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Adrienne Daley/Herald photos

## Sunshine and smiles at the parade

Best friends Valentina Verni and Valentina Albicocco, both 10, watched the St. Patrick's Day Parade together on Sunday. Grand Marshal Joe McDonald led the procession downtown.



# Capital plan stalls amid funding clash

By **ROKSANA AMID**

[ramid@iherald.com](mailto:ramid@iherald.com)

Tensions boiled over on Monday as the Nassau County Legislature failed to pass County Executive Bruce Blakeman's \$426 million capital improvement plan, leaving critical infrastructure funding in limbo amid a bitter partisan standoff over fire department funding.

All 12 Republican legislators voted to approve the plan, which includes money for roadwork, park upgrades, police equipment and emergency vehicles. But all seven Democrats abstained, arguing that Blakeman failed to provide a written commitment to fund safety upgrades for fire departments and EMS services in their districts. After a hour of debate in the legislative chamber, the plan was tabled. The reason for the stalemate, according to Democrats, is a lack of trust.

John Jarvis, a Glen Cove resident who volunteers for the Oyster Bay Fire Department, was one of a dozen people who spoke to legislators before their

vote.

"A lot of these grants going back to 2023 and 2022 are from those years' capital plans, and they just want assurance that those that they're going to going to be able to get their grants," Jarvis said of the legislators. "I find it extremely offensive that my fire department is able to secure a \$386,000 grant to buy a new ambulance, but meanwhile, 20 minutes away in Glen Cove and Sea Cliff, they can't even secure grants for their fire departments. It's very offensive. I want to be safe when I go into a fire. I want to be able to use modern, modern-

**B**e the people that you were on Sept. 12, 2001.

**JOHN JARVIS**  
Firefighter

ized equipment. Be the people that you were on Sept. 12, 2001. On that day, we weren't Republicans, we weren't Democrats. It didn't matter who we were, we all worked together on the side of the World Trade Center to rescue victims."

Legislator Seth Koslow, a Democrat and a candidate for county executive, said, "Over a million dollars in funding for

CONTINUED ON PAGE 2

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Roksana Amid/Herald

County Executive Bruce Blakeman had an angry exchange with Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton during a news conference about Nassau's capital budget in the County Legislature's ceremonial chamber in Mineola.

## Blakeman says Democrats are playing 'political games'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

CPR equipment, turnout gear for firefighters when they run into a burning building, (and) communication upgrades for our local police departments has been ignored."

Koslow accused Blakeman of "blatant political bias," noting that since 2023, "\$2.5 million in funding (has been) sent to Republican districts," while "there has been zero approved for Democratic-led districts."

Democrats say the money they're requesting was approved under previous capital plans and is not new spending.

"What other reason besides petty politics could there be for not approving these requests for money?" Koslow said.

The capital plan requires a 13-vote supermajority to pass, meaning Democratic support is essential. In a rare move hours before the vote, the minority caucus presented Blakeman with a written contract guaranteeing funding for specific projects in their districts — including basic equipment for volunteer fire departments — and threatened to withhold their votes if he did not sign it.

"At the end of the day, he has our agreement. All he has to do is sign it," Minority Leader Delia DeRiggi-Whitton said. "I cannot, and I will not, support this capital plan unless I know that all of us in Nassau County will get the funding we deserve, especially for our first responders."

Blakeman, however, forcefully rejected the Democrats' demand, accusing them of political gamesmanship.

"You want to play political games

with people's lives? So you're going to have to answer to your constituents," Blakeman said at a heated news conference before the vote. "We have a capital plan that's got \$400 million of basic improvements to the quality of life and the public safety of Nassau County, and they've got about \$2 million in pet projects that they want to hold hostage."

Blakeman listed the safety projects that would be jeopardized if the plan isn't passed including \$1.14 million for bullet-proof vests for police, \$3 million for new ambulances, \$1.5 million for body cameras and \$50,000 for personal protection gear for firefighters. He also cited a \$550,000 high-axle vehicle that would assist in flood evacuations.

"I think (this is) is irresponsible — a violation of their oath as a legislator," Blakeman said.

The day culminated with dueling news conferences and a public exchange between Blakeman and DeRiggi-Whitton, who confronted him with the unsigned agreement.

"If you don't sit down, you'll be asked to leave," Blakeman said.

Democrats maintain that their concerns are about fairness, not obstruction. "County Executive Blakeman has politicized every issue, from the most basic, of water, to first responders, to getting funding for really basic needs that were never honestly a problem in the past," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "Every single thing has become a fight."

Koslow added, "There's no such thing as Democratic or Republican fires ... When our first responders run into buildings, we want them prepared to help us."

**W**hat other reason besides petty politics could there be for not approving these requests for money?

**BRUCE BLAKEMAN**  
County executive





Photos courtesy Grenville Baker Boys &amp; Girls Club

Originally just a club for boys, Grenville Baker was mainly focused on after-school and summer athletics.

# Grenville Baker celebrates its 75th birthday

By WILL SHEELINE

wsheeline@liherald.com

For 75 years, the Grenville Baker Boys & Girls Club has provided a second home for children in Locust Valley and the surrounding communities. From its early days as a boys' club focused on athletics to its evolution into a full-service youth development organization, the organization has been a cornerstone of community life. To celebrate its milestone anniversary, club officials reflected on its past while looking forward to a future of continued service.

