shore Greek Orthodox community lost not only a devoted parishioner, loving wife and mother, and cheerful neighbor, but an important figure in its communal history as well. Poulos, of Bayville, along with her husband and several friends and area residents, played an integral part in the creation of the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Resurrection in Brookville in 1976.

Poulos was born Irene Chakirsy in Paterson, New Jersey, in 1930, but was raised mostly in Astoria, Queens. Her parents were Greek immigrants from the region around what is now Istanbul, Turkey.

Poulos's family was in the beauty industry, and she and her five siblings — two brothers and three sisters — worked at her brothers' salon on Main Avenue in Flushing, the Beauty Nook. At a convention for hairdressers in the 1950s, Irene met her future husband, James Poulos, another Greek immigrant who also worked in the beauty industry.

They married and had two sons, Spyros and Alexander, and lived in Bayside, Queens, before moving to Bayville in 1969. Spyros, their oldest son, said his parents made the decision to move there because they wanted to give their sons a life as close to the American Dream as they could.

"They really gave us a great childhood, and it was such a great community to grow up in," Spyros said. "We had a normal, great childhood, and a lot of that stability came from the sense of community and sense of family in Bayville."

In addition to providing a good life for her children, Poulos never forgot the importance of maintaining her ancestral religion. In the 1960s and '70s however, the Greek Orthodox community on the North Shore was without a church to

accommodate the growing Greek population in the area.

While many simply bemoaned the lack of a church, Poulos and her husband gathered other like-minded Greek-Americans in the area to work with them to get a church built. Zoe Karousos, of Glen Cove, a good friend of Poulos's, remembered all the planning they did while meeting at the restaurant Souvlaki Place in Bayville.

"We would gather in homes and restaurants and discuss what we needed to do if we were going to have a church," Karousos recalled. "We worked very hard to get where we are. At the time there was no secretary, so we all pitched in to do everything."

Spyros Poulos explained that while his mother was religious, she was first a community-minded and kind person, and her commitment to help creating the first Greek church in the area reflected that. Even later in life, when she suffered from dementia, her son said, she always tried to care for others first.

Her efforts were clearly not in vain. The Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Resurrection had humble beginnings, inspired by conversations over souvlaki, it has come a long way. In the early days, services were held in the Methodist Church of Glen Cove, until they finally were able to get their own facility in 1981.

Since 2005 the congregation has occupied a church in Brookville to accommodate their growing congregation, and today the church boasts over 420 families and has a small church school as well, with 130 students. Poulos's efforts to honor God and bring her community together succeeded, as the church's current priest, the Rev. Pan-teleimon Papadopoulos, attested.

"I think the power which a truly vibrant and active religious community provides for people is really the essence of what we try to do here," Papadopoulos said. "It's really thanks to her that all this is possible."



Courtesy Spyros Poulos

IRENE POULOS, WHO helped build the Greek Orthodox Church of the Holy Resurrection in Brookville, died on Sept. 1.

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Sea Cliff Mini-Mart Inc.

A bipartisan effort to combat opioid addiction

September 22, 2022 – GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM FRONT PAGE

ful. But I also really hope we expedite this as quickly as possible.”

Matthew Bruderman, chair of Nassau University Medical Center’s board of directors, made it clear to reporters last week that time alone hasn’t made the crisis any better in the county, Long Island, or the United States. Without funds like these, hospitals and community health organizations are ill-prepared to deal with the scope of the issue.

“We all know the opioid epidemic and drug addiction is damaging the lives of many people across the country,” Bruderman said. “NUMC is the only hospital on Long Island that has an in-patient detox facility. (Yet), 90 percent of the time, we are at full capacity.”

Nassau County’s new health commissioner, Dr. Irina Gelman, praised the county’s commitment to improving public health, making her job much easier.

“I think this funding will be instrumental in really starting to address the issue at hand, and provide necessary services to our community,” Gelman said. “As the county executive said, this is only the beginning. And I’m definitely looking forward to more to come.”



Will Sheeline/Herald

NASSAU COUNTY EXECUTIVE Bruce Blakeman said he was directing nearly \$2.5 million to opioid addiction treatment centers, part of a total of \$70 million the county received from the historic \$26 billion nationwide settlement with opioid distributors and manufacturers, in an effort to get the opioid addiction crisis under control.

Who’s getting money

The first round of funding intended to fight opioid addiction in Nassau County will be distributed to a number of groups, according to County Executive Bruce Blakeman. Among them are:

- Nassau University Medical Center in East Meadow – \$2 million
- Mercy Hospital in Rockville Centre – \$180,000
- Charles Evans Center of Glen Cove – \$60,000
- Hispanic Counseling Center in Hempstead – \$60,000
- Mental Health Association of Nassau County – \$60,000
- South Shore Child Guidance Center of Freeport – \$60,000
- YES Community Counseling Center in Massapequa – \$60,000

– Will Sheeline

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Recognizing outstanding volunteers for selfless service

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

The names of the recipients of the Phoenix Rising awards were shared at Morgan Memorial Park on Sept. 18. The awards aim to recognize leadership at the James E. Donohue Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347, but also to honor members of the north shore community who did not serve in combat, and those who don't necessarily have veteran status.

As part of their efforts, the Phoenix Rising Foundation recognizes veterans and outstanding community members for their service. Six of the 10 awards are specifically designated to be presented to veterans, with four of the awards for those who support veterans.

The award categories relate to legacy, leadership, community service, volunteer, home front, impact, unity, front runner, honor, and the awareness and remembrance award. The last three awards noted are new categories. The front-runner award pays tribute to an individual or organization that has been a front runner who makes significant efforts in raising funds for veteran causes. The honoring award is for an individual who has focused his or her talents on working to honor veterans. The awareness and remembrance award pays tribute to individuals who have worked to heighten awareness on the rate of suicide among active service members.

