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serves smiles**  
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**Radio show is  
talk of the town**  
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## At G.C. rally, unified support for Ukraine

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Hundreds of Long Islanders packed the Polish National Home in Glen Cove last Sunday to call for an end to the three-year war in Ukraine — not on Russian President Vladimir Putin's terms, but in a way that holds Russia accountable.

The event, sponsored by the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center, featured Ukrainian citizens, elected officials and community leaders, who spoke about the devastating human toll of the war and the need for unwavering American support.

Jolanta Zamecka, the center's vice chair, emphasized the war's catastrophic effect on Ukrainian children, many of whom have experienced such severe trauma that they have begun to "show signs of premature aging," Zamecka said.

"Three years ago, my grandson Jack came to

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

Courtesy Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center  
Children in the audience at the Polish National Home last Sunday were asked to come to the stage and light candles in memory of the lives lost in the war in Ukraine.

# Jon Dolecki, beloved teacher and coach, dies at 77

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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Allen Hudson still remembers the moment Jon Dolecki changed the way Hudson saw himself as an athlete. As a shy ninth-grader, he played on Glen Cove High School's junior varsity basketball team — one of two sports, along with baseball, that Dolecki coached.

On the court, Hudson struggled to assert himself. "He pulled me to the side and said, 'Why aren't you shooting the ball? You're here for a reason,'" Hudson said of Dolecki. "That changed everything for me. He had that ability to push you just

enough so you'd believe in yourself." It was this mix of toughness and encouragement that, by all accounts, made Dolecki beloved and respected at the high school, an unforgettable coach and mentor as well as an educator.

Dolecki died on Feb. 18, at age 77. He suffered a heart attack at Glen Cove Hospital, following a recent battle with pneumonia and early-stage Alzheimer's disease.

Over his 34-year tenure as Glen Cove's varsity baseball coach, he led the team to 532 wins and the school's only state championship, in 1986. But for Dolecki, coaching was about

pushing young athletes to be better not just in sports, but also in life. "He was tough, but loving, demanding," Hudson, who's now Glen Cove High's principal, said. "He was your typical old-school coach, but it worked. You could tell that he liked you. He enjoyed what he did."

Dolecki's legacy as a coach is reflected in the lives of the players he mentored. "I learned so much about life from him," said former player Adelki Paulino, who graduated in 1999 and later became Dolecki's assistant coach. "A lot of my coaching values I've learned from him. He expected a lot of us,

but he was preparing us for life." Paulino, now a New York City teacher and coach, credits Dolecki's influence for his approach to coaching today.

Born and raised in Bergen County, New Jersey, Dolecki graduated from Cliffside Park High School in 1965. A talented right-handed pitcher, he played collegiate baseball at Appala-

chian State University, in Boone, North Carolina, in the '60s.

Dolecki accepted a teaching position at Glen Cove High in 1971. "He got hired late in the summer, almost in September, and I thought he would just stay for a year," his widow, Irene Dolecki, said. "But he

CONTINUED ON PAGE 9

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## ON THE ROAD WITH A TAKEOUT QUEEN

# Takeout for Humans and Rabbits

I was probably a rabbit in my former life. I hunt for fresh vegetables every day but have no intention of preparing them at home. Instead, I hop in my car and search for places to munch on a wide variety of delicious veggies. Here are two new restaurants plus new dishes on popular menus with the latest and greatest green scenes.

### Jimmy John's (5 Brewster St., Glen Cove)

I'm so excited that Jimmy John's just opened in our neighborhood. There's nothing like the signature sandwich: cold cuts, beef or turkey with provolone cheese and dressings, wrapped inside a long, thin version of French bread. However, when I'm in my rabbit mode, I order the "Unwich." All the Jimmy John fillings are wrapped inside lettuce. The lettuce sandwich combines meats, salad vegetables, provolone and avocado spread in such a satisfying way I never miss the bread. (Okay, I miss it a little.) My meal always ends well with the new sandwich for dessert: a red velvet cookie sandwich with thick icing inside.

### Turquoise Persian Grill & Bar (36 Lincoln Ave., Roslyn Heights)

Though beets are good for our hearts, brains, digestive systems and contain antioxidants, I'm sure if I try to prepare them at home my kitchen will look like a scene from a horror movie. So, when I noticed the Turquoise Beet Salad on the menu in this café which recently made its debut, I was beyond thrilled. The salad with beets, cucumbers, tomatoes, red onions, chickpeas, feta, olives and walnuts is a lovely magenta color with perfectly balanced ingredients.

The restaurant features inventive, traditional Persian lunches and dinners

ranging from kabobs galore to a Persia Bowl (quinoa, fresh vegetables, kidney beans, feta, pistachios, barberry vinaigrette), to Fensenjoon Stew (chicken, walnuts, pomegranate sauce). I paired my beet salad with Shirin Polo (basmati rice, carrots, almonds, pistachios, orange zest). When I took a bite of those flavors combined, it tasted like the glorious final notes from The Hallelujah Chorus.

### Christina's Epicure (1015 Oyster Bay Rd., East Norwich)

I love salads but I'm too lazy to make them. This month, while driving around hunting for vegetables, my "rabbit radar" steered me toward this gourmet shop. Inside, I noticed Skinny Shaker Salads and mini Chopped Salads had just joined the deli shelves. Hurray for two new ways for a quick salad fix. Each Skinny Shaker Salad (such as Chicken Cobb salad or Green Goddess) comes in a tall, plastic cup with a lid. Pour the dressing inside it, shake it up and you have an instant salad. The mini Chopped Salads (such as Quinoa Taco) come in plastic covered bowls that are the perfect size for one person. I drizzled on the dressing and ate mine in my car.



CATHI TUROW

### @Boba (347 Glen Cove Ave., Sea Cliff)

When I've had my fill of vegetables, I move on to fresh fruit. Tang Hulu, the new fruit snack in this Bubble Tea casual café, hits the spot. The servers make it to order. The freshest grapes, strawberries and blueberries are lined up kabob-style on a skewer. The skewer is then dipped in a clear, sweet syrup which hardens immediately. The crunchy sweetness followed by the juiciest fruit is an incredible snack.

See you next month!

## NEWS BRIEF

# Chorale to host fundraiser for London tour

Glen Cove High School's award-winning Select Chorale will host a Potluck Dinner and Open Rehearsal Fundraiser on March 4, at 150 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove. The event will feature a dinner from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m., followed by an open rehearsal from 7:00 to 8:30 p.m.

The fundraiser supports the choir's May 2025 performance tour. Thirty-six talented students who sing in the Glen Cove High School Select Chorale will travel to London to perform in one of the world's most prestigious concert series next spring. In collaboration with Vox Anima London, the chorale will

have the honor of headlining a series of performances, including the world premiere of a major work by renowned composer and conductor Jeffrey Ames.

Attendees will enjoy a meal and get a behind-the-scenes look at the group's rehearsal as they prepare for this international performance. A \$10 suggested donation can be paid at the door.

For more information or to make a donation, contact Ed Norris at [enorris@glencoveschools.org](mailto:enorris@glencoveschools.org) or Lawrence Nadel at [lnadel@glencoveschools.org](mailto:lnadel@glencoveschools.org).

—Roksana Amid

# A new chapter for a beloved G.C. chef

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

For more than three decades, Chef Jeanine DiMenna has been a staple of Glen Cove's culinary scene, serving up not just delicious meals but also a sense of community. Her restaurants have long been gathering places for locals, and through them, she has built lasting relationships with customers who have become family. But in 2023, uncertainty loomed over DiMenna's future in Glen Cove when the city issued a Request for Proposals for the Glen Cove Golf Course restaurant space—home to her beloved View Grill for over a decade. The decision sparked controversy, an outpouring of support from the community, and an online petition titled Save The View Grill, yet the city moved forward with the RFP process.

After the dust settled, DiMenna found herself at a crossroads. For the first time in 30 years, she woke up without the responsibility of running a restaurant. "It was a relief in a lot of ways," she admitted. "The stress of the whole situation was taking its toll on me, so I was kind of relieved to just be away from it." But stepping away wasn't an end—it was the beginning of something new. She soon found herself drawn to a space at 242 Glen Cove Avenue. "The parking was really good. I could see what I wanted in the place," she said. "The landlord was really nice and willing to work with me."

In October 2024, DiMenna officially opened Jeanine's American Bistro, a cozy and inviting restaurant that blends comfort with culinary craftsmanship. Despite technically being in the Town of Oyster Bay, the restaurant's Glen Cove address ensured that she remained connected to the community she loves. The transition was bittersweet, but DiMenna embraced it wholeheartedly. "I had a lot of time to just decompress and think and really get myself excited about a new chapter," she said.

The bistro's concept is deeply personal, reflecting DiMenna's passion for hospitality and community. "I always wanted to keep things neighborhoodly—affordable and a good experience," she said. The restaurant's interior design was inspired by one simple yet meaningful detail: bricks she found online. "I got a sample, and I just carried everything around the bricks," she said. Her husband, Fred, even helped install the brick walls, while her brother selected the artwork, making the space truly a family effort.