Nassau County Court Judge Colin O'Donnell, chairman of the club's board, has been involved with Grenville Baker since 1969, when he joined as a young boy. For O'Donnell, the child of Scottish immigrants who was named Grenville Baker's 1979 Youth of the Year, the club became an essential part of his American experience.

"I was assimilated to American culture because of the boys' club," he recalled. "I learned all the sports there. The club became my first employer as a (counselor in training) and then a camp counselor. Even during college, I was full-time summer staff."

O'Donnell's involvement with the club continued into adulthood. After earning a partial scholarship through the club and attending law school, he served as board president and is now chairman. He explained that it was the connections he made that kept him coming back.

"I think it's definitely the people that were the staff and volunteers. They were dedicated," O'Donnell said. "When (alumni) talk about their memories, they talk about a staff member, someone who either took an interest in how they played a certain sport or helped them in



Today Grenville Baker boasts numerous educational, emotional and additional support systems for its members, who come from all over the North Shore.

their education."

Melissa Rhodes, the club's executive director, has a similarly deep connection. Her father, a member from the late 1950s to the mid-1960s, stayed active as an adult, particularly with events like the annual clambake and the golf tournament. Rhodes herself joined in 1986.

"I was a very shy kid," she said. "But that wore off really fast. I just loved being at the club. I didn't ever want to leave. I literally attended every single day one year."

Grenville Baker has undergone significant changes over the decades. Originally an after-school sports program focused on football, basketball and baseball, it expanded into social recreation and education.

In 1981, it merged with the local girls' club, combining resources to serve both boys and girls. And over the past two

decades, the club has introduced programs such as English as a Second Language, computer labs and college prep initiatives. More recently, in response to the coronavirus pandemic, it added a meditation center as well as social workers who offer mental health support.

"We used to have a rifle range back in the '50s and '60s, where kids would have BB gun competitions," O'Donnell said. "Now we have social workers, bilingual social workers, part-time and full-time staff. That's how we've evolved."

Despite the changes, one thing has remained constant: The sense of community. O'Donnell recalled Saturdays in his childhood filled with sports, games and a longstanding tradition, Saturday Pizza Kitchen, run by parents.

"There's always been a sense of community," he said. "You knew you could go down and get pizza, and that was the

thing you looked forward to on a Saturday."

Through the years, the club has given members opportunities they might not otherwise have had. Rhodes noted that today, kids who have never been to a Broadway show have the chance to do that thanks to the club's cultural programs.

"We transition them to the college prep program for high school," she said. "We didn't have that when I was a kid, but now it's something we emphasize."

For club members like Abraham D., involvement in the club is deeply personal. "Grenville Baker has shaped me into a better person," Abraham wrote in a statement. (The club keeps its members' full names confidential.) "It has guided me through challenges and shown me what I am capable of achieving. I wouldn't be where I am today without this club."

As the club celebrates its anniversary, its leadership has organized numerous events throughout the year, including a clambake and others that will hark back to activities it has hosted over its history. The club's leaders say that they want the celebration to help raise both money and awareness of the work it does, while also giving alumni a chance to reconnect with the memories that so many of them share.

"It was like a second home," O'Donnell said. "I didn't want to go home when my parents came to pick me up because I liked it so much."

A special anniversary gala is scheduled for May 30, and will bring together alumni, supporters and current members to celebrate the club's rich history and what they hope will be a promising future. For more information on Grenville Baker, the work it does and how to support it, visit GBBGC.org.





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# Accepting What Is

As estate planners, we consistently meet with people who are suffering from traumatic relationships with their children or grandchildren. Children themselves may become estranged or at odds with parents or their siblings. Sometimes, an in-law is involved that seems to turn the client's son or daughter into someone completely different from the child they raised. The pain that these clients are going through is palpable.

Some wise sage once said that all pain comes from resistance. Many of these relationship issues may be difficult or impossible to overcome, but one thing we can all do is work on ourselves — by accepting what is. Accepting what is does not mean agreeing with or condoning certain behavior. What it does mean is that you stop saying to yourself that it is not fair, it "should" be otherwise, etc. That will not do you one bit of good and may do you considerable harm. Stress has been called "the silent killer".

We recall reading a pithy quote a while back that went something like this "when someone disappoints you, you have two choices, you

can either lower your expectations or walk away". What is disappointment but dashed expectations? Those who learn to expect less are disappointed less.

"Accepting what is" cannot be accomplished overnight. It is a concept or thought process that improves your outlook the more you think about it, work on it and form new neural pathways to forge the new outlook.

Estate planners inevitably become "therapists" for their clients because estate planning involves social relationships. Over the years, we have observed that many social problems occur between the clients two ears. As Shakespeare said in Hamlet "There is nothing good or bad, but thinking makes it so." Forget about what's fair or right and what's not. You are only hurting yourself. The other person is often blissfully unaware of how you're feeling. Michael J. Fox, the actor known for his optimism despite suffering from Parkinson's, put it best when he said "My happiness grows in direct proportion to my acceptance, and in inverse proportion to my expectations".

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## ON THE ROAD WITH A TAKEOUT QUEEN

# Are you a true takeout artist?

I'm too lazy and impatient to cook, so I order takeout all the time. Since I've been at it for decades, I feel I can say grabbing takeout on a regular basis requires skill and talent. It's an art form. Are you a true takeout artist? Answer the four questions below, which relate to new foods in our neighborhood, and find out.