The recipient of this year's awareness



Courtesy Raul Aguilar

GAITLEY STEVENSON-MATTHEWS AND Connie Pinilla presented Virginia Cervasio, center, with the awareness and remembrance award, which she accepted in remembrance of her son and Locust Valley native, Angelo Cervasio.

and remembrance award went to Virginia Cervasio, who accepted the award in remembrance of her son and Locust Valley native, Angelo Cervasio.

Angelo was deployed to Operation Southern Watch, which was an air-centric military operation conducted by the United States Department of Defense that monitored and controlled airspace south of the 32nd Parallel in Iraq during the summer of 1992 until the spring of 2003. The then 24-year-old suffered from post-traumatic

stress disorder and committed suicide Jan. 17, 2006.

Virginia started the nonprofit organization Heroes Among Us, which aims to better the lives of veterans after her son's death. She is a supporter and sponsor of the VFW, and frequently donates with funds raised through Heroes Among Us.

Virginia worried that there were not any organizations specifically geared toward veteran well-being, so she established her own organization, realizing there weren't enough resources to help veterans who return home after service.

"It's very important that the community comes together and that we support our veterans because otherwise the alternative is that they may end up like my son," she said.

The recipient of this year's Homefront Award went to Pete Prudente. A local Union 15 operating engineer, he is known around the city as a man who gives his all for others. Prudente said he often wonders why people don't help one another and live together happily.

"So many people are so fractured lately in the world," he said. "Nobody's getting

along."

Prudente is being the change he wants to see in his community, and often extends his services when he sees the need.

He prepares lunch and donates the food for the Glen Cove and Port Washington Veterans of Foreign Wars once a month. He also runs four blood drives in the Glen Cove area each year and donates blood platelets twice a month.

Prudente has become the face of altruism in Glen Cove, an identity that was cemented when he donated a kidney to a stranger in March 2019. At the time, he was only one of 150 living altruistic donors in the entire State of New York.

The James E. Donohue Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 347 headquarters in Glen Cove has been closed since August 2021, when a fire destroyed the second floor of the century-old building on Hill Street. One year later, the veterans are still without a place to officially call home. The cost of repairs has been estimated at \$400,000, but their insurance policy is offering only \$140,000.

The Phoenix Rising Committee, renamed Phoenix Rising Foundation, was created to help the VFW holding their first fundraiser on Feb. 19, which raised over \$20,000. While the foundation is committed to supporting veterans and works with the leadership of VFW Post 347, the committee is a stand-alone, and not a direct part of the post.

The idea for the committee stemmed from Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews and Jeanine DiMenna, who wanted to take their birthday celebration and repurpose it to raise funds for the VFW. Both decided to take the opportunity to pay tribute to veterans across the north shore community and simultaneously support veteran causes.

The concept-name for Phoenix Rising Foundation was inspired by Greek mythology. A discussion within the 10-member executive committee concluded that the name was the best fit given the circumstance of the VFW fire.

"I think of it more literally at this stage of the game," said Matthews. "It is the VFW Post rising from the ashes."



L'Shanah Tovah
- 5783 -
Happy New Year

From the Staff of the
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NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

The Martinez's celebrate 65 years of marriage

Sophie and Vinny Martinez, lifelong residents of Glen Cove, celebrated their 65th wedding anniversary on Sept 1.

They were married in 1957, had two children, Terri and Vinny Jr., and have three grandchildren, Brian, Lauren and Kevin.

Vinny has been a member of the Glen Cove Fire Department for over 60 years and is a former chief.

He is also a member of the Beautification Committee, which empowers individuals to take a greater responsibility and action to enhance their community's environment, and educate others on litter prevention, and how to reduce, reuse or of course, recycle waste materials. The end goal, is to create a healthier, safer and more livable Glen Glove.



Courtesy Martinez family



Courtesy DeThomasis family

Happy birthday Clara!

Clara DeThomasis, a Glen Cove resident since 1953, celebrated her 100th birthday on Sept. 17 at the View.

Family and friends gathered and Mayor Pam Panzenbeck stopped by too to celebrate the centenarian, whose birthday is on Oct. 2.

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A Rosh Hashanah message

Time to look inward

By Rabbi Irwin Huberman

It is a sobering fact that the average life expectancy in the United States these days is about 80 years or about 32,000 days.

What do we do with those days?

For Jews, Rosh Hashanah ushers in a 10-day period of introspection. Unlike the secular new year, our goals are not about physical or material things, but about our souls.

The window between Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur is a time to ask: What am I doing with my life?

The great sage, the Vilna Gaon (1720-1798) taught that the meaning of life is to “make ourselves into something better.”

Rosh Hashanah poses the question – what have we done to improve during the past year?

Are we holding on to grudges or old habits?

Are we obsessed with changing others rather than ourselves?

Judaism proclaims, through prayers, reflection and the sound of the shofar (ram’s horn) that it is time to awaken, time to look inward.

Are we content with who we are?

What is taking excess space in our souls?

How trapped are we in our habits? Can we do better?

In 1960, President Dwight Eisenhower received a gift from the Indian government — a magnificent white Bengal tiger named Mohini, which was housed at the Washington D.C. National Zoo.

For years, Mohini, paced in her pen with iron bars and a cement floor, which measured about 12 feet by 12 feet.

Mohini became so popular that the zoo decided to build an enlarged exhibit which would include trees, and vegetation, and areas of sunshine and shade.

There was great excitement as the exhibit was completed.

As Mohini entered her new home, a big crowd gathered.

And what did Mohini do?

Rather than frolic in her expanded surroundings, she headed straight for the perimeter wall, measured off a space of about 12 by 12 feet, and began pacing in that fixed

space.

And she continued to pace until her death in 1979.

Are we so different?



Rabbi Irwin Huberman

How much life is actually available to us, or are we busy pacing inside enclosures and habits?

Rosh Hashanah provides an opportunity to assess our lives.

We gather for family meals and we dip apples into honey with hopes of a sweet year.