DiMenna's longtime friend and fellow restaurateur, John Zozzoro, joined her to handle the restaurant's wood-fired pizzas, a feature that has quickly gained rave reviews. "He's just knocking it out of the park," she said. In addition to the highly praised pizza, Jeanine's American Bistro serves an elevated take on classic American fare, offering dishes like Bone-in New York Shell Steak with fried Brussels sprouts and a truffle-scented five-grain blend, Poached Salmon with cucumber dill butter sauce. The menu is designed to be both comforting and



Photos courtesy Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews

Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews and Chef Jeanine DiMenna celebrated their shared birthday together last week.



**A mouth watering seafood dish features shrimp and mussels in a rich tomato-based sauce.**

refined, with fresh ingredients and bold flavors at the forefront.

The community's response has been overwhelmingly positive. "I can't even begin to tell you how overwhelmingly beautiful it is for me," DiMenna said. Longtime

Longtime customer Sheree Valeo said she frequents the bistro a few times a week.

"We love her, she's an angel," Valeo said. "She helps people, takes care of people, and pitches in for the community."

Valeo said she recommends the popular Onion Crusted Chicken.

As Jeanine's American Bistro continues to grow, so does its role as a gathering space. The restaurant hosts community meetings, cooking classes, and senior citizen trips. In 2025, outdoor seating will be added, further expanding its capacity.

For DiMenna, retirement was never



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

**Chef Jeanine DiMenna expertly whips up a batch of creamy mashed potatoes in the kitchen of Jeanine's American Bistro, bringing her signature warmth to every dish.**



**Chef John Zozzoro masterfully prepares a wood-fired pizza at Jeanine's American Bistro, crafting each pie with precision and passion.**

an option. "Some people say, 'Why would you start a business at 60?' And I say, 'Why wouldn't I?'" she said. "I still have a lot of living to do."

With the warmth of her cooking and the love of her community, Jeanine's American Bistro is not just another restaurant—it's a homecoming.

# Speakers voice their support for Ukraine

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

me crying, asking what would happen to the children of Ukraine if Russia invaded," he recalled. "Now, three years later, over half of Ukrainian children have been displaced. Many live with severe anxiety, fear and difficulty concentrating."

According to the United Nations Children's Fund, known as UNICEF, at least 659 children Ukrainian children had been killed and 1,747 more wounded as of November 2024. More than 19,000 children have been forcibly taken to Russia or Russian-controlled territory, with their identities stripped and reunification with their families obstructed.

"This is genocide," Zamecka declared. "The International Criminal Court has issued arrest warrants for Vladimir Putin and Russian Children's Rights Commissioner Maria Lvova-Belova for their direct involvement in these forced deportations. The world must remember who Putin is — a war criminal."

Among the speakers was 17-year-old Viktoriia Polusytok, a Ukrainian citizen who fled her home in Lviv for Poland before resettling in the United States two years ago. Now a student at Great Neck South High School, she recalled the terrifying first days of the war.

"I remember the first night when I heard explosions," Polusytok said. "It



Bernie Furshpan spoke about the responsibility to take action against oppression. Jolanta Zamecka, vice chair of the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center, emphasized the war's catastrophic effect on Ukrainian children.

was unforgettable. It was 3 in the morning. Everybody was asleep. We were alarmed by air danger, and 10 minutes later, my house started shaking — explosions, one after another. Unfortunately, we lived through several weeks like this



Photos courtesy Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center

before we decided to leave."

For over two hours, speakers urged Americans not to forget the war's horrors or fall victim to Russian misinformation. Alan Mindel, HMTTC's chair, spoke passionately about the dangers of rewriting history.

"We know what a war crime is, whether it happens in Bucha or Mariupol," Mindel said. "We know where the devil resides — whether it's in Beirut, Berlin, Moscow or Tehran."

Someone in the crowd shouted, "Or Washington!" which elicited applause, an apparent reference to growing concerns about the federal government's shifting stance on Ukraine.

President Trump recently claimed that Ukraine "should have never started the war" and called Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky a dictator. His words were derided by the speakers, including U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi, who pushed back against the false equivalence.

"Putin is the dictator, not Zelensky," Suozzi said. "Zelensky was elected by 73

percent of the people in Ukraine in free and fair elections. Meanwhile, Putin is trying to wipe Ukraine off the map."

Suozzi, who co-chairs the bipartisan congressional Problem Solvers Caucus, emphasized that supporting Ukraine was not just a moral imperative, but also a strategic necessity for the United States.

"It is so obvious that if Putin goes through Ukraine, he's going straight into Poland," Suozzi said. "This is in our national interest. If we don't help Ukraine fight this war now, we will be fighting even more wars in the future."

State Assemblyman Charles Lavine, who was unable to attend in person, sent a statement that was read by his public affairs director, Leslie Dwyer. In it, Lavine condemned Trump's comments, warning of the president's affinity for Putin.

"It is beyond outrageous that Donald Trump falsely accuses President Zelensky of being a dictator," Lavine wrote. "To be sure, this is a mirror into the darkness of Trump's soul. His love of Putin knows no bounds, and his betrayal of Ukraine is a betrayal of democracy itself."

Bernie Furshpan, an HMTTC board member and the son of Holocaust survivors from Ukraine and Poland, spoke about the responsibility to take action against oppression.

"We teach thousands of students every month not just about facts and dates, but about the human cost of hatred — the unbearable weight of silence," Furshpan said. "History is not just something to remember. It is something to act upon."

As the war in Ukraine drags into its fourth year, many in the audience expressed deep frustration with the growing political division over U.S. support for Ukraine. Some said they feared that shifting attitudes in Washington — particularly among Trump-aligned Republicans — could weaken the nation's resolve at a critical moment in the conflict.

"This is not the time for the U.S. to turn its back," Zamecka implored. "We ordinary citizens must speak truth to power, and remind our leaders of the atrocities being committed."

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deterred, I asked the professor if I might read a couple of "A" papers. She agreed to that and also agreed to my request that if I submitted another essay she would grade that one instead. The new essay I submitted received an "A" grade. Once I had seen what an "A" paper looked like, in other words what "excellence" looked like, I was able to emulate it.

When I applied to the prestigious London School of Economics (LSE) for a Masters degree in law, LSE accepted me, on the condition that I receive my McGill Law degree with honors. In my final exams at LSE, the answer to one of the questions was in a footnote. They expected you to not only know the course materials, but the footnotes too.

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## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

## Feldman leads a JCC that's all about community

By MELISSA BERMAN

mberman@liherald.com

*First in a month-long series of interviews with influential area women in honor of Women's History Month. Stacey Feldman is the executive director of the Marion and Aaran Gural JCC.*

## ■ Herald: Tell me about yourself.

**Stacey Feldman:** When I was in college, I studied advertising and marketing and after being on a trip to Israel I realized that I wanted to work for the Jewish community. I loved trying to understand what made people buy a brand or why a certain color was successful, product placement, all of that really interests me and then after being in Israel, I realized that the Jewish community needed me more. I wanted to sell being an active member of the Jewish community. I'm doing this since 1990, I started working part-time teaching Hebrew school and from there I moved to New York and became the Teen Director at the Mid-Island Y JCC, worked for Hadassah and Young Judea and then was blessed to have worked for UJA Federation. From UJA is how I ended up working in the Five Towns and ultimately becoming the Executive Director here

at the Gural JCC, in 2023. I love building the community and bringing them together, there are so many types of people and they all come together under one roof.

## ■ Herald: What do you do? Why?

**Feldman:** We have four sites that serve this wonderful community. Everyone knows that we're the little blue house on Grove Avenue that helps people. In 2017, we purchased Temple Israel, Lawrence so that is what we refer to as the Harrison-Kerr Family Campus. That's the site where we have the senior center and we operate the largest early childhood center in the community with about 350 kids and a staff of almost 90. In the summer of 2023, in partnership with the Leon Mayer Fund took over the operation of the Mark Ramer Chesed Center, in Hewlett. That is a 3,500 square foot facility of new goods so that a family in need can get linens, new clothing, new house wares and appliances. Our fourth site is the S.H.O.P. in Cedarhurst (Sustenance Hope Opportunities Place) and that is



STACEY FELDMAN

where we operate the largest kosher food pantry on Long Island, serving over 800 families. We offer a variety of social work support services from that location and the whole agency.

## ■ Herald: What has challenged you in your career so far, and what keeps you going and inspires you?

**Feldman:** What challenges me currently is never wanting to say no, but for financial reasons sometimes we have to say no. What I grapple with is wanting to serve more and more people on what is a non-profit budget. What keeps me going is the ability now to build a full-service Jewish community center in this area. We've been working out of the site on Grove for almost 42 years and it's exciting to address all of the needs in the community for recreation, socialization, a pool and serving all members of the community.

## ■ Herald: What have been the proudest moments in your life?

**Feldman:** I'm very proud of my fami-

ly, and having a son who just graduated college a year ago, a daughter that just entered college and having a loving and supporting husband. My family gives me the support that I need to work long nights and hours, so without the support from them I wouldn't be able to do this work. I think our proudest moment professionally is finally working in partnership with Nassau County to find a location so that we can really expand services. We are very excited to build a whole new center that the community can participate in.