### Domino's Pizza (104 School St., Glen Cove)

Is there a truckload of pizza in your life? If so, you might agree, the crust is the boring part. Thankfully, those days are over. Domino's now offers Parmesan Stuffed Crust. The dough is filled with a layer of mozzarella cheese. I ordered this delicious version and was so excited when I sank my teeth into the crust. Oozy cheese was in every bite.

### Okaru (1401 Old Northern Blvd., Roslyn)

To avoid "takeout boredom," do you appreciate restaurants where food is designed and plated in imaginative ways? If the answer is yes, you'll have fun in this new, upscale Japanese restaurant. When I ordered avocado crispy rice, I was expecting a bowl of rice surrounded by avocado slices. Instead, I was served an elegant plate filled with sushi-shaped pieces. The top layers were decorated with a silky avocado spread. The bottom layers were made of crunchy fried rice with a toasty-nutty texture. For dessert, my pumpkin kabocha cheesecake looked like a delicate flower. Its candied pumpkin seeds were encased in a paper-thin sheet of clear sugar that resembled a tiny scarf.

A wonderland of sushi is featured on the menu as well, along with entrees ranging from Miso Red Lamb Chops to Grilled Branzino. It's a happy place.

### Coffee & Scoop (271 Bayville Ave., Bayville)

Do you like to watch the way your takeout order is being prepared? I do, so I love to bop into this gelato, pastry and coffee shop. Shop owner, Andy Lin, told me, "Every gelato flavor is crafted in small batches using a machine you can see in front of you. It allows the customers to watch the gelato-making process in real time. There are 12 pots dedicated to creating base flavors such as vanilla and chocolate. From there, the possibili-

ties of combinations are endless. Blending hazelnut and chocolate creates a flavor reminiscent of Ferrero Rocher candy—a customer favorite."

The smooth-as-silk salted caramel gelato is my favorite. Other favorite rotating flavors such as Cookie Butter are back, joined by pastries baked every morning, and countless coffee flavors, lattes

and slushies. Tamago Sando, a Japanese-inspired egg sandwich that pairs perfectly with their buttery croissants is new!

### Rising Tide (42 Forest Ave., Glen Cove)

Do you refuse to cook anything that requires more than one step? For example, I love baked tofu, but I'll never consider draining it, drying it and putting it in the oven. That exceeds my step quota. Instead, I'm thrilled Rising Tide has introduced baked sesame tofu in the deli section. It's firm and ginger-y (but not too ginger-y) and comes in a container filled with bite sized pieces. When I'm driving, I pop a piece in my mouth every time I stop at a red light.

If you read through this entire column, you're a true takeout artist. Congratulations. See you next month!



**CATHI TUROW**

GLEN COVE  
**HERALD**

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Courtesy NYPA Conference

More than 20 members of the Herald Community Media team attended the annual New York Press Association Spring Conference in Saratoga Springs March 20-21.

# Herald publications win seven state awards

By JEFFREY BESSEN

jbessen@liherald.com

At the annual New York Press Association Spring Conference in Saratoga Springs last week, Herald Community Media won seven state awards in the 2024 Better Newspaper Contest.

Long Beach reporter Angelina Zingariello won a first place award in the Feature Story category, Division 4. With so many submissions in each of six divisions, it is a very difficult award to win.

About the story with the headline “A long, cold, healing journey” the judges said: “Good combination of personal struggle and outcome with unconventional therapy. Well written and edited, a compelling read.”

The Nov. 21 story focused on how Long Beach resident Mindi Dovberg uses cold-water immersion as a technique for an emotional reset when dealing with physical challenges and emotional setbacks.

The Herald took the top spot in Best Large Space Ad, Division 1, which was printed in the Nassau Herald and other Herald newspapers.

“This stunning ad touches me,” one judge wrote. “The simplicity and pure elegance of this is beautiful. Love how white space was used to create such an impact. Proves the point that sometimes less really is more! Outstanding!”

There were 10 entries in the Rookie Reporter of the Year category, and Sea Cliff/Glen Head reporter Brian Norman captured second place with stories ranging from the controversy surrounding the proposed state regionalization plan to how the food is prepared for North Shore High School students.



Sea Cliff/Glen Head reporter Brian Norman, left took second place in the Rookie Reporter of the Year category. His colleagues Melissa Berman and Charles Shaw congratulate him.

The judges said: “Reporter does a great job conveying story to readers, whether the subject be ‘hard’ news or a feature article.”

Norman, a 2024 graduate of Quinnipiac University, interned with the Herald last summer and was hired in September as a full-time reporter for Sea Cliff/Glen Head. He is now a reporter for the Nassau Herald, the flagship newspaper for the community weekly chain.

Photographer Brian Ballweg placed second in the Sports Feature, Division 1 category. The photograph appeared on the front page of the June 13 Rockville Centre Herald.

The judges said: “This photo shows

excellent framing of the lacrosse winners in this overtime state championship moment. Their faces run to the spectrum of elation, stopping the viewer — the joy here is studying their faces, bodies contained in the goal.”

Creative Director Jeffrey Negrin earned a trio of third-place awards.

In the Best Special Section Cover, Division 2 category, the judges said: “Another really excellent use of text on black with fun ‘clinks’ of glasses as backdrop. Long Island Choice Awards makes me want to open this up over a cocktail.”

For Special Sections/Niche Publications-Newsprint, Division 1 the judges said: “Excellent school recognition.”



Jeff Bessen/Herald photos

Long Beach reporter Angelina Zingariello won first place for Feature Story, Division 4.