But the High Holidays also provide an opportunity to look inward as we match the lure of pleasures, with the quest for meaning.

More importantly, we ask ourselves, “How can I make myself into something better during the next year?”

What a gift these days are, as we take action to write ourselves into the Book of Life for the upcoming year and beyond.

-Rabbi Irwin Huberman is spiritual leader of Congregation Tifereth Israel in Glen Cove



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STEPPING OUT

The life of a city: 'ONE helluva town'

New York City.

By Karen Bloom

The iconic city never ceases to fascinate. It elicits strong opinions from those who simply can't get enough of the Big Apple, and from the naysayers who prefer to stay away. But one thing's for certain: NYC surely captures our attention.

And throughout the decades it's captured the eye — and lens — of photographers who are enthralled by "the city that never sleeps."

Hofstra University Museum of Art reaches into its vast collection again to continue the fall exhibit season with "New York, New York: Photographs from the Collection."

These 45 photographs capture New York City in its infinite complexity and variety, not only celebrating the city's evocative architecture, but reveling in its everyday streets and signage, authentic faces, and dynamic street scenes.

The black-and-white images were made over a span of 75 years — from 1932 to 2008 — yet are unified through the use of monochrome, creating connections between disparate decades.

While the photographers — including Berenice Abbott, Diane Arbus, Andreas Feininger, Harold Feinstein, Donna Ferrato, Joel Meyerowitz, Dorothy Norman, and Garry Winogrand — are not all native New Yorkers, they are inheritors of this miraculous city, dedicated to seeking its intricacies, grandeur, joy and hardships. Their distinct vision chronicles a city that continually reinvents itself.

"We haven't done an exhibit focusing on photography in some years," says museum director and curator Karen Albert. "This is another opportunity to showcase one of the strengths of our collection."

The exhibit — guest curated by photographer Susannah Ray, a former adjunct Hofstra faculty member — is grouped into four segments. The "Iconic City" examines the skyline and signage, celebrating the city as both a symbol and a place.

"This is the traditional image people have when they think of Manhattan," notes Albert.

"Streetscapes and Signage" is building focused, also including handmade signs and ads that were — and still are — aimed at grabbing the attention of pedestrians rushing from one block to the next. "New York Portraits" is a look at real life, and real people populate the city streets, clubs and living rooms.

Finally, "Street Scenes" offers images of the city, pulling the entire exhibit together. These are what Ray describes as "a quintessential New York photograph, which combines iconic architecture, everyday streets, and idiosyncratic people into one rapidly observed composition: the street photograph. They describe everything that might happen in a given second in New York, and remind the viewer that there is always more happening just around the next corner. The photographers spent lifetimes to craft their visions, returning again and again to photograph this 'helluva town.'"

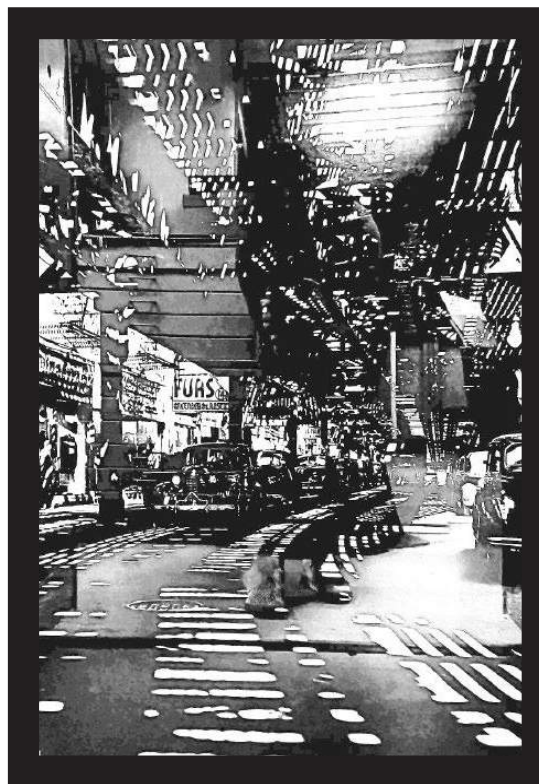
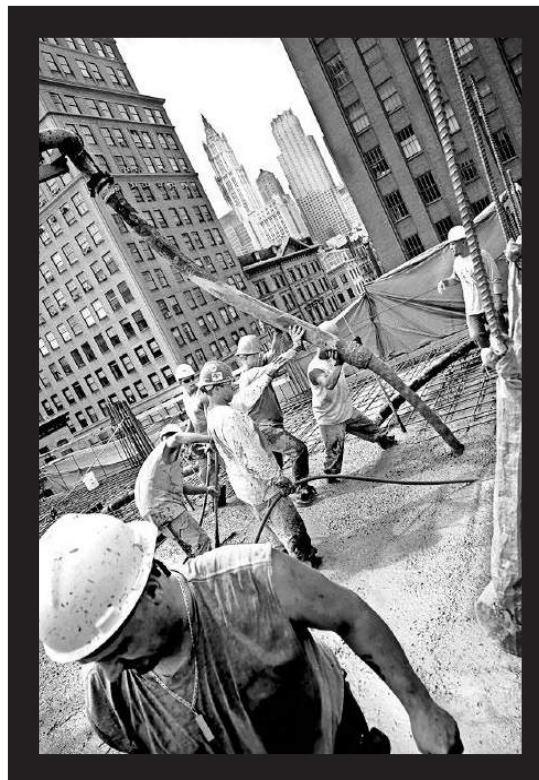
Of note, Albert cites Andreas Feininger's photo of an elevated trestle. "It's a classic image of a New York that doesn't exist anymore, with the lights filling onto the downtown streets below."

Another by Diane Arbus, of a young man in curlers, "is a good representation of Arbus' work seeing people in all aspects of society."

The public is invited to a curator's gallery tour at the Emily Lowe Gallery, Thursday, Oct. 6, at 4 p.m. Ray will share insights about what she selected during the tour.