## ■ Herald: What advice do you have for others? What work is left to be done?

**Feldman:** My advice to anybody is to follow your passion, work is not work is you are passionate about it. You will enjoy coming to work everyday is you enjoy the work. Whether it's on a volunteer level, if you can't do professionally what you're passionate about then find time to give back and get involved in a non-profit you enjoy. There is always work to be done, as women we're nurturing and we're caring, empathetic, we don't want to leave any stone unturned so we're always looking for new opportunities.

## Ellis leads the fight for LGBTQ representation

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

For over a decade, Long Island native Sarah Kate Ellis has led GLAAD, the world's most influential LGBTQ media advocacy organization. Under her leadership, GLAAD has evolved from a media watchdog into a driving force for cultural change, shaping representation and acceptance of LGBTQ people in media, entertainment, and politics. In an interview, Ellis shares her journey, challenges, and vision for the future.

## ■ Herald: How did you get where you are?

Ellis began her career in media, working for major publishing houses like Condé Nast and Time Inc. She quickly discovered her passion for storytelling. "I loved media instantly," she said. "I loved telling stories and seeing the power of storytelling and how it can really bring people together."

However, her family set her on the path toward advocacy.

"My wife and I got pregnant at the exact same time by accident, if that could be," Ellis said. "It wasn't planned. We were just trying to start a family. And I think that led more to my advocacy work."

As digital media transformed the industry, Ellis sought a new challenge. When the opportunity arose to lead

GLAAD, she saw it as a way to combine her passion for media with her commitment to the LGBTQ community.

"I got to do what I love—media advocacy—but for my community," she said. "When I started at GLAAD, it was really to modernize the organization based on the changing media ecosystem."

Now, after 11 years at the helm, Ellis remains committed to ensuring GLAAD continues to be a powerful voice for LGBTQ representation.

## ■ Herald: What are your daily responsibilities?

**Ellis:** "I really do two key things at the organization," she says. "One is drive the strategy on how we're going to build acceptance in the United States and globally for LGBTQ people. The other significant part of my job is fundraising. To do all the work, you need funding."

One of her key initiatives was establishing the GLAAD Media Institute, which serves as the organization's think tank, advisory, and education arm. She also launched a rapid response team to address media coverage and public narratives around LGBTQ issues.

Ellis believes GLAAD's work is more critical than ever as media consumption habits change.



SARAH KATE ELLIS

"The media ecosystem has yet again dramatically shifted," she says. "The average American spends 12 hours a day consuming media. So we've never had a larger opportunity ahead of us."

However, reaching audiences has become more complex.

"The biggest challenge is how do we reach people when it's so delineated?" she asks. "That's one of the challenges I'm facing now—how do I reach folks in a compelling way that touches them and moves them?"

## Herald: What are your memorable achievements?

Over the years, Ellis has celebrated many victories, both personal and professional.

"From a personal perspective, it's my family, my wife and our kids," she says. "I'm so proud of my kids. They're 16 now. They were 4 when I started at GLAAD, so that's kind of mind-blowing."

In her work, she is particularly proud of partnerships that have expanded LGBTQ inclusion.

"Here I am at the Super Bowl. We host an NFL-partnered Super Bowl event for the LGBTQ community," Ellis says. "If you ever said to me 10 years ago that GLAAD and the NFL logo

would be together and working together, I would have never believed you. But here we are."

She is also proud of GLAAD's presence at the World Economic Forum, ensuring LGBTQ issues remain part of global discussions.

"If we're not there speaking on behalf of LGBTQ people, we are left out of the conversation," she says. "I was proud to be the first LGBTQ organization to get a white badge from the World Economic Forum."

## Herald: What advice can you offer the next generation?

**Ellis:** "I think my advice is to work hard and with your head up, because everybody says put your head down and work hard," she said. "But I think you have to keep your head up, stay aware of what's going on."

She believes that in an increasingly virtual world, making personal connections is essential.

"I think we've become such an isolated society, and people think that we can do things on Zoom, but proximity to power and meeting people and engaging with people personally advances so much more at a rapid pace than meeting on Zoom."

*Both interviews, with Stacey Feldman and Sarah Kate Ellis, continue at liherald.com.*



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# Radio show keeps cultural heritage alive

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

Old Westbury Web Radio is keeping nostalgia alive with a compelling program: The Five N' Dime music show. The show celebrates the past, bringing music and culture to a new generation of listeners through engaging discussions and carefully curated playlists.

For Glen Cove's own Ralph Comitino, co-hosting The Five N' Dime Music show has been more than just an opportunity—it's been a sanctuary. "I love doing this. The job I have in Glen Cove is stressful, but when I come here, everything feels lifted off my shoulders," he said. "Gio and Joe are like brothers to me."

Comitino, who joined the Five N' Dime just a few months ago, was introduced to the program by Locust Valley resident Joe Gallo. "Joe said to me, 'Why don't you just come in and sit with us one time?' I did, and the rest is history. It was just like peanut butter and jelly."

Comitino's enthusiasm for the show has been evident in his commitment. "A lot of the people in Glen Cove listen. I get a lot of feedback from people who tell me how great the show was, and if you missed it, Gio puts it on his Mixcloud," he adds. "There are nights when there's nothing on TV, so I just listen to an old show."



Courtesy Ralph Comitino

Ralph Comitino, Joseph Gallo and Giovanni Dainotto co-host The Five N' Dime music show together.

As the station manager of OWWR, Joe Manfredi is passionate about keeping the spirit of radio alive. He strongly refutes claims that radio is fading. "If it weren't for radio, podcasting wouldn't exist," he said. "Radio generates too much revenue to disappear. While traditional stations may struggle, college and internet radio stations remain strong."

Manfredi believes radio is evolving

rather than dying. "Radio is still very, very solid. It's just shifting," he said. "Music is the one thing everyone has in common. It brings people together. That's what makes shows like The Five N' Dime music show and so special."

Since July 2019, Giovanni Dainotto has hosted The Five N' Dime Music Show, a program dedicated to classic hits from the 1950s and 1960s, with occa-

sional detours into the 1970s and 1980s. Airing every Monday from 5 p.m. to 7 p.m. the show features Doo-Wop, British Invasion, Pop, Folk, Americana, and Disco, bringing timeless music to fans across generations.

Dainotto, who hails from Deer Park and works in the Human Resources department at AHRD Nassau, was inspired to start the show after discovering OWWR. "I wanted to go to school for radio, TV, and journalism," he said. "I toured this college, came across the station, and I loved it. So I started taking radio classes with Joe Manfredi, and I asked him if I could do a radio show."

For years, Dainotto ran the show solo, but in the past year, he welcomed co-hosts Gallo and Comitino. "Joe has been on for one year, Ralph's been on for about four or five months," he said. "I went from doing this alone for five years to suddenly having two co-hosts, and it's been a blast."

The dynamic changed with their addition, making the show even more engaging. "There's more camaraderie, more conversation. We go on tangents, but it's all organic," he says. "I'm playing a little less music, but not in a negative way. There's something people can look forward to—a mix of great music and lively discussion."

For those who can't tune in live at owwrny.org, past shows are available at Mixcloud.com.

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# Jon Dolecki 'taught us how to win in life' <sup>9</sup>

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

liked it so much that he stayed his entire life there." The couple moved permanently to Glen Cove in 1978, and lived just a block from the high school.

Jon's coaching career began in 1976, when he became the varsity baseball coach. Over the years, he guided the team to six county finals, and championships in 1985, 1986 and 1987. The 1986 squad finished with a 29-5 record and won the state Class B title in dramatic fashion. The game was sealed with a walk-off home run by Desi Wilson, who went on to play for the San Francisco Giants in 1996.

"He coached big leaguers like Wilson and Craig Hansen" — who later played for the Boston Red Sox and Pittsburgh Pirates — "but to him, every player was important," Paulino said of Dolecki.

Dolecki also coached basketball, leading the varsity team to 163 wins over 15 seasons.

Off the field and court, he made sure that students did well in their classes, frequently chatting with teachers and making weekly reports with them on his athletes' classroom performance.

"He wanted his kids to succeed, to graduate," Irene Dolecki said. "One of his players even told my son, 'If it wasn't for your father, I would have never gone to college. He made sure I did everything to get there.'"

Dolecki's commitment to his players extended beyond school hours. "My dad used to give kids rides home from school, and did all these fundraisers," his son, Jamie, recalled. "Our door was always open. Players and parents were always showing up, and my dad always gave them the time of day."

Brian Corbo, a Nassau County police officer, played baseball and basketball for Dolecki. As a freshman, Corbo initially tried out for third base,

but it was Dolecki who saw his potential as a pitcher. "He saw what was best for me, and that moment changed everything," Corbo recounted. "He sought me out during tryouts and told me I should try pitching. At first I wasn't sure, but he believed in me more than I did in myself."

When Corbo became a baseball coach at Adelphi University, Dolecki often checked in with him, offering guidance and encouragement. "He taught us how to win, but it wasn't just about winning on the field," Corbo said. "He taught us how to win in life."

Their roles reversed later in life, and Corbo became the pitching coach at the Merchant Marine Academy, and Corbo had the unique opportunity to advise him. "It was surreal," Corbo said. "The man who had coached me and shaped my career was now asking me for guidance on coaching at the collegiate level. It was a full-circle moment."