The publication was the Herald’s annual special section for the Red and Blue competition at South Side High School that was published for the Feb. 29, 2024 Rockville Centre Herald.

In the Best Multi-Advertiser Pages category, judges said: “Cute organic for a shared page. Makes you want to read each one.”

The 2024 Better Newspapers Contest had 132 newspapers statewide submit 2,082 entries in 68 categories. The Missouri Press Association judged the submissions.

“It’s always nice to be recognized by our peers and colleagues,” said Herald Community Media publisher Stuart Richner. “We look forward to continuing to tell the stories of our communities in the weeks and years ahead. Congratulations to our team on well deserved recognition.”





# “The Vacant Space Revival Program qualified us for on-bill credits that *really help me manage costs.*”

—George Karatzas, James Cress Florist, Smithtown

Unoccupied business spaces are an opportunity to help bring vitality to downtown areas. For George Karatzas, owner of James Cress Florist, staying downtown was a priority, but costs were prohibitive. Then George applied for our Vacant Space Revival Program, which has provided \$2,462 in bill credits to help offset his overhead.\* And Smithtown continues to have a business that brings warmth and charm to the area. It’s a beautiful thing to see come together—just like George’s floral arrangements.



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\*Incentives, grants, and savings will vary with every project.







Adreinne Daley/Herald photos

Members of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians proudly march in the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade, celebrating Irish heritage, sisterhood, and community service.

# At St. Patrick's day parade everyone is lucky

The streets of Glen Cove came alive on Sunday with the vibrant sights and sounds of the annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, drawing families, friends, and neighbors together in a joyful celebration of Irish culture and community pride. Led by Grand Marshal Joe McDonald and his dedicated aides, Irene Abrams and Sean Basdavanos, the parade marched from Finley Middle School through the heart of downtown, culminating at St. Patrick's Church. Bagpipers, dancers, community groups, and local organizations filled the route with music, laughter, and color. Following the parade, attendees gathered at St. Patrick's Parish Hall for a lively after-party featuring entertainment, refreshments, and family-friendly activities. The event not only fostered a strong sense of unity but also supported a meaningful cause, with proceeds benefiting the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club and its mission to provide a safe, enriching environment for local youth.

—Roxy Amid



Members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians march proudly through downtown Glen Cove, honoring Irish history and faith during the St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Oden Basdavanos, 4, joins his father, Sean Basdavanos, in the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade, spreading joy and Irish pride.



Youth marched with smiles and shamrocks, spreading joy and Irish cheer during the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Bryan Thompson and John Rhein ride in honor of the late Dusty Hill during the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade, blending tribute and tradition on two wheels.





Adreinne Daley/Herald photos

Bubbles float through the air as families and children line the streets of downtown Glen Cove, eagerly enjoying the sights and sounds of this year's St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Cruising in style—parade-goers enjoyed the sunshine and community spirit from a classic red convertible.



Maxx and Savannah Kern ate pizza from Downtown Café.



Members of the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce march proudly in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, celebrating local businesses and community spirit.



Decked out in green beads, glittery glasses, and a festive hat, Shawn Pierce, 4, stole the spotlight with a playful pose.





Noelle Hatalovsky/Herald photos

Father Panteleimon Papadopoulos, Pastor of the Holy Resurrection, Greek Orthodox Church spoke of the importance of the day.

# Celebrating Hellenic Heritage Day in Glen

The City of Glen Cove hosted Hellenic Heritage Day at Village Square, celebrating Greek Independence Day with the community. Organized in partnership with Holy Resurrection in Brookville, the event brought residents together to honor Greek culture, history, and contributions. The celebration featured traditional music, flags, and remarks recognizing Greece’s struggle for independence. Greek Independence Day commemorates the start of the War of Independence in 1821, when Greeks rose up against the Ottoman Empire after nearly 400 years of occupation. Another key historical moment remembered during the event was the heroic stand of the Filiki Eteria, a secret organization that played a crucial role in mobilizing revolutionaries and igniting the movement for freedom. The hour-long gathering served as both a cultural tribute and a reminder of the enduring spirit of democracy that links Greek and American values.

–Roksana Amid



Friends Kyriaki Eliades, 6, Athanasia Tsiolis, 9, Nikoleta Mountrikis, 9, Maria Tagaris, 9, Nina Katsanos, 8, proudly waved Greek flags during Glen Cove’s Hellenic Heritage Day.



Despina Tagaris, 13, is a student from the church’s Greek school. She was among the dancers for the celebration.



Foris Tagaris, Denise Tagaris, Maria Eliades and Olga Tsiolis proudly held their flags on a brisk windy day.



A group of attendees proudly displayed Greek flags during Glen Cove’s Hellenic Heritage Day celebration on March 22, coming together at Village Square to honor Greek



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## James Kessler plans ring God's message to the hamlet

By LAURA LANE

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## WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

# Helping those who haven't been heard find voices

By ANGELINA ZINGARIELLO

azingariello@liherald.com

*Continuing a month-long series of interviews with influential area women in honor of Women's History Month. Helen Dorado-Alessi is CEO of El Dorado Consulting and executive director of the Long Beach Latino Civic Association.*

## ■ Herald: Tell me about yourself.

**Dorado-Alessi:** I grew up in Woodside, Queens, a very tight-knit community, so I was very accustomed to that kind of a world. When my husband and I looked for a new place to live when our children were growing up, Long Beach fit the bill for us. Beyond being a close-knit community, we found a community that was very charitable, giving and open.