When: Through Dec. 9
Where: Emily Lowe Gallery, behind Emily Lowe Hall, Hofstra University's South Campus
For more information, and to RSVP for tour, call (516) 463-5672, or visit Hofstra.edu/museum



Top left: Diane Arbus, 'A Young Man in Curlers at Home on West 20th Street, NYC,' 1966, gelatin silver print. It was a gift of Steven Yager.

Top right: Donna Ferrato, '34 Leonard St., formerly Provenzano Garage,' 2007, pigment on fiber print, from the portfolio 'Tribeca.' It was a gift of Susan and Steven Ball.

Bottom: Andreas Feininger, 'Elevated Trestle, Division Street,' c. 1941, gelatin silver print, from the portfolio 'Vintage New York,' 1987. It, too, was a gift of Susan and Steven Ball.



Gangstagrass

Gangstagrass brings together different kinds of American music and creates a whole new category, greater than the sum of the parts. As their latest album, 'No Time For Enemies,' climbed to No. 1 on the Billboard bluegrass chart, Americana Highways magazine proclaimed the Emmy-nominated bluegrass-hip hop ensemble 'America's Band' because they take so much of what's amazing about this country — ingenuity, creativity, freedom, unity across differences, people's individual strength and struggles — and distill it into a message of common ground in the form of original songs that have everyone up and dancing.

Friday, Sept. 23, 8 p.m. \$40, \$35, \$30. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. (516) 767-6444, or LandmarkOnMainStreet.org.



'Guys and Dolls'

Plaza Theatrical opens its fall season with Broadway at its show-stopping best. Hailed by many as the perfect musical comedy, this Tony-winning favorite follows a rowdy bunch of gamblers, gangsters and sassy showgirls in a wild game of chance — then love sneaks in. Set in bustling 1950s Manhattan, the beloved classic features some of Frank Loesser's most memorable tunes, including the hilarious 'Adelaide's Lament,' and the crowd-pleasing classic 'Luck Be a Lady,' along with other favorites, including 'Sit Down, You're Rockin' The Boat.'

Saturday, Sept. 24, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, Sept. 25, 2:30 p.m.; Thursday, Sept. 29, 2 p.m. \$49, \$45 seniors. Elmont Library Theatre, 700 Hempstead Turnpike, Elmont. (516) 599-6870, or PlazaTheatrical.com.

THE \$ SCENE



Sept. 24

The Sixties Show

Step back to the '60s at NYCB Theatre at Westbury, 960 Brush Hollow Rd., Westbury, with the energetic band who bring you their Sixties Show, Saturday, **Sept. 24**, 8 p.m. These dynamic musicians are known for re-creating spot on, note for note re-creations of the hits, B-sides and deep album cuts from the greatest songs of the era that defined a generation. The concert experience includes a full multi-media production with time travel special effects, narration, 60s archival audio and newsreel footage and a light show. For information/tickets, visit TheTheatreAtWestbury.com or LiveNation.com or call (516) 247-5200.

Fight Hunger Fundraiser

Join Giving Back To Community at a fundraising dinner to support community efforts to assist the food insecure, Thursday, **Sept. 29**, 6-10:30 p.m. Proceeds from the event, at The Inn at New Hyde Park, 214 Jericho Tpke., New Hyde Park, will be used to support the opening of a food pantry in Elmont. \$100 ticket includes dinner, entertainment, raffles and giveaways. For information, contact Emilian or Marlene at (516) 612-4000 or visit GivingBackToCommunity.org.



Oyster Bay Market

Come to the Oyster Bay Market in the center of downtown Oyster Bay, 11 a.m.-3 p.m., rain or shine **every other Sunday**. Take part in improving local food security, learning entrepreneurship skills, and support local producers, makers and businesses while enriching the cultural heritage of the community. For further information go to OysterBayMainStreet.org.

Oktoberfest

Head over to American Legion Post 336, located at 190 Glen Head Road in Glen Head, from 5 p.m. to 11 p.m. to take part in their Oktoberfest celebrations. Enjoy live music provided by Chicken Head Rocks from 7 p.m. to 10 p.m. that night, as well as beverages and food throughout. A \$5 donation is required for entry, with a \$20 fee to bring outside coolers. Event will be held rain or shine. Attendees are encouraged to bring chairs and blankets.

Sept. 24

Tai Chi in the Garden

Head over to Planting Fields Arboretum, located at 1395 Planting Fields Road in Oyster Bay, for a unique experience to practice Tai Chi in the garden with certified instructor Peter Landini. This gentle exercise program will help to improve balance, increase blood circulation, relax your mind and body, and increase your energy levels. Attendees are encouraged to bring water and wear clothes that allow for movement. To register head to their website, plantingfields.org.

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SCAN ME



Oct.
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Art talk

Grab your lunch and join Nassau County Museum of

Art Docent Riva Ettus for her popular "Brown Bag Lecture" live, via Zoom, **Thursday, Oct. 13**, 1 p.m. She'll discuss the current exhibition, "Other Worlds than This: The Supernatural in Art." Participants are invited to ask questions at the end of the program. Register at least 24 hours in advance to receive the program Zoom link. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.

Dog Days

Old Westbury Gardens goes to the dogs during its annual fall dog celebration, Saturday and Sunday, **Oct. 24-25**, 10 a.m.-5 p.m. Stroll through the gardens with your furry friend (leashed, of course). There are also activities devoted to man's best friend. Old Westbury Gardens, 71 Old Westbury Rd., Old Westbury. For information visit OldWestburyGardens.org or contact (516) 333-0048.



50 Mile Relay

Greater Long Island Running Club's Ocean to Sound 50 Mile Relay for Survivors of Domestic Violence, presented by PSEG Long Island, will take place on Sunday, **Sept. 25**, 8 a.m.-4 p.m. The northward, winding, 50-mile race begins at Jones Beach and ends at Theodore Roosevelt Memorial Park in Oyster Bay, with a party following. For information, contact (516) 349-7646 or visit GLIRC.org.