Dolecki's contributions to Glen Cove were formally recognized in 2009, when he was inducted into the high school's Hall of Fame. This spring, the school's baseball field will be renamed in his honor. The dedication was initially planned as a surprise, with his former players gathering to celebrate his legacy.

"The saddest thing is that he doesn't even get to see this field dedication," longtime family friend Louis Fugazy said. "He really cared about every kid he coached. He was just a great guy. It's a sad week."

Dolecki is survived by his wife, Irene; Jamie and another son, Justin; a daughter, Katherine and a grandson, Rylan.

"He loved what he did," Jamie said. "He used to say, 'I have the best job in the world.' And he truly did love going to work every single day. That's something special."



Courtesy Jamie Dolecki

Jon Dolecki, a beloved and highly respected coach and educator at Glen Cove High School, died on Feb. 18, at 77.

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Herald file photos

The 1960s prom featured music from the Grateful Dead, Bob Dylan, and more.

# Charity Prom to bring the community together

By LUKE FEENEY

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Sea Cliff residents interested in partying like its 1999 will get the chance to do so at Love Your Neighbor Project's latest All You Need Is Love '90's Prom fundraiser on March 8 at St. Luke's Episcopal Church's Parish Hall.

The upcoming prom night will mark the fourth All You Need Is Love fundraiser that the Project has held since its founding in 2020 and the second one to be held in person. The nonprofit Sea Cliff charity works to promote community growth and participation and look out for one's neighbors.

Sponsors of the event include Baron Floral Designs, Blick Art Materials, BlueSunflower, Branch Real Estate Group, Cactus Cafe, and many other Sea Cliff businesses and organizations.

We look for ways to bring the community together especially when we are feeling a bit divided. One of the ways that we do that is through music," Love Your Neighbor Project's Chief Neighbor Jaime Teich said. "Music unites, we want to create an environment where your leaving beliefs behind, concerns behind and coming together as a community to show we can be there for another and to give back,"

The music throughout the night will be provided by local disc jockey DJ McLovin, who will play strictly '90's music throughout the night. The disc jockey was also the musical contribution at the previous All You Need Is Love prom fundraisers. In addition there will also be live music provided by Kingfisher, a local rock band.

The charity will also partner with the North Shore High School arts honor society, having students create pieces of art for the decade that will be auctioned off throughout the night. The event will also have an open bar and buffet featuring numerous Sea Cliff restaurants.

The first decade theme the charity



When the prom's theme was the 1980s, attendees dressed for the occasion with classic '80's style.

did for their prom was 1960s, then the 1980s in 2023 and then the 90s. Tickets are \$85 if bought in advance and \$100 if bought at the door. Funds raised from the event will go towards multiple scholarships and grants that they provide to the North Shore School District.

The \$1,000 scholarship, which began at All You Need Is Love Prom Night in 2023, will go to three graduating North Shore seniors and a \$500 grant will go to one member within the community.

The scholarships and grants fund projects developed by neighbors, big and small, and support high school seniors who embody the charity's mission in their daily lives, providing money for their journey ahead.

"We bring in approximately 120-150 people every year for this event," Teich said. "Neighbors just have a really great time all for a good reason,"



The Love Your Neighbor Project has celebrated All You Need Is Love proms with different decade themes since 2020.



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# Gillen: Medicaid cuts could 'devastate' L.I.

By MADISON GUSLER

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Congressional Republicans have recently directed the committee on Energy and Commerce, which oversees Medicaid, to cut its budget by at least \$880 billion. These cuts would result in millions of Americans losing their health coverage, while providing tax cuts to corporations and the wealthy.

According to Nate Jackson, NY Director of Protect our Care, these cuts would hurt Long Island families, jeopardize funding for hospitals and strain the state health care budget.

Children, new mothers, seniors and people with disabilities across Nassau and Suffolk counties rely on Medicaid to cover essential health care costs.

U.S. Rep. Laura Gillen, a Democrat who represents a majority of the South Shore of Nassau County, and Assemblywoman Michelle Solages joined health care advocates on Feb. 19 to oppose the cuts, and to commit to working to protect Long Islanders' access to health care.

"The Republican plan to slash Medicaid would devastate Long Island," Gillen said. "It would mean higher health care costs, hospital funding in limbo, longer wait times to access care for tens of thousands of Long Islanders, and a dramatic decrease in access to vital mental health care."



Madison Gusler/Herald

U.S. Rep. Laura Gillen, center, was joined by, from left, Cynthia Ngombe, of the Healthcare Education Project; Assemblywoman Michelle Solages; health care worker Claire Leon; and Nate Jackson, of Protect Our Care, to discuss Medicaid funding.

"We need to be working to protect and strengthen access to health care, not ripping it away from seniors, children and veterans on Long Island who count on Medicaid to access the lifesaving care that they need," she added, calling for nonpartisan support.

"When we're talking about an essential service, it's health care," said Solages, a member of the Assembly's Health

Committee. "When we talk about cutting dollars for hospitals, for nursing homes, we're cutting people to the bone. And so we have to be realistic about what we need to fund. Tax breaks for billionaires is not what Long Island needs."

Solages discussed the need for health care funding, referring to two Long Island nursing homes that are slated to

close and Nassau University Medical Center, the county's public hospital, which is in desperate need of financial support.

"We're talking about people's lives," she said. "This is not like a pothole. This is about people's prescription drugs, their health care, and we've got to get realistic in this country about what's important. People's premiums have increased. They're deciding whether to buy food or prescription drugs, and other essential services — rent — and the American people are crying out for relief."

Cynthia Ngombe, a health care advocate with the Healthcare Education Project, explained that cuts to Medicaid "would shift costs for health coverage to states, putting more pressure not only on the state Medicaid budget, but on other key areas of spending such as education and public safety."

"Medicaid is under attack from Washington, D.C.," Ngombe added. "Federal cuts would slash critical services that keep New Yorkers healthy and our communities safe, in areas like maternal health, mental health and the emergency room. All New Yorkers would be impacted, but our Black, Latino and low-income, including rural communities, would be hit hardest by our Medicaid cuts. Access to quality health care is a right. It's New Yorkers' top priority."



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# Trump attempts to end congestion pricing

February 27, 2025 — GLEN COVE HERALD

By JORDAN VALLONE & LUKE FEENEY

of the Herald

The Trump administration has rescinded its approval of New York City's congestion pricing program, in an attempt to halt the initiative.

The program, which began on Jan. 5, imposes a \$9 toll on vehicles entering Manhattan south of 60th Street during peak hours, aiming to reduce traffic congestion and generate revenue for the Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman noted his support for the federal government's decision at a Feb. 19 news conference in Mineola. Blakeman recalled President Trump pledging to end congestion pricing at a rally last October.

"President Trump is fulfilling a promise that he made at Madison Square Garden during (his) campaign," Blakeman said.

Gov. Kathy Hochul argued that regardless of anyone's stance on congestion pricing, the decision is an attack on New York's sovereignty as a state.

"New York hasn't labored under a king in over 250 years," she said at a news conference at Grand Central Terminal, also on Feb. 19, response to the administration's move, "and we sure as hell won't start now."

Janno Lieber, chief executive and chairman of the MTA, said that a lawsuit had already been filed to keep the congestion-pricing program in place.

U.S. Transportation Secretary Sean Duffy criticized the toll as burdensome to working-class Americans and small-business owners, noting the lack of free highway alternatives. New York officials had projected \$500 million in annual revenue from the tolls, intended to support \$15 billion in debt financing for mass transit improvements.



Luke Feeney/Herald

The federal government is seeking to halt New York City's controversial congestion pricing program. Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman spoke in support of President Trump's efforts on Feb. 19.

According to a letter sent to Hochul from the federal transportation office, Duffy rescinded the government's approval of the plan under the federal Value Pricing Pilot Program, an initiative established to explore the potential of various pricing strategies in reducing traffic congestion. Managed by the Federal Highway Administration, the program allows state and

local governments to implement pilot projects that test the effectiveness of tolls and other pricing mechanisms in managing roadway usage and alleviating congestion. The congestion-pricing plan was developed under the VPPP.

The MTA, Hochul said, was prepared for a challenge, and she expressed confidence in the lawsuit it filed to counteract the decision.

"If in some world (the administration is) successful, the next time you're stuck in traffic, the next time your train is delayed, the next time you're in a flooded station because infrastructure repairs were not made, I want you to think of this," the governor said. "We know where the blame goes."

The Town of Hempstead had filed a lawsuit against the MTA and the state in opposition to the congestion-pricing plan. Supervisor Don Clavin praised the decision by the Trump administration, arguing that congestion pricing is nothing more than "a money grab and a slap in the face to working-class commuters."

State Sen. Alexis Weik, a Republican who represents portions of Nassau and Suffolk counties, also supported the administration's decision.

"I'm glad to see that President Trump is supportive of New Yorkers," Weik said in a statement emailed to the Herald, "because their governor is not. This is a win for New York."

State Sen. Steve Rhoads, a fellow Republican who represents communities in Nassau, echoed Weik's sentiments, and was critical of Hochul's efforts to keep congestion pricing in place.

"Rather than continuing to pursue her unlawful 'commuter tax,'" Rhoads told Herald reporters, "the governor should suspend these tolls immediately and take swift action to put commuters' interests first instead of her own."