I'm of Latin descent from the Caribbean, my dad from Cuba, my mother from Puerto Rico. So it's kind of in my DNA to be close to the water, sun and sand. Youth development has always been a love of mine because of how hard it was for me coming up. There wasn't any

such thing, so I always wanted to be on that side of my work. I have two kids, two grandchildren — (I'm) always out and about with them. I see the future in my grandchildren's eyes and want to make sure that I make them proud with whatever work I am doing.

## ■ Herald: What do you do? Why?

**Dorado-Alessi:** I have my own company called El Dorado Consulting. I work on projects that have helped to broker relationships between philanthropy and nonprofits to get the work done. Right now I'm a consultant to Herstory Writers Workshop, an organization that helps people in jails and schools write their social justice memoirs. We ask people, if your words had the power to change hearts, minds and policies, what would they say? Through that work, I've been able to help people have confidence in their voice and their his-

tory, their families, their communities, and then share those stories with politicians, with businesses, with others who may not know what it's like to walk in somebody else's shoes.

The other thing I do is that I'm the executive director of Long Beach Latino Civic Association. No immigrant is illegal; a person cannot be illegal, but more importantly, their dreams are not illegal. They've left some very violent, scary places to come here, to have a life that they could be proud of. If you give people the information and the education, the knowledge, they're more than happy to be part of Long Beach or

New York or the United States.

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

**Dorado-Alessi:** The most challenging part of my whole career and life has

been this particular time where there's so much animosity, hurtfulness and bullying. I think also the biggest challenge is, how do we fight misinformation and bold-faced lies? I could see why a lot of people would want this particular person to be running the country. I understand that they have their views. I'm just hoping that people, when they see what is really happening, will take a step back.

I think the parts that really drive me is when I work with young people, and I think that could have been my mom or my dad having just arrived. When I see them succeed, when I see them with a little bit of help, they're going to college, or they're getting a job on Wall Street. I think other men and women in the field who are fighting as hard as I am and we are, that's what inspires me. I'm not alone.

*More information can be found at [herstorywriters.org](http://herstorywriters.org), and [LBlatinocivic.org](http://LBlatinocivic.org). Responses have been edited for clarity. The rest of this interview can be found online, at [liherald.com](http://liherald.com).*



HELEN  
DORADO-ALESSI

# An advocate for the transgender community

By MADISON GUSLER

mgusler@liherald.com

*Juli Grey-Owens is founder and executive director of Gender Equality New York.*

## ■ Herald: Tell me about yourself.

**Grey-Owens:** I am a senior trans women who does advocacy work for our community. I grew up in northwestern New Jersey, had a relatively normal childhood. I knew something was different around (age) 3 or 4. In my pre-teen years I experimented, but didn't know what was up because this was the 1960s.

I went to high school and was a good student. I was a decent athlete, co-captain of my football team. Met a girl in eighth grade, and we were friends until we started going out in junior year. My experimentation stopped during high school because I was busy with school, sports — I had a girlfriend. I graduated with high honors and applied to engineering schools.

Then my parents had a tough divorce, and I had no money. College was a mess, trying to work multiple jobs and school. I felt a lot of pressure and began experimenting again.

I was recruited to a Fortune 500 company out of college, started work, paid off my bills, and then I went to a counselor to see if I could get rid of this "thing."

The counselor was really terrific, and he said to me, "You're not gonna get rid of it. You have to decide how you're

gonna deal with it."

I decided to blend this into my life. I continued as a cisgender man, but on weekends I would maybe go to a party or something, just to try to figure out the community and how I fit in it.

In 1981 a work opportunity brought my fiancée and I to Long Island. I got my MBA, I married that girl from junior year, and at 35 we had a child. As I got older, I felt stifled because between career and family, there was no time to go out.

A real turning point was when my father passed away. I was 47 at the time and I started looking at my life, as you do when your parent passes away, and I decided I needed to be more authentic. I started going to trans events in 2003, and it progressed from there.

My wife and I separated in 2007, and then in 2008 I met my second wife. We've been together for 16 years and married for 13.

## ■ Herald: What do you do? Why?

**Grey-Owens:** I'm founder and executive director of Gender Equality New York, a nonprofit that advocates for transgender, gender nonbinary and intersex New Yorkers. The work we do is largely educational: We provide information to agencies, legislators. I provide training to the Nassau and Suffolk police academies. I also provide train-

ing at Northwell Health and Memorial Sloan-Kettering.

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

**Grey-Owens:** The public has a very poor idea of our community, and we suffer as a result. There's a lot of bad information out there, outright lies in some cases. For example, 8-year-olds are not getting surgery, and school nurses are not giving out hormones. If we don't get information out, if we don't start making people aware of our communities, these lies will continue.

We currently have a federal government that's attacking our community and trying to make us disappear. So the work has to

be done to normalize our community and make people aware of the conditions we live under.

## ■ Herald: What has been the proudest moment in your life?

**Grey-Owens:** Getting the transgender civil rights bill passed in 2019. Prior to January 2019, a transgender person could be discriminated against in employment, housing and public services.

In 2003, lesbians, gays and bisexuals were able to pass a bill called the Sexual

Orientation Non-Discrimination Act in New York state, granting them their civil rights, (but it) specifically excluded the transgender community. It was 16 years before the trans community got their civil rights.