Glen Cove Family Fall Festival

Join the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce for the Fall Festival Saturday, **Sept. 24**, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., at Simpkins Park at Garvies Point, adjacent to 300 Herb Hill Rd., in Glen Cove. Visit with local businesses and vendors featured at the event. Free admission for families with bounce houses, games and activities for the kids. Local food vendors will be serving up delicious items for all.

Latin music from around the globe

Head over to the Locust Valley Library, 1170 Buckram Road in Locust Valley, Sunday, **Sept. 25**, for a lecture and performance of Latin music from around the globe with Molloy College Prof. Thomas Rizzuto. Program includes classical flamenco and Latin American folk songs from Mexico, Cuba, Puerto Rico and more. For information, contact the library at (516) 671-1837, or email mvinas@locustvalleylibrary.org.



Author talk

Visit Theodore's Books, for a literary event, Thursday, **Sept. 29**, at 17 Audrey Ave., in Oyster Bay, for an evening with author Clay McLeod Chapman, in partnership with the Syosset Public Library. Chapman discusses and signs copies of his new supernatural horror novel, 'Ghost Eaters'. The event is free and open to the public.



Benefit concert

Enjoy an evening with the Felice Brothers, with special guest Will Lawrence, Saturday, Saturday, **Sept. 24**, 7 p.m. admission; 8 p.m. concert, at RJ Daniels, 279A Sunrise Highway, Rockville Centre. Presented by the Tommy Brull Foundation's Shine A Light Music Series, with all proceeds donated to Mr. B's Inclusive Playground. Tickets are \$35, available at [Eventbrite.com/e/377774843727](https://www.eventbrite.com/e/377774843727).

Having an event?

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

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 PSEG LONG ISLAND

Doeschner begins new role as assistant superintendent

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@iherald.com

For most of her life, a career in education wasn't what Alexa Doeschner had in mind for herself. "I think in my own mind my parents were professors so I didn't really think of their field as what I would want [to do]," said Doeschner.

She would eventually realize that teaching came naturally to her, and that she would find a new home in classroom settings within the Glen Cove City School District.

Born in Romania, Doeschner grew up in Venezuela, her father's birth country, and moved with her family to the United States when she was eight. Her mother taught her how to speak English, which Doeschner said she found difficult. Her experience learning English in her formative years has her identifying strongly with English as a Second Language students.

Doeschner attended St. George School of Medicine in Grenada before returning to the United States where she finished her coursework. It was then that she realized her personal academic expectations weren't being met, when reflecting on her teaching experiences at Columbia University, where she received her bachelors and taught summer chemistry courses.

Doeschner changed her academic trajectory and pursued a New York City teaching fellow in Brooklyn, where she transitioned from working in a cancer research laboratory publishing papers on estrogen receptor expression in breast cancer cells, to earning her masters from Pace University and teaching at Sunset Park High School in Brooklyn.

Doeschner has nine years as a school leader under her belt, seven of which she



Roksana Amid/Herald

ASSISTANT SUPERINTENDENT ALEXA Doeschner has been with the Glen Cove City School District for nine years. She said she's excited to continue helping students reach their full personal and academic potential.

GLEN COVE HERALD - September 22, 2022

has spent at the Glen Cove City School district. Before her recent promotion as the district's assistant superintendent, the 42-year-old served as the assistant principal for Glen Cove High School for two years, district coordinator of science for two years and principal of Landing Elementary School for the past three years.

Doeschner is currently pursuing her doctorate while also working full time for Glen Cove City schools. She has one year

left of her three-year program where she is studying parental involvement on academic success of students from immigrant families, a topic of study that is personal to her. "I want to see how we can increase parental engagement to have more successful students," Doeschner explained.

Jackie Burnett, the current principal of Landing Elementary, said she sees Doeschner as a "utility player," a term once used Michael Israel, a former GCCSD assistant superintendent. Burnett said that since Doeschner has served in so many capacities in the district she has a wide breadth of knowledge.

"I feel like when I'm talking to Alexa she's coming from the perspective of a former administrator," Burnett said.

She said she appreciates all Doeschner's great perspectives because of her experience. Burnett often feels like she can call Doeschner for advice and perspective, citing many changes in the district this year.

"She has a strong vision for our district and for instruction," Burnett said. "I think she represents a true modern instructional leader."

Through her research, Doeschner has become a strong advocate for Appreciative Inquiry learning, a method of teaching that shifts the focus from academic deficits to academic strengths in students for more

individualized based learning. The teaching model looks past standardized test scores, and instead looks at samples of student work, credit accumulation and mental health. Doeschner strongly believes that the best parts of being an educator are the opportunities she has come across to interact with students, and her ability to practice Appreciative Inquiry to individual students. Although most of her years at Landing Elementary were during the pandemic, Doeschner wanted to make sure her students felt supported and happy.

Despite her high academic achievements, Ed Norris, Glen Cove High School's music teacher, said that he's glad to see someone like Doeschner not take herself too seriously. Norris happily recalled a promise Doeschner made to her students at Landing Elementary when she was the principal. She promised students if they passed hourly reading goals, she would sing the opening song from Disney's "Encanto."

Norris also said one of the traits he likes about Doeschner is that she's not afraid to be silly and to have a great time with her students, essentially showing them that she's human too.

"As she takes the reigns of assistant superintendent, I think we're in great hands," Norris said. "People like that, that's who you want to work for."

THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Historical fiction in 'The Lioness'

Dear Great Book Guru,
I belong to a movie discussion group and we focus on older, classic film noir movies. One of our members mentioned that there is a new novel out that covers a myriad of subjects, but the focus is on Hollywood in the 1960's. Does it sound familiar?
—Movie Maven

Dear Movie Maven,

Chris Bohjalian's latest novel is "The Lioness," and it's a great piece of historical fiction and a suspense thriller. Set for the most part in 1964 on the plains of the Serengeti in Tanzania, Hollywood superstar Katie Barstow has just married David Hill and the couple has planned an iconic safari honeymoon with seven guests accompanying them. A luxurious trip has been arranged with all the comforts of home mixed with the wonders of African flora and fauna - giraffes nibbling outside their exquisite

tents, zebras singing them to sleep, gourmet meals served by attentive natives.