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# STEPPING OUT



Images courtesy Robert Graham Carter Family Collection  
**Untitled (Two Young Teens With Empty Chat Bubbles)**, c. 1970s, pencil and pastel on paper, is an open-ended composition, depicting race relations.



**Above: If Der Be Angels Then Some Must Look Me**, c. 2000s, wood and acrylic, examines spirituality by highlighting the divine beauty of the everyday..



**To the right: Proud Queen, Tribute To My Wife**, 1995, wood and acrylic, underscores the versatility of his form.

## Painting the bigger picture

Robert Graham Carter reflects: A life lived through art

By Danielle Schwab

**W**ithin the everyday experience, there's a deeper story to be told. For visual artist Robert Graham Carter, his art unearths the stories of the African American experience through the individuals and environments he depicts, bringing larger narratives to the surface.

Now on display at the Heckscher Museum of Art, visitors can explore over 22 figurative paintings, sculptures and drawings that explore his reflections on childhood, spirituality, the black church, and societal inequities. The exhibition, "Robert Graham Carter: The Art of Reflection," celebrates not only his talents but his involvement with Long Island's art scene — particularly the Heckscher, where Carter made history in 1973 as the first African American artist to receive a solo show.

Born in Louisville, Ky. in 1938, Carter witnessed firsthand life during the Jim Crow South. Later, he went to the University of Louisville with many internationally known artists today such as Sam Gilliam, Bob Thompson and Kenneth Young.

"They actually formed an arts collective called the Gallery Enterprises when they were in college. This collective was important because the city was recently desegregated. There were socially not that many opportunities for artists to exhibit their work if they were artists of color," guest curator Sarah Battle says. "The Gallery Enterprises created those spaces."

Carter became known for his striking figurative art — often in mixed mediums — that depicted his life experience as an African American man while drawing inspiration from the people around him.

"He's going to showcase a memory, or illustrate people — everyday people — in his life that he either wants people to be thinking about, to elevate, or just to offer another perspective on the topic at hand," Battle, research curator at Louisville's Speed Art Museum, explains.

Drawing influence from his upbringing, Carter's works balance personal and universal truths, with a focus on topics that connect to the experiences of African Americans. His art addresses the joy and importance of family, the legacy of segregation, the charm of childhood, the spiritual and corporal force that is the Black church, and the impression of Blackface on American culture.

"Figures are the carriers of my thoughts, messages, or ideas, they are my stories," Carter explained in an email. "For me, it's the best way to tell the story or to give value or a sense of texture to a meeting or setting."

In his untitled pencil and pastel drawing from the 1970s, Carter shows his mastery through his depiction of two children, one white child and one African American child with empty thought bubbles above their head as they gaze at each other.

"This piece inspired the education team at the Heckscher to create an activity for people to think about the sorts of conversations these two children could be thinking or saying to each

other, and what sorts of ways these conversations might have changed over time," Battle says.

Carter also found a niche in using wood in his creations.

"It started with me being attracted to the brightness of the paint and the subdued quality of the wood," Carter went on in his email. "I thought color placed against this kind of texture and tone would stand out. If you had a bright blue or bright red against a dull gray, the gray would make the color even stronger."

His use of texture is on full display in his "If Der Be Angels, Den Sum Mus Look Like Me, 2000s," where Carter postulates spiritual inclusivity within the religious narrative.

"This piece is of an angel. The wings of the angel are made up of these wood slits. They're painted in bright colors that make it appear that the wings are very full and three-dimensional," Battle says.

"They're just layers of these wood pieces that create such beautiful interiors or beautiful figures."

Carter moved to Long Island in 1968 and joined Nassau Community College where he taught in the art department for over 50 years. Archival items such as newspaper clippings and letters included in the exhibit show the impact of his identity as an educator and artist in the local art scene — and throughout the country.

"When I retired, a formal written notice was required. In my notice, I wrote an anecdote 'I explained the problem, and no one understood it. I explained the problem again, and no one understood it. I explained it a third time, and I understood it.' It's a short gimmicky way of saying I am bettered for having taught others," Carter further explained.

His legacy of creating and inspiring art here and beyond is a testament to his enduring craft.

"This is a wonderful opportunity for the local arts community if they don't know his work already, to see a number of great examples, as well as draw more national attention to his living legacy," Battle adds.

"This exhibition not only offers visitors a chance to see art made throughout Carter's career, but it also makes space to honor his living legacy as an artist educator. This solo show highlights some of his early influences in Louisville, Kentucky as well as his impact on artists in Nassau County and beyond."



### Jim Messina

He has plenty of stories to tell — with more to come. An undisputed expert in the fine art of making hit music, Jim Messina's legacy of musical genius spans five decades, three super groups, a vibrant solo career and scores of producing and engineering credits. a musician whose career has shaped the sound of multiple generations. From his start with Buffalo Springfield to defining the Country Rock genre with Poco and then forming the iconic duo Loggins & Messina, his influence on music is undeniable. With hits spanning over five decades, he's a true craftsman of his art. Now touring with a talented band, Messina performs songs from every stage of his career: Buffalo Springfield, Poco, Loggins & Messina, and his solo projects. Touring the country and playing sold-out shows, Jim says that he's enjoying discovering who he is, where he's been and — most significantly — where he's going.

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 Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Tickets available at [landmarkonmainstreet.org](http://landmarkonmainstreet.org) or (516) 767-6444.



### Kevin James

You know him, you love him, and now you can catch Kevin James when his "Owls Don't Walk" tour arrives here. As only Kevin can, he covers a range of topics from motivating children to put down their video games, to why he doesn't trust technology, and how many tater tots he can fit in his mouth. James sure has come a long way since his early days on the local comedy scene. After being discovered at the 1996 Montreal Comedy Festival, he signed a development deal to create his own sitcom. "The King of Queens" premiered in 1998 and ran for nine seasons, earning him an Emmy nomination. From there, his acting career blew up — in film and TV.

Sunday, March 2, 7:30 p.m. \$99.50, \$79.50, \$69.50, \$49.50. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. (800) 745-3000 or [Ticketmaster.com](http://Ticketmaster.com) or [ParamountNY.com](http://ParamountNY.com).

# THE SCENE

March 20

## The Joni Project

The Joni Project visits the Tilles

Center stage, Thursday, **March 20**, 7:30 p.m., to celebrate the iconic Joni Mitchell. The musically sophisticated band is fronted by Long Island's remarkable multi-instrumentalist and singer Katie Pearlman, who impressively plays Joni's songs in their original open guitar tunings, and also includes jazz and jam band mainstays Dave Berg (guitar), Dan Ehrlich (bass), Alan Lerner (drums), Mark Mancini (keyboards), Steve Finklestein (percussion), Premik Russell Tubbs (saxophone and flute) and Victoria Faiella (backing vocals). Collectively, they've performed with members of the Grateful Dead, The Band, The Doors, the Neville Brothers, and many others.

Together, they bring fresh interpretation to Joni's legendary tunes from their many eras and genres — particularly from the time of her stunning and dynamic collaboration with Jaco Pastorius, Pat Metheny and Michael Brecker. But The Joni Project celebrates it all - from Both Sides Now, Big Yellow Taxi, Chelsea Morning and Help Me, to Raised on Robbery and Free Man in Paris! Pearlman faithfully performs in true Joni style. LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Boulevard, Brookville. Tickets available at [tillescenter.org](http://tillescenter.org) or (516) 299-3100.



## On stage

Adelphi University Performing Arts students present the musical adaptation of "The Spitfire Grill," now through Sunday, **March 2**. Based on the 1996 film by Lee David Zlotoff, this is a heartwarming and inspirational musical tale of redemption, perseverance and family. It follows a troubled young parolee yearning for a fresh start who follows her dreams to Wisconsin, based on a page from an old travel book, only to find a small town with a gritty heart aching with longing and regret.

Unexpectedly discovering the healing power of community while working at the Spitfire Grill, Percy reawakens the entire town's capacity for rebirth, forgiveness and hope. Set to a melodic folk-inspired score, it's a joyous celebration of human kindness. \$30, with discounts available for seniors, students Adelphi alumni and staff. Adelphi University Performing Arts Center, 1 South Ave., Garden City. (516) 877-4000 or [Adelphi.edu/pac](http://Adelphi.edu/pac).



## In concert

Jupiter String Quartet returns to Adelphi University Performing Arts Center, Friday, **Feb. 28**, 8 p.m. The intimate group of violinists Nelson Lee and Meg Freivogel, violist Liz Freivogel (Meg's older sister), and cellist Daniel McDonough (Meg's husband, Liz's brother-in-law) are brought together by ties both familial and musical.

The ensemble brings its well-honed musical chemistry to three works shaped by bold musicality and deeply meaningful thematic inspirations, including Warmth from Other Suns by Carlos Simon; String Quartet No. 3, Glitter, Doom, Shards, Memory by Shulamit; and String Quartet No. 13 in B-flat Major, Op. 130 with the Grosse Fuge by Ludwig van Beethoven. 1 South Ave., Garden City. (516) 877-4000 or [Adelphi.edu/pac](http://Adelphi.edu/pac).