In 2019, the Gender Expression Non-Discrimination Act was signed into law, and we have had civil rights protections in New York state since then. There are no federal protections, so if we leave there are no guaranteed protections.

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

**Grey-Owens:** Trying to get federal protections for our community is a big thing, but right now we're just trying to get our community to survive the next four years.

And to some of our younger members, who might still be in school, or living under their family's rule, and are unable to come out and be themselves: Be patient. Be safe. Make sure you have a roof over your head, that you're fed and taken care of, get your high school diploma, if you're able to, get to college. Usually you're able to be more authentically yourself in college.

It does get better once we get older, but once you're out as an adult, anything you can do to help move the community forward is important and necessary.

*For more information, visit [genderequalitynyny.org](http://genderequalitynyny.org) or follow @genderequalitynyny on Instagram and Facebook.*



JULI  
GREY-OWENS



# STEPPING OUT



Three extreme situations are actually the same in "Voice Over."

Courtesy Asbury Shortst



"Anomaly" stars John Romeo as a detective investigating the work of a suspicious magician.

## 'Little' films with a big heart

### In the spotlight at Asbury Short Film Concert

By Karen Bloom

Sure ... the Hollywood moviemakers grab your attention. Yet there's so much more to the movie biz beside that tentpole blockbuster. Check out the Asbury Short Film Concert, which returns to its local "home" at the Madison Theatre next Friday and see an abundance of creative offerings.

There's certainly no denying the appeal of a major feature film. But for those who crave something different that certainly strikes an emotional chord, Asbury's "concert" is for you. This national touring showcase brings a diverse, focused lineup — in many cases featuring up-and-coming filmmakers — of smaller efforts you generally won't find on the big screen.

And it's most definitely not a festival.

"We present the best in comedy, drama, animation, even the occasional documentary," says Doug LeClaire, Asbury Shorts' founder and longtime director. "We call it a concert rather than a festival because there are no awards, no Q&A or panel discussions, it's all about entertainment value for the audience."

As in previous years, Asbury Shorts offers up an eclectic mix of films, what LeClaire describes as a "potpourri of the short film world."

LeClaire, who was in commercial and film production for over four decades, has been passionate about short films since his student days at New York Institute of Technology. He pivoted to promoting his beloved short films full time and the result has been a resounding success.

"Myself, and those who have been with me the longest, didn't think our short film party that began in Westbury in 1981 would evolve into a major global touring event that has presented Asbury Shorts shows from Berlin to L.A. over the years with many, many stops in between," LeClaire says. "The mission has always been to keep great short films, from all years, projected on real cinema screens as opposed to YouTube, smart phones, computers or tablets or the big screen TVs. Asbury Shorts is strictly a theatrical cinema event, no virtual allowed!"

"Our number one priority is the enjoyment of our audience. We're proud to provide an outlet for the filmmakers' product. For us, it is all about the experience, showing these films to an audience. We give them the opportunity to experience great films on a big screen the way they were meant to be seen."

He and his team cull them from the film festival circuit — including the prestigious SXSW (South by Southwest), Sundance and Toronto International Film Festival, and Tribeca Festival, among others.

"To get an award at one of these festivals is just as good as an Oscar nomination," LeClaire says. "These young filmmakers are so happy to get that wreath. They collect them the way we would collect baseball cards back in the day."



- Friday, April 4, 7:30 p.m.
- For tickets, visit [madisontheatre.org](http://madisontheatre.org) or call the box office at (516) 323-4444
- Madison Theatre, Molloy University, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre

Think of this as your personal film festival experience. As LeClaire puts it: "We're bringing these films to folks who can't get to film festivals."

His formula certainly has resonated with audiences.

"We have demonstrated that we are entertaining and blessed to have fans that keep coming back," LeClaire says, "while also reaching out to new audiences."

The two-hour show moves along briskly. The films range from a brief few minutes to 20

minutes at most.

"A good short film is to the point, fast paced, and most important of all, is the ending," LeClaire says. "It must make sense."

And that ending will surely leave you wanting more.

Among the highlights, LeClaire points to Martín Rosete's 10-minute "Voice Over," which depicts the urgency of life's pivotal moments in a desperate race against time.

Three different stories are told by the same narrator searching for the correct story. The same actor appears in all three. Will the narrator find what he's looking for? We don't know — maybe, maybe not.

Rosete, a Spanish filmmaker now based in New York, was awarded the Goya, Spain's Academy Award, for "Voice Over."

LeClaire describes it as "sort of the 'perfect' short film" due its story and production values.

"It has outstanding and mind boggling production design for an indie produced short film and an ending that I really like," he explains.

Another standout is "Anomaly" from director Ryan Jenkins, which was honored recently with Best Short Film at the Lake Placid Film Festival. In this 15-minute drama, a renowned magician features an inexplicable illusion in his final run of performances. Meanwhile, a government agent who witnesses the baffling act becomes hell-bent on uncovering its method.

As for the rest, well, you'll have to attend and see for yourself. LeClaire doesn't like to reveal too much, promising it's all "great fun."

He is delighted to come back to his Long Island roots with his film showcase.

"We're very heartened by the audience at the Madison. We are grateful to [Artistic Director] Angelo Fraboni and his staff for allowing us to return each year. It's been a terrific relationship."