Early into the trip, our group of Hollywood denizens are caught up in a political kidnapping gone awry. Each of the party and their tour guides has a story that unfolds in alternating chapters. Their glittering lives back home have done little to prepare them for the nightmarish adventure to come. The events of that time in that part of the world seem far away but reminiscent of an era where movies colored the lives of all. The racism of 1960's Hollywood and the political upheaval in Tanzania eerily mirror each other and the reader is left to reflect on what "civilized" truly means. Recommended!

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



**ANN
DIPIETRO**

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OPINIONS

A history of King Charles not worth repeating

The world continues to mourn the passing of Queen Elizabeth II while welcoming a new sovereign, King Charles III.

Charles waited 70 years to become king since being named the Prince of Wales — the heir apparent to the British throne. That's longer than any other prince or princess in the direct line. And, at 73, he is



**MICHAEL
HINMAN**

the oldest monarch crowned in British history.

Like his mother, Charles chose to keep the name given to him at birth. His grandfather Albert was the last to change his regnal name, choosing George VI to honor his father.

King Charles III is the first Charles on the throne since Charles II, who reigned for 25 years after the restoration of the British monarchy from Oliver Cromwell in 1660.

The United States, of course, has been officially separated from what was once the British Empire since the end of the Revolutionary War in 1783. But I actually lived under the reign of Elizabeth II for two years when I called the small Caribbean island of Grenada home. Although

independent from Britain, too, Grenada is part of the Commonwealth of Nations — 56 former territories that still recognize the British monarch as head of state.

Oddly enough, however, my family has a deeper connection to the throne — that is, if longstanding legend is to be believed.

My great-great-great-great-great-great-great grandfather, Sgt. Edward Hinman, arrived in Boston from England in late 1649, eventually settling in Fairfield County, Connecticut. Although he and many of his descendants would help settle key parts of that colony, Sgt. Hinman rarely talked about his life before he crossed the Atlantic.

One story was popularized in the late 19th century, however, by Connecticut's then-secretary of state, Royal R. Hinman. In a book he published in 1856, Royal claimed that his great-grandfather had actually led the guard tasked with protecting King Charles I, who took the throne in 1624.

If that story is indeed true, my ancestor wasn't exactly a great kingsguard. The reign of Charles I ended abruptly in 1649 when he found himself on the wrong side of an executioner's ax during Cromwell's revolt. But it was that war — and that exe-

cution — that forced Edward to flee England and seek refuge in the colonies.

It's a fascinating story, but one I didn't even know until the coronavirus pandemic. While I've always been fascinated by genealogy, I usually spent my time

researching my mother's side of the family, which has some of its own interesting history. I shied away from my father's because no one in the family ever talked much about it.

I suspected we migrated over in the 19th century, and decided it was time to find out. As I worked my way backward through ancestors, I was shocked to discover that each passing generation was still in America.

Where I once thought I was a third- or maybe fourth-generation American, I am actually a part of the 10th generation of Hinmans here.

I also picked up some other fascinating tidbits along the way. My family moved from Connecticut to Vermont, and from there to western New York, about the same time that Royal Hinman was writing his books.

My great-great grandfather, Franklin Hinman, owned lots of farmland in Ellicottville, now probably best known as a ski resort community just south of Buffa-

lo.

His youngest son — my great-grandfather, born when Franklin was 51 years old — was the postmaster in one of the small communities near Ellicottville. My dad was born and raised just south of there, in Salamanca, on reservation land controlled by the Seneca Nation of New York.

Despite that connection — and the fact that I still have a number of relatives in that part of the state — none of us knew that the land once owned by Franklin is now known as Hinman Valley Wetland Complex, a 100-acre marsh and wet meadow overseen by the state's environmental conservation and transportation departments.

As you're reading this, I'm back home in that part of the region, and I could very well be making my first-ever visit to these lands so closely connected to my family's history.

And I certainly hope for a successful reign of Charles III — something leaps and bounds ahead of the previous sovereigns to take his name.

But if I can make one suggestion to the king: Best to make sure your guard isn't led by a Hinman. There isn't good history there.

Michael Hinman is executive editor of the Herald Community Newspapers. Comments? Execeditor@liherald.com.

If longstanding legend is to be believed, my family has a connection to the throne.

Work for Donald Trump, wind up in handcuffs

Is that the scent of autumn apples in the air? No, I believe that's the smell of subpoenas, dozens of subpoenas served in recent weeks to Trump employees, former employees, White House staff and basically anyone and everyone whose behavior, emails, texts and experiences might help illuminate the dark corners of the former Trump administration.



**RANDI
KREISS**

Who lurks in those dark corners? According to early reports, there are big-time grifters like Steve Bannon, now indicted for fraud, money laundering, conspiracy and scheming in connection with raising money for We Build the Wall

Inc., the former guy's plan to keep out Mexican immigrants.

Bannon, long associated with Trump, ran a media empire, and now he's in handcuffs, awaiting trial. Even a degree from the Harvard Business School didn't make Bannon smart enough to steer clear of Trump.

The Trump curse goes way back. During his tenure, I wrote, "If the White House calls, just hang up. Put down your

phone, run out of your house, change your number and move to a remote town where you can live off the grid for the rest of your life."

Sadly the words were prophetic. Many people would be better off today if they had never been drawn into Trump's orbit.

Ronnie Jackson, the presidential physician from central casting, might have continued to serve presidents for decades, enjoying the perks and power that access to the White House confers. But Trump decided to promote him to secretary of the Veterans Administration. Unvetted, inexperienced and apparently fatally flawed, Jackson rapidly crashed and burned as a prospective secretary.