## In concert

The influential proto-punk/garage band The Dictators performs at My Father's Place, Sunday, **March 2**, 7-9 p.m. My Father's Place at The Roslyn, 1221 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn. For tickets/information, visit [MyFathersPlace.com](http://MyFathersPlace.com) or call (516) 580-0887.

## Library Walking Club

Participate in Glen Cove Public Library's at-your-own-pace hour walk, every Thursday, at 9:15 a.m. All fitness levels are welcome. 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. Register at [glencovelibrary.org](http://glencovelibrary.org) or call (516) 676-2130 for more information.

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## Discover what's coming in the HERALD

MAR 13

### Our Story Real Estate Movers and Shakers

This edition spotlights the individuals driving positive change, from revitalizing neighborhoods to pioneering sustainable development and inclusive economic growth. This edition features in-depth profiles, and takes a look behind-the-scenes at how community-focused real estate and business leaders are reshaping local communities.



MAR 20

### Your Health

Your Health: Hearing & Vision, a special section dedicated to bringing you essential aspects of hearing and eye care. In this section, we explore the latest advancements in audiology and optometry, provide expert advice on maintaining healthy hearing and vision, and share practical tips for all ages. From recognizing early signs of hearing loss to choosing the right eyewear, we cover topics that matter most to you and your loved ones.



APR 3

### Higher Education

Higher education is more than just earning a degree—it's a gateway to personal growth, career success, and community development. This special supplement explores the transformative impact of colleges and universities on individuals and society, highlighting the latest trends, opportunities, and resources available to students and lifelong learners.



APR 10

### 2025 High School Lacrosse Preview

Get ready for an action-packed season with the 2025 High School Lacrosse Preview, your ultimate guide to the upcoming year in local high school lacrosse. This special section highlights the teams, standout players, key matchups, and expert analysis of what to expect on the field. Look for the Football Preview on Sept. 11 and Basketball Preview Dec. 18



To advertise in these outstanding supplements call 516-569-4000 x250 or email [rglickman@liherald.com](mailto:rglickman@liherald.com)

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## Family theater

Long Island Children's Museum

welcomes families to its stage, Friday, **Feb. 28**, 10:15 a.m., noon, 6:15 p.m.; Sunday, **March 2**, 2 p.m.; also Wednesday and Thursday, **March 5-6**, 10:15 a.m. and noon. It is 3017 in this futuristic, musical retelling of "Cinderella." She's now a space engineer looking to revolutionize space travel. When the Prince holds a parade, Cinderella saves the day.

But first, she'll have to keep her evil stepmother from throwing a wrench in her plans! \$11 with museum admission (\$9 members), \$15 theater only. Museum Row, Garden City. (516) 224-5800 or licm.org.

## Best of Broadway: 'Looking Forward, Looking Back'

Adelphi University Performing Arts students celebrate the music that shaped Broadway during their semi-annual Best of Broadway concert, Sunday, **March 9**, 4 p.m. The talented students bring to life the magic of Broadway with music from classic and contemporary musicals. Performing Arts Center, 1 South Ave., Garden City. (516) 877-4000 or Adelphi.edu/pac.



## International Women's Day Program

The City of Glen Cove celebrates International Women's Day with a special panel discussion, "Female Firsts," Monday, **March 3**, at 6 p.m. at Glen Cove City Hall. The panel includes Rear Admiral Melissa Bert, the first female Judge Advocate General and Chief Counsel of the U.S. Coast Guard, and former Rep. Kathleen Rice, the first female Nassau County District Attorney. Glen Cove Councilwoman

Silverman moderates the discussion, which will highlight the experiences and achievements of pioneering women in leadership roles. Open to all. For more information, visit glencoveny.gov. 9 Glen St.

## Knitting/Crochet Club

Meet up with other knitters or crocheters, at Glen Cove Public Library, Fridays, 10 a.m.-noon. Whether you're new to knitting or you've been doing it for years, it's always more fun with friends! Start a new project or bring a current one. Participants should bring their own needles and yarn. 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove. For more information call (516) 676-2130.

## 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.

## Art explorations

Converse, collaborate and create at Family Saturday, **March 1**, noon-3 p.m., at Nassau County Museum of Art's Manes Education Center. The drop-in program continues, Saturdays, noon-3 p.m. Get inspired by the art and objects in the galleries and then join educators to explore and discover different materials to create original artwork.

Kids and their adult partners connect while talking about and making art together. A new project is featured every week. While there, enjoy reading and play in the Reading Room, and contribute to The Lobby Project, a collaborative art installation. \$20 adult, \$10 child. Registration required. 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. Visit NassauMuseum.org for more information and to register or call (516) 484-9337.

## On Exhibit

Nassau County Museum of Art's latest exhibition, the original "Deco at 100" coincides with the 100th anniversary of the 1925 Paris International Exhibition of Modern Decorative and Industrial Arts (Exposition internationale des arts décoratifs et industriels modernes) which publicly launched the movement. The direct follow-up to the well-received 2023 exhibit, "Our Gilded Age," it comparably links the period's signature innovation in the decorative arts, Art Deco, to the fine arts. The exhibit encompasses significant cultural advancements during Long Island's Roaring Twenties/Jazz Age movement, including votes, jobs, and the automobile for women, the beginnings of suburbia with commutation for work, and planned residential communities, which all defined the era, while the following decade brought economic reversals and the WPA program. Works by Louis Comfort Tiffany, Fernand Léger, Guy Pène du Bois, Gaston Lachaise, Elie Nadelman, and Reginald Marsh, among others, along with art deco stylists of poster art and graphics, and photography will convey the Art Deco spirit along with its furniture, decorative arts, and fashion.

Like "Our Gilded Age," the social scene of Long Island's Gold Coast, and its personalities — both upstairs and downstairs — will be portrayed, along with the ongoing relationship with the immediate urban context of New York with its skyscrapers and deco-styled architecture. On view through June 15. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or NassauMuseum.org.



March  
9

## Hempstead House tour

Sands Point Preserve is the backdrop to explore the elegant Gold Coast home that's the centerpiece of the estate, Sunday, **March 9**, noon-1 p.m. and 2-3 p.m. Visit the grand rooms inside the massive 50,000-square-foot Tudor-style mansion, the former summer residence of Gilded Age financier Howard Gould and later Daniel and Florence Guggenheim. Tours are limited in size and tend to sell out. Arrive early to purchase tickets. \$10. Sands Point Preserve, 127 Middle Neck Road. For information, visit SandsPointPreserve-Conservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901.



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# HERALD



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# Blakeman vs. Koslow for county executive

By CHRISTIE LEIGH BABIRAD

cbabirad@liherald.com

A large crowd showed for the kickoff to Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman's re-election campaign.

The American Legion Post 1066 in Massapequa was packed on Monday with a number of Nassau County officials in attendance including Nassau County Comptroller Elaine Phillips, and Town of Oyster Bay Supervisor Joseph Saladino who asked the crowd if they're ready to send a strong message across Nassau County and across America.

Saladino said that the last time the Democrats had control of Nassau County, they hiked taxes and crime soared through the roof, but Blakeman changed all of that.

"We love our families, we love our country, and we have a saying here in Massapequa, we stand for the American flag and we kneel for God," Saladino said.

Blakeman has been serving for 3.5 years since he defeated incumbent Laura Curran in 2021. He is looking to serve for another four years and this race is said to be one of the closest



Christie Leigh Babirad/Herald

**Incumbent Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman announced that he is running for re-election in Massapequa on Feb. 24.**

watched races in 2025.

"I'm here to support Bruce, keep Nassau red and keep it safe and more affordable for the middle class," county resident Amber Anderson said.

Other supporters included American

Legion Post 2736 of East Meadow members Frank Salamino and Carl Hager, who both said that Blakeman is a "good guy."

"Bruce Blakeman is a real gentleman," said Hager.

The crowd cheered loudly as Blakeman stepped up to the podium and spoke of his accomplishments from lowering the crime rate and taxes, banning masks that supposedly led to hate crimes, prohibiting men from playing on women's teams and supporting the police.

"We're not defunding the police, we're growing the police," said Blakeman, who also lauded that he signed an executive order that prohibited the county from becoming a sanctuary place.

His expected opponent, Democratic County Legislator Seth Koslow, noted his opposition to Blakeman's record.

"Under Bruce Blakeman, Nassau taxpayers are paying more and getting less," Koslow said in a statement. "Taxes are higher, crime is rising, and millions in illegal fees have not been refunded. Instead of helping hardworking families, he is using taxpayer dollars to line the pockets of his political donors and party cronies. Nassau County deserves better. I will fight to put money back where it belongs, in the hands of taxpayers, and ensure our county is safe, affordable, and well-run for everyone."

GLEN COVE HERALD — February 27, 2025

## NEWS BRIEF

### New board members for boys & girls club

The Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club is excited to announce the appointment of two new members to its Board of Directors: Linda Cirigliano and Samantha Lordi. Both individuals bring valuable experience and a deep commitment to the community.