### 'Good times...'

Neil Diamond is certainly forever — as honored by Neil Forever, returning to the Paramount stage. David Jacobson, the tribute band's founder, has a great passion for the music and legacy of the legendary performer. David, along with his son and music director Dylan Jacobson and drummer John Cardoso began their journey in January 2023. Today, the 14-person ensemble delivers an authentic, exciting and joyful concert that captivates the legendary superstar's fans. Performing Diamond's music is as much about heart and soul as it is talent; it's a celebration of the music and the man who created it. The band has forged an exciting path, as discovered by excited and passionate fans, of all ages. Audiences are thrilled by the authentic renditions of classic hits like "Sweet Caroline," "Forever in Blue Jeans," "Coming to America," and "Kentucky Women."

Friday, March 28, 8 p.m. \$59.50, \$49.50, \$39.50, \$29.50, \$25. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or [paramountry.com](http://paramountry.com).



### South Shore Symphony

The South Shore Symphony Orchestra springs forward with its next concert, "Slavic Masterworks," at its Madison Theatre home. The orchestra is joined by renowned cellist Amy Barston, featured in Polish composer Grayna Bacewicz's Cello Concerto No. 1. A rare gem, according to Barston, she notes that it is fresh to the concert stage in that it is quasi-newly discovered, but it feels like a familiar, beloved masterwork. Electrifying, often dance-like energy, paired with soaring lyrical melodies, it has received an enthusiastic reception from audiences. The evening's repertoire also includes Dvorak's Slavonic Dances, op. 46, no. 3 in Ab major and Tchaikovsky's Symphony No. 5, op. 64, e minor.

Saturday, March 29, 7:30 p.m. Madison Theatre, Molloy University, 1000 Hempstead Ave., Rockville Centre. Tickets available at [madisontheatre.org](http://madisontheatre.org) or (516) 323-4444.



# THE SCENE

April 6

## The Wallflowers

Grab those leather jackets, and rock on! The Wallflowers are back on the road and bringing their sound to the

Paramount stage, Sunday, April 6, at 8 p.m., with special guest Jackson Melnick. For the past 30 years, the Jakob Dylan-led act has stood as one of rock's most dynamic and purposeful bands — a unit dedicated to and continually honing a sound that meshes timeless songwriting and storytelling with a hard-hitting and decidedly modern musical attack. That signature style has been present through the decades, baked into the grooves of smash hits like 1996's "Bringing Down the Horse" as well as more recent and exploratory fare like 2012's "Glad All Over." Even so, in recent years, Dylan — the Wallflowers' founding singer, songwriter and guitarist — has repeatedly stepped outside of his band. First with a pair of more acoustic and rootsy records, 2008's "Seeing Things" and 2010's "Women + Country," and then with the 2018 film "Echo in the Canyon" and the accompanying soundtrack, which saw him collaborate with a host of artists classic and contemporary, from Neil Young and Eric Clapton to Beck and Fiona Apple.

But while it's been nine long years since we've heard from the group with whom he first made his mark, the Wallflowers are silent no more. And Dylan always knew they'd return. And return the band has, with "Exit Wounds," their new studio offering. It marks the first new Wallflowers material since "Glad All Over." And while the wait has been long, the much-anticipated record finds the band's signature sound — lean, potent and eminently entrancing — intact, even as Dylan surrounds himself with a fresh cast of musicians. \$75, \$45, \$35, \$25. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at [ticketmaster.com](https://www.ticketmaster.com) or [paramountny.com](https://www.paramountny.com).



Coach Jon Dolecki honored Glen Cove High School host a Field Dedication Ceremony to honor the legacy of longtime baseball coach Jon Dolecki, Saturday, **April 5**, 11:30 a.m. It celebrates Coach Dolecki's contributions to Glen Cove baseball and the field is officially named in his honor. The Glen Cove community is invited to attend this special dedication ceremony, recognizing Coach Dolecki's impact on student-athletes and the school's baseball program.

Former players, colleagues, and local officials are expected to be in attendance to pay tribute to his lasting legacy. Jon Dolecki Field, Glen Cove High School, 150 Dosoris Lane. For more, contact the High School at (516) 801-7610.

## Celebrate Holi

Long Island Children's Museum invites families to participate in Holi, the Festival of Colors, Sunday, **April 6**, 11 a.m.-4 p.m. Originating in India, this Hindu festival marks the end of winter and the arrival of the colorful spring season. During this joyous celebration, families eat sweets, dance to traditional folk music and throw colorful powder made from flowers called gulal.

Crafts, color throwing and dancing are a part of this vibrant event. Welcome spring's arrival with Holi. Participants are encouraged to wear clothes that they won't mind getting messy. Museum Row, Garden City. Go to [licm.org](https://licm.org) or call (516) 224-5800 for more information.

## Art explorations

Converse, collaborate and create at Family Saturday, **March 29**, noon-3 p.m., at Nassau County Museum of Art's Manes Education Center. The drop-in program continues, Saturday, 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](https://NassauMuseum.org) for more information and to register or call (516) 484-9337.

## Culinary Delights

Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce invites everyone to the 27th Annual Culinary Delights tasting event, Monday, **March 31**, at The Mansion at Glen Cove. Enjoy gourmet dishes from top Gold Coast restaurants, fine wines, craft beers, and more. Proceeds benefit local community charities and scholarships. With music, raffles, and more. To purchase tickets, contact the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce at (516) 676-6666 or visit [glencovechamber.org](https://glencovechamber.org). 200 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove.