Rob Porter, Hollywood handsome and popular among his colleagues, was enjoying his high-profile job as the president's top aide. Porter was a rising star until the Trump spotlight revealed his dark side. Two of his wives went public with accusations of mental and physical abuse. There were photos. Porter took the exit.

Tom Price — do you even remember him? He was the secretary of Health and Human Services for seven months. He might have continued his career else-

where without incident, but in the Trump administration, he took 25 private flights in a few months, spent like he was queen for a day and resigned amid charges of indiscriminately using taxpayer dollars for his personal benefit. Gone.

I imagine Paul Manafort has mixed feelings, at best, regarding his association with Trump Inc. Manafort, charged by the feds with various financial crimes, might have continued living the high life, consorting with oligarchs and lining his pockets, if not for Trump's ascendancy to the presidency. Under the scrutiny that accompanies high office, Manafort proved to be a liability to Trump, and vice versa. He served time in jail and, in 2020, was pardoned by Trump.

Michael Cohen, the former guy's longtime personal lawyer, was known for his fierce loyalty to Trump. For decades he basked in the celebrity surrounding his boss, and ran interference for him. Maybe some people didn't like his style, but his boss did, and that's what counted.

That was then. Now Cohen is rehabilitating his reputation after serving jail time and losing his law license.

Among the other movers and shakers

who got in serious legal trouble are Allen Weisselberg, the Trump Organization's CFO, Mike Flynn, Rick Gates, Ken Kurson, Roger Stone, George Papadopoulos, Corey Lewandowski, Elliot Broidy, Imaad Zuberi, Rep. Chris Collins, and so on.

Space limitations prevent me from listing all the miscreants associated with Trump. Some went to jail, some got pardoned by Trump, and some never got over the trauma of the Trump White House years. I do wonder if the individuals were corrupt, and therefore drawn to the Trump enterprises. Were they rotten apples, or was the barrel corrupt?

What stands out is the number of people who bent and broke the law in the service of Trump, his businesses and his administration.

Who came out unscathed? Richer? Rewarded by a job well done? Only Trump has so far avoided accountability for his alleged misdeeds. He's still rich, he plays golf, he eats well and he is free. He enjoys all the perks of being a former president. Many of the people who served him are still digging their way out of legal troubles.

As the Department of Justice lets loose its flight of subpoenas, we will see if the Trump curse finally comes home to roost.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Closing one chapter, but preparing for the next

“**T**he pandemic is over.”
With those words last weekend, President Biden declared an end to the coronavirus pandemic that has claimed the lives of more than 6.5 million people, and more than 1 million in the United States.

Of course, the pandemic won't truly be over until the World Health Organization says so. But even if public health officials do determine that we're out of this crisis, the virus that causes Covid-19 is still out there. It's still infecting people. It's still killing people. It's still creating long-term health effects for many who contract it.

Still, to feel like life may finally return to normal is a relief. It's been more than 900 days since New York first shut down as Covid cases exploded. Schools and businesses shuttered. Streets emptied. Many people found themselves isolated from the rest of the world, connecting only through Zoom and depending on television specials like “Haircut Night in America” to help with basic tasks for which we once depended on others.

Now that we can sit in restaurants again, attend classes, and pay for someone else to cut our hair, it's hard not to be grateful that the worst is behind us. But society has a long road to recovery — both economically and socially. Supply chains remain disrupted, fueling inflation. Many people are still out of work, even as unemployment returns to pre-

pandemic levels.

Polarization — especially the political variety — remains sharper than ever. And it's only been in the past couple of weeks that we could officially stop wearing masks on public transportation, although many stopped doing it months ago.

As the pandemic winds down, it's never too soon to start planning for the next one. Sure, this has felt like a once-in-a-lifetime event, but it really isn't. When we first learned of Covid, the world was already in the grip of another pandemic: HIV/AIDS, which has killed more than 40 million people.

Before that, we had two other smaller flu pandemics, in the late 1950s and late 1960s, each of which killed up to 4 million people. And then there was the 1918 flu, which is believed to have claimed the lives of as many as 100 million people around the globe.

If there's anything we've learned, it's that Mother Nature has no shortage of infectious diseases. Even in the wake of Covid, we've been reminded about the dangers we face by the recent monkeypox epidemic, and the fear that there may be a resurgence of polio.

One thing that should be crystal clear by now, however, is that pandemics and epidemics do not need to be a way of life. Many of them are preventable, or at worst, manageable. But that means better

monitoring of hot spots where deadly viruses can jump from animals to humans. Identifying new public health concerns quickly. And then taking them seriously.

With false alarms in the past like Ebola and SARS, it's no wonder so many of us had become complacent by the time the coronavirus rolled around. We can't let that happen again. What we have built as a society is too important. We are too important.

There are some scholars who are convinced that nothing has had a greater impact on our history than pandemics and epidemics. The bubonic plague, for example, cut down half of the global population, by some accounts.

But what you might not know is that that plague didn't ravage the planet just once — it turned living into a literal coin flip twice. We're most familiar with the Black Death of the 14th century, which killed as many as 200 million people. But there was also the Plague of Justinian in the sixth century, which was proportionately just as deadly.

We can wear masks when needed. We can avoid contact when asked. And we can get vaccines when they're available. But our true first line of defense is our leaders. And it's hoped that no men or women who succeed Biden will ever again find themselves needing to declare a devastating pandemic finally over.

LETTERS

Community journalism at its best

To the Editor:

I loved reading “Glen Cove Hospital marks 100 years,” (Sept. 1-7). Personifying Glen Cove Hospital's 100th anniversary through the story of a family of physicians who worked there through much of the hospital's history was brilliant. This was community journalism at its best!

DORIS MEADOWS

Glen Cove

Is it all Trump's fault, Jerry Kremer?