Linda Cirigliano, founder of LC Three, a construction owner's representation firm, has long been involved with GBBGC, previously serving on the Scholarship Committee and teaching Greek to teen members before their service trip to Greece. With over 20 years of experience in the construction industry, Linda has held leadership roles including Vice President of FAME GC and serves on the board of the High School for Construction, Technology, Engineering, and Architecture in Queens. Linda is a graduate of NYU's School of Construction Management and has a passion for mentorship and community involvement. "I am honored to join GBBGC's Board. The Club's mission to inspire young people to realize their potential as leaders deeply resonates with me," she said.

Samantha Lordi, a licensed real estate salesperson with Compass, has been an active volunteer with GBBGC for years, most recently serving on the golf committee and helping run the youth golf program alongside her husband, Chris, a club alum. A Locust Valley resident and mother of two young



Courtesy Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club

**Linda Cirigliano, left, and Samantha Lordi joined the Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club's board.**

children, Lordi has a background in business management from Marymount Manhattan College. She previously served on event committees for the Mill Neck Family Organization and was a member of Step-Up Women's Network NYC. Samantha expressed, "As a parent and professional in the community, I am thrilled to support the Club's mission to help young people thrive in a nurturing and opportunity-filled environment."

"We are thrilled to welcome Linda and Samantha to our Board and look forward to their valuable contributions," Melissa Rhodes, the club's executive director.

—Roksana Amid

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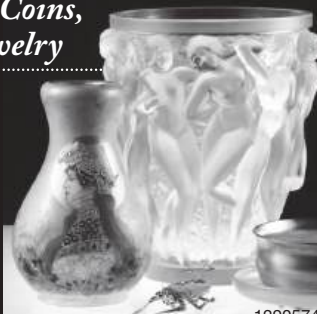
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## OPINIONS

# A word that speaks to all of us: community

**C**ommunity is a word that means so much to many. It's a word that strikes a chord in all of us. No matter who we are, no matter what we do, we yearn to be part of something — part of a strong community.

This desire for connection and belonging is a key element of human nature. It's what drives us to seek out like-minded people, to take part in community events, and to contribute to the greater good.



**PAMELA  
PANZENBECK**

Glen Cove is one of the strongest communities as a whole, filled with many smaller communities within the city limits. We have a multitude of religious institutions, many civic organizations and so many opportunities for people to belong. The city has a thriving Senior Center as well as the Glen Cove Youth Bureau. From our local businesses to our community organizations, every aspect of life in Glen Cove is infused with a spirit of camaraderie and cooperation.

With more than 15 houses of worship representing many faiths, including

Christianity, Judaism, Sikhism and more, Glen Cove is blessed with a wide variety of religious organizations, which serve as pillars of support, providing outreach initiatives, spiritual counseling, and a feeling of community to people from all walks of life.

Numerous civic organizations that are committed to improving Glen Cove also contribute to our community. They offer everything from food and clothing to emotional and financial support, and focus on youth development, elder care, environmental preservation, historical preservation and public service. In particular, the city is proud to have a flourishing Senior Center, which offers a variety of activities and programs for our elderly residents. Additionally, the Glen Cove Youth Bureau provides a safe and positive space for our young people to learn, grow, and thrive.

One of the most fulfilling experiences in life is giving back to the community. A shared act of kindness, a meal or a consoling word can provide enormous joy to others. Serving others is about having a heart, sticking together, and truly changing the lives of our neighbors.

As mayor, I've had the honor of

observing the power of our city. My participation in many community organizations is motivated by the satisfaction and delight of helping others, not by the need for personal recognition. I've seen the immediate effects of community service

through my involvement with the Veterans Council, the Memorial Day Parade Committee, the Hospital Auxiliary, the Rotary Club and the Beautification Commission.

Since parks and amenities are key to building connections and living better, we are dedicated to making improvements to them. These common areas are where our community's collective heart beats the loud-

est. This year we continue to make important improvements to promote happiness, well-being and community — it's important to keep the momentum going:

**Pascucci Park:** Upgraded lighting for evening sports, allowing families to enjoy games under the night sky.

**John Maccarone Memorial Stadium:** New backstops installed, protecting our young athletes.

**City of Glen Cove Municipal Golf Course:** Enhanced with a new safety wall

and updated garage doors, improving aesthetics and security.

**Stanco Park:** The basketball court fully resurfaced. A brand-new tennis court has also been added.

**Morgan Memorial Park:** Historic brick pavilions restored, with roof repairs on the horizon, preserving a cherished spot for gatherings.

**Pryibil Beach:** The new pier project nearing completion, with a new volleyball court on the way, inviting more outdoor activities by the water.

These outward enhancements are investments in our general well-being rather than merely updates. Children learn to dream there, friendships are made, and we share in one another's struggles and celebrate our successes.

In Glen Cove, we thrive because of our people — their generosity, kindness and willingness to lift one another up. These enhancements to our shared spaces are a testament to our commitment to one another, ensuring that the city remains a place of inclusion, opportunity and support for all. We're not just building parks; we're building a legacy of community, one in which every member feels valued and connected.

*Pamela Panzenbeck in the mayor of Glen Cove.*

# It's time for the county executive to do his job

**A**s I enter my 14th year as a Nassau County Legislator and reflect on my time in office, it dawned on me that I have served for all of those years as a member of the Legislature's minority caucus. While there have been disagreements with county executives and my colleagues in the majority along the way, I



**DELIA  
DERIGGI-WHITTON**

have always maintained cordial and productive relationships, and worked with county executives of both parties to get things done for my district and the county's taxpayers.

Since Bruce Blakeman took office as county executive in 2022, however, progress on crucial initiatives, grants and capital infrastructure proposals has stalled — and minority caucus-represented areas have shouldered a disproportionate impact. To get all areas of the county back on the right track, I urge the Blakeman administration to begin addressing these key priorities:

*Finalize a comprehensive, equitable capital plan that invests in the communities of all 19 legislative districts. Per the*

Nassau County Charter, a capital plan must be adopted by Dec. 15 each year — but the Blakeman administration has achieved this only once in the past three years. The 2025 plan is once again running late, jeopardizing economic growth, good jobs and increased safety and quality of life generated by these projects.

*Get the politics out of CRP grants.* Since the beginning of 2024, the majority has received more than 30 Community Revitalization Program grants, and the minority has received none. Some grant proposals for volunteer firefighters, village police departments and other first responders in minority districts have been held up for years. These funds need to get out to our communities regardless of legislators' party affiliation.

*Blakeman promised to "fix" the county's assessment system. He hasn't — and it's only gotten worse.* His administration has frozen the assessed values of our properties for three consecutive years. With each passing year, the tax rolls become even more unfair and distorted. The administration must live up to its promises and put the people ahead of the big tax-grievance firms that donate heavily to his campaigns and profit hand-

somely off a broken system. Until then, the best way to protect yourself from overtaxation is to grieve your home's assessed value, and the deadline to do so is March 3.

*We need real solutions to stabilize the future of Nassau University Medical Center.* NUMC is an essential part of our regional health care matrix, a Level 1 trauma center with a state-of-the-art burn center and an in-demand drug detox facility. Moreover, it serves as a lifeline for some of the county's most economically vulnerable patients. The Blakeman administration must stop treating this vital

facility like a political football and have a serious conversation with the state about keeping it open.

*Distribute the opioid funding the county has been sitting on for years.* In the past several years, the county has received nearly \$100 million in settlement funds from the distributors, manufacturers and retailers of the addictive opioids that continue to devastate families. But the Blakeman administration has only spent roughly \$3.3 million of that money to date. It is infuriating that so many people have died in the past year while settlement funds sat in bank accounts col-

lecting interest, and the ordinance currently making its way through the Legislature to create a grant portal for agencies on the front lines of addiction, treatment, prevention and recovery services is long, long overdue.

*Last, but certainly not least, disband the dangerous, illegal militia.* Nassau County has one of America's best-trained police departments, and it is instrumental in making us the safest county of our size year after year. An armed militia with minimal training by the county — regardless of its participants' previous experience or background — is not something the public or police ever asked for or needed, and Blakeman has no legal authority to marshal such a force. End the militia and allow our outstanding law enforcement professionals to do their jobs without interference.

Blakeman took an oath to serve all of Nassau's 1.4 million residents, but his hyper-partisan approach and failure to deliver on promises has been evident throughout the past three years. We deserve better, and addressing these key issues would be a step in the right direction for an administration that has routinely focused on matters far beyond its proper jurisdiction or control.

*Delia DeRiggi-Whitton represents Nassau County's 11th Legislative District and is the Legislature's minority leader.*

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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## There should never be a legal excuse for rape

Imagine going to a party with friends, or attending your high school reunion or a wedding. You see a lot of familiar faces, and some new ones. Everyone is having a good time sharing memories, and you drink into the night.

By the end, you realize you've had too much to drink. Walking doesn't come as easy, and your words are a bit slurred. No worries. It's nothing that others haven't done before. You take precautions, don't drive. Surely you'll get home safe.

Except you don't.

Instead, you are sexually assaulted or raped. The evening before is a blur and you can't quite put the pieces together, but you know something went horribly wrong. You go to the police to file a report, but suddenly you're the one being interrogated. Officers start asking you if you had any alcohol or drugs last night, and they may even give you a Breathalyzer test. But that shouldn't matter, right? Someone committed a crime — full stop.

In New York state, however, there is no law in place that protects survivors of sexual assault if they were voluntarily intoxicated during the crime.