To the Editor:

Jerry Kremer's column “Thoughts on saving the two-party system” (Sept. 8-14) expresses a valuable goal, but his analysis — the



OPINIONS

The dilemma of choosing a college

This is a busy time of year for families. Getting the children back to school and focused on homework is a big challenge for any parent. And there's another group of parents who are physically and emotionally challenged. They are the parents of college-bound students, many of whom will be traveling from coast to coast and in



**JERRY
KREMER**

between, trying to find a college that is suitable for their son or daughter.

I've experienced the college hunt four times in my life, and I can attest to the fact that it is a daunting task. Unless you are fortunate enough to have kids who know

exactly where they want to go to college, you either are or will be a road warrior. Most future college students have higher-education wish lists that are pages long. They have some notion about what type of school they want to attend, but after one or two campus visits, their thinking may move dramatically in another direction.

My search for the right colleges was easy in the case of three of our daughters. All of them had one major choice, and we concentrated on how to please the admissions committees of those chosen schools. The fourth daughter had no idea where she wanted to go, but she had a list of 12 possible schools. Because of her uncertainty, we drove to campuses in New York, Connecticut, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and Rhode Island. After all that mileage, she chose a college in New York.

During our exhausting trek around the Northeast, I asked her what criteria she was using in picking potential schools. Her two major sources of information were U.S. News & World Report and the Barron's guide. I mention these resources because of the current news about how U.S. News recently downgraded Columbia University, based on faulty numbers provided by the school on, for example, the degrees of its professors and the size of its classes. Those reports shined a spotlight on the world of publications that high school juniors and seniors use to select colleges.

There is no doubt that Columbia Uni-

versity is one of the top schools in the nation. It offers a wide variety of programs, and many of its graduates go on to distinguished careers. But Columbia fudged the numbers, and an alert faculty member brought that fudging to wider attention. That created a great deal of negative publicity for the school that got national attention. The underlying question is, how reliable are such sources as a guide to your child's selection of a college?

According to Dr. Robert Scott, a past president of Adelphi University, U.S. News & World Report is one of the "shakers of salt." Scott believes that many colleges provide questionable data to U.S. News, and that the rankings that emerge are highly questionable. He goes as far as to say that some schools manipulate their numbers in the hope of rising in the rankings. Once a school on the list gets a higher rating, it will market the news in the hope of attracting students who rely heavily on those ratings.

Reed College a well-regarded college in Oregon, took on U.S. News in the 1990s, refusing to submit any data to the magazine. It no doubt lost some potential stu-

dents, but today its reputation is that of a stellar school.

Scott suggests that there are many other reliable college guides that provide meaningful information for aspiring entrants. He cites the Fiske Guide to Colleges as one example of a publication that shows students how their aspirations fit with particular schools. If you search the internet, you will find multiple sources that detail colleges' course offerings, safety, campus culture and surrounding communities. Don't pay too much attention to all the student postings, because some are sour grapes due to bad test grades.

Choosing a college is a major decision for any family, especially given the cost of higher education. Using as many sources of information as possible may be a little confusing, but relying on one or two of the college guidebooks can prove to be a major mistake. Kudos to Scott for speaking out as an expert on this volatile subject.

Jerry Kremer was a state assemblyman for 23 years, and chaired the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee for 12 years. He now heads Empire Government Strategies, a business development and legislative strategy firm. Comments about this column? JKremer@liherald.com.

LETTERS

usual, and now tiresome, "It's all Trump's fault" — misses the cause. Of course it would great if, as in past generations, there was ideological room in both parties for a variety of viewpoints. Richard Nixon — another *bête noir* of Mr. Kremer's party — warned of this long ago, in 1959, when he said, "I think one of the attributes of our political system has been that we have avoided generally violent swings in administrations from one extreme to the other. And the reason we have avoided that is that in both parties, there has been room for a broad spectrum of opinion."

Of course, Mr. Kremer's party thought that Nixon was the worst thing that ever happened. But what about the unquestionably moderate John McCain and Mitt Romney, both of whom were falsely denounced as extremists? Well, the Democrats didn't want McCain or Romney, so they got Trump, a virtual creation of the left, which is now doing everything possible to keep its creation alive.

TERRANCE J. NOLAN
Lynbrook

Plastic pollution continues to plague us

To the Editor:

We've all heard the warnings about cleaning up our trash at the beach and

recycling, but it's easy to feel helpless, or that it's a problem so distant that there's no point in worrying about it. Well, here on Long Island, plastic pollution affects us directly. Not only does it make a mess of our beautiful beaches, but it also threatens wildlife and our vital marine ecosystems.

Long Island is an extremely important estuary, a breeding ground for fish and other marine wildlife. This means that how we treat our beaches is of utmost importance, and affects fisheries around the world. Historically, however, we lead wasteful lifestyles that lead to plastic pollution, which threatens our ecosystems.

Every plastic bag we use, every pair of plastic sunglasses, every phone case we discard takes thousands of years to break down, and usually ends up in our oceans. Besides ruining the natural beauty of our beaches, plastic pollution can have extremely detrimental effects on wildlife, from small fish and shrimp ingesting deadly microplastics to sea turtles and seals getting caught in plastic fishing nets. The population decreases that plastic pollution causes also have the potential to collapse our marine ecosystems, driving away the marine mammals we are beginning to see on the Island for the first time in years.

Although it's easy to feel helpless in these situations, there are many ways for Long Islanders to prevent plastic pollution from getting into our oceans. There are many things you can do in your home, from recycling to reducing your own plas-

FRAMEWORK courtesy Karina Kovac



At the Hagia Sophia — Istanbul, Turkey

tic use and opting for more sustainable alternatives. The New York Marine Rescue Center, a nonprofit rescue-and-release organization, helps treat the many animals that suffer the consequences of plastic pollution, and hosts beach cleanups, whale and seal-watching events, and even

an annual 5K. The center is always accepting donations and new volunteers, so we can work together and prevent plastic pollution from destroying our beaches.

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