It seems absurd that this is not already law in a state as progressive as New York, especially when compared with conservative states like Alabama and South Carolina, which have laws in place protecting sexual assault survivors who are voluntarily intoxicated.

The bill before the New York State Assembly (A.101), sponsored by dozens

of elected officials, aims to amend the law "to allow sex crimes charges to be brought in cases where the victim had become voluntarily intoxicated if a reasonable person in the defendant's position should have known that the victim was incapable of giving consent due to intoxication." It has languished in the Assembly since a similar bill was introduced in the State Senate by then Sen. Alessandra Biaggi in 2020, and passed two years later.

"Voluntarily" is the crucial word.

Those who oppose the law are afraid the language will allow for false accusations involving voluntary intoxication among consenting adults, specifically if someone regrets the decisions they made the night before and claims they were not in their normal mental state to give consent.

But advocates argue that those extreme and uncommon situations diminish the seriousness of sexual assault and rape, no matter the situation, and have presented cases to support their cause. We agree with those advocates. There is never an excuse for rape or sexual assault — nor for victim blaming or victim shaming.

In 2017, choreographer Bijan Williams, who worked with high-profile entertainers Beyonce and Jay-Z, was arrested on charges of rape and false imprisonment when a 17-year-old girl called 911 and accused him of raping her in a Manhattan hotel room. Williams was 34 old at the time, and both were under the influence of alcohol. Williams pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor of sup-

plying a minor with alcohol, and the rest of the case was dropped.

In 2021, The Washington Post published, "A Minnesota man can't be charged with felony rape because the woman chose to drink beforehand, court rules." The headline stemmed from a 2017 case in which a woman consumed several shots of alcohol and a prescription pill before accompanying an unknown man who invited her to a party. She was raped, but because she was intoxicated voluntarily, and the state law only protected those who were mentally incapacitated due to intoxication administered by someone without a person's consent, the man was not charged.

Victim blaming is all too common for survivors of sexual assault and rape, and while the scars may be invisible, they run deep.

Survivors of sexual assault are 10 times more likely to attempt suicide, according to 2020 research by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Others are plagued by a lifetime of psychological and emotional issues that interfere with their ability to handle everyday activities like holding a steady job.

While criminals walk away with a relative slap on the wrist, survivors continue to suffer from the crimes perpetrated against them, and in many cases they are relegated to carrying the shame heaped on them by society.

Our elected leaders in Albany must pass A.101 now, and close the voluntary intoxication loophole.

## LETTERS

### Whither civil discourse?

To the Editor:

Re last week's editorial, "In civil discourse, everyone deserves respect": Those of us who agree must realize that this is a contested proposition, currently facing open challenge by those who declare it an invalid premise. To many, "respect" is a virtue only when it is a synonym for obedience, when "persuasion" may include violence, and "disagreement" is a tool useful for exposing enemies, not for discussion but for vicious doxxing.

Various history months face official obliteration, propaganda terms like Gulf of America, "gender ideology" and "patriotic history" are being devised, their use enforced by lawsuit.

Coerced conformity to stereotype attempts to erase individual expression. Our president claims kingship, uses the royal "we," disparages diversity. Few such bigots are convertible, so our resolve must be keep them from power through our majority of votes.

James Russell Lowell, in 1873, described our situation: "I have always been of the mind that in a



## OPINIONS

## Destroying Roosevelt's legacy

**L**ike any resident of Oyster Bay, I've always had a fascination with our hometown president, Theodore Roosevelt. He seemed like such a larger-than-life character, a writer who was a soldier, a hunter who was a politician, and a statesman who truly cared for, and understood the needs of, the common man.

Which is why it is so disappointing that the new presidential administration seems so invested in tearing down everything that Roosevelt achieved. And no, that's not hyperbole. President Trump has said numerous times that America was richest during the Gilded Age, from about 1870 to the 1890s, and that he hopes to bring us back to that level of prosperity.

Except that prosperity was a lie, built on the backs of working-class employees who slaved away for limited wages and had no protections, while that generation's top 1 percent got richer and richer.

Roosevelt saw the damage this corrupt system was doing to the country, and earned the nickname "Trustbuster" for his fearlessness in breaking up the early monopolies. He used the power of

the executive branch to keep moneyed interests out of politics, despite pushback from members of his own cabinet and party.

Contrast that with Trump, who, rather than regulating big businesses, has invited them into his cabinet, and even more terrifying, into the country's inner record system. Elon Musk, the J.P. Morgan of the 21st century, has been given the keys to the castle and is currently ransacking our public records, from Social Security to Medicaid and more.

Furthermore, Trump has signed one executive order after another weakening regulatory agencies such as the Federal Trade Commission — which was created in response to the Roosevelt administration's lawsuit against Morgan's monopoly. Rather than working to make big business more civic-minded and protect regular Americans from its excesses, Trump is enabling the worst aspects of capitalism in this country, enriching the few at the expense of the many.

Roosevelt was also famous as a diplomat, with his best known quote describing his approach to foreign policy, to "speak softly and carry a big stick." That meant maintaining a strong military presence, but only using it as a threat once other methods of diplomacy had

been exhausted. TR's embrace of "soft" power, and its importance in foreign relations, was a hallmark of U.S. foreign policy for much of the last century.

Trump, on the other hand, appears to be more easily herded than any previous president, let alone Roosevelt. His

administration's shameful about-face on Ukraine shows his inability to see the benefit of supporting a free, democratic nation unjustly invaded by Russia's oligarchic president, Vladimir Putin. That, and Trump's apparent sycophancy toward Putin, Xi Jinping, Kim Jong-un and other autocrats, contrasts sadly with Roosevelt's ability to play the autocrats of his age against one another without forsaking American honor and dignity.

Trump's attempted destruction of USAID and similar agencies shows a further lack of understanding of soft power, and the limitations businessmen can have when switching to public service. Not everything needs to be profitable to be useful, despite what Trump and Musk may say. USAID not only saves lives, but also reaffirms the fundamental belief among Americans, our allies and even our enemies that we are a country of fundamentally good people. The goodwill we earn internationally from this and similar organizations is a

fundamental aspect of our soft power, which offers another, often more elegant, solution to global threats than simply sending in our military.

But what would really break Roosevelt's heart is Trump's apparent disregard for our nation's natural beauty and the extraordinary people who steward it. Roosevelt was known as a conservationist, and protected roughly 230 million acres of public land during his presidency, including 150 national forests and more than 40 federal bird sanctuaries.

Trump, meanwhile, has gutted our National Park Service and the United States Forest Service — founded by Roosevelt — and has repeated made clear his desire to open public land to oil drilling while deregulating environmental restrictions that big businesses face. His refusal to acknowledge the role humans play in climate change and his unwillingness to hold oil, coal and similar industries accountable would, I have no doubt, make the Bull Moose apoplectic.

I've spent countless hours poring over biographies, watching documentaries and listening to podcasts about Roosevelt. While I obviously never met him, and have never met Trump, I can say with certainty that Trump is no Teddy Roosevelt.

*Will Sheeline is an editor covering Glen Head, Locust Valley, Oyster Bay and Sea Cliff. Comments? WSheeline@liherald.com.*



**WILL SHEELINE**

## LETTERS

democracy, manners are the only effective weapon against the Bowie knife." Resolute in manners, wary, registered to vote.

**BRIAN KELLY**  
Rockville Centre

## Which of these presidents doesn't belong?

To the Editor:

Re Peter King's column last week, "Recalling the presidents I've met": Former Congressman King continues his attempt to gaslight Herald readers by including the current occupier of the White House on his list of former U.S. presidents he's collaborated with over the last several decades. As if Donald Trump's attack on U.S. democracy and scorched-earth approach is comparable to the political ideology of any former president, Republican or Democrat. King attempts to gloss over Trump's abhorrent behavior by reminiscing about an invitation King's grandchildren received to visit the White House.

Why is King trying to normalize the first 30 days of this chaotic presidency by recalling mundane details about

Trump — and including him on a list of former presidents who, by contrast, had a very clear and unwavering love for this republic? Why omit mention of Trump's flurry of nonsensical executive orders, blanket pardons of the criminals who attacked our Capitol, mass firings of federal employees, attempted eviscerations of the CIA and the FBI, elimination of the Department of Education, and countless threats of retribution against perceived enemies?

Because normalization of outrageous tactics is a tool of MAGA's propaganda machine — much like the Third Reich systematically rationalized its attacks on the free press and takeover of the military as necessary evils in order to take control of an ailing and dysfunctional government. MAGA's use of this tactic is deceptive and dangerous, and King seems to be a willing cog in the wheel.

At the very least, in the interest of standing up for his former constituents, King should question Trump's blatant surrender of our government systems — which include our personal and private information — to Elon Musk, under the guise of DOGE, and acknowledge that it is (at the very least) an overstep by an administration that is suddenly in the hands of an unsanctioned group of non-elected private citizens.

## FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



The indie and R&B cover band Salvee performing at Sparkle on Stage — Freeport

Not even Trump's supporters voted for Elon Musk.

Congressman, it's never too late to say, "I misjudged him." It's never too late to say, "I was wrong." And it's

never too late to hold someone accountable.

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