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## 'Palette of Petals' at Planting Fields

Visit Planting Fields Arboretum for a delightful stroll among the early bloomers, as part of its First Fridays series, Friday, **April 4**, 1-2 p.m. Experience the enchanting spring colors at the Margaret Sullivan Heather Garden. Director of Horticulture Donna Moramarco guides visitors through the remarkable collection of azaleas, cherry blossom trees, magnolias, camellias, and more as you stroll the grounds to the recently restored garden.

Discover the rich history of this stunning space, learn about the Coe family's dedication to flowers, and delve into the vision that the Olmsted Brothers had for the site. \$20. Registration required. 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay. Visit [plantingfields.org](http://plantingfields.org) or call (516) 922-9210 to register and for information.

## 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.

March  
30

## Egyptomania in the 1920s

Join Egyptologists-authors-professors Drs. Colleen and John Darnell at Nassau County Museum of Art, Sunday, **March 30**, 3 p.m., for a fascinating lecture on "Egyptomania" in the 1920s. The Darnells are authors of several books and dozens of articles. With academic careers in Egyptology at Yale University, they are committed to bringing ancient Egypt's rich history, religion, art, and language to a worldwide audience.

Their passion for vintage fashion and modeling has led to exciting collaborations with Egypt's premier jewelry designers, photographers and magazines. Limited seating. Registration required. \$20, \$15 seniors, \$10 students; members free. Nassau County Museum of Art, 1 Museum Dr., Roslyn Harbor. (516) 484-9337 or [nassaumuseum.org](http://nassaumuseum.org).

## STEM Explorers

Long Island Children's Museum opens its doors to a weekend devoted to STEM activities, Saturday and Sunday, **March 29-30**, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., that will ignite the imaginations of children and adults alike. Guest experts offer engaging demonstrations, experiments and interactive activities.

Highlights include sampling the science of molecular gastronomy at work with flash frozen ice cream; learn about native and invasive species that swim in Long Island waters; discover how oysters are coming to our rescue; study the water cycle and Long Island's unique geographic formations and more. Activities free with museum admission. Long Island Children's Museum, Museum Row, Garden City. Visit [licm.org](http://licm.org) or call (516) 224-5800 for more.



## 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](http://NassauMuseum.org).



April  
13

## Hempstead House tour

Sands Point Preserve is the backdrop to explore the elegant Gold Coast home that's the centerpiece of the estate, Sunday, **April 13**, 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](http://SandsPointPreserve-Conservancy.org) or call (516) 571-7901.

## 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](mailto:thescene@liherald.com).

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BY THE NUMBERS

A closer look at the Propel NY Energy project

By KEPHERD DANIEL  
kdaniel@liherald.com

The Propel NY Energy project is aiming to revo-

lutionize Long Island's electric grid. The project is currently in the Article Seven permitting process — a two-year review involving environmental and engineering assessments. Construction is slated to

begin in mid-2026 and continue until mid-2030. Here's the key numbers and figures driving this \$3.26 billion initiative:

**1 The Big Investment**  
\$3.26 Billion:  
Ratepayers fund the total capital cost for the entire project across New York state.  
Six Cents a Day:  
Estimated additional cost to an average residential ratepayer—about six cents per day—to support the new infrastructure.

**2 The New Grid**  
90 Miles of Transmission Lines:  
The project will construct 90 miles of new underground transmission lines, with 66 miles in Nassau County and additional segments extending into Suffolk County, the Bronx, and Westchester.  
3 Additional Interconnection Points:  
Long Island currently relies on just two connection points to the statewide grid. Propel NY Energy will add three

new connections, strengthening overall grid reliability and resiliency.  
5 Interconnection Points in Total:  
With the new additions, the grid will have five connection points, ensuring that power flows efficiently in both directions.

**3 Construction & Permitting**  
Article Seven Permitting:  
The rigorous Article Seven process, covering environmental, socioeconomic, and engineering assessments, is expected to take approximately two years, with submissions made in July and anticipated approval around July 2026.  
Construction Timeline:  
Construction is slated to begin in mid-2026 and continue for three to four years, with completion expected by mid-2030.

Underground cables will be installed at a depth of roughly 5 to 7 feet, ensuring they are protected from weather and other external risks.  
Daily Progress:  
Crews are projected to advance between 50 and 150 feet per day per crew, minimizing long-term disruption to local neighborhoods.

**4 Future-Proofing the Grid**  
50 to 90 Percent Increase in Demand:  
As much as a 50 to 90 percent surge in electricity demand is projected over the next 20 years, driven by electrification, including electric vehicles, heat pumps, and data centers.  
50 percent Renewable Energy by 2030:  
By 2030, it's anticipated that 50 percent of Long Island's power will come from offshore wind—made possible by the upgraded grid capacity.

Avoided Congestion Savings:  
Enhanced transmission efficiency is expected to save the state an estimated \$3.3 billion in congestion-related costs over time.

**5 Selection & Local Impact**  
19 Proposals Reviewed:  
The project was chosen through a competitive process that evaluated 19 proposals from four developers, with Propel NY Energy emerging as the most cost-effective solution.  
Local Workforce:  
The project will utilize local union labor and contractors, ensuring economic benefits and community engagement throughout Nassau County and beyond.  
The Propel NY Energy project is about building a resilient electrical grid that meets the rising energy demands of Long Island and supports a more sustainable energy future.

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# PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE  
AVISO LEGAL  
AVISO DE UNA REUNION ESPECIAL DE LA BIBLIOTECA DEL DISTRITO EL 25 DE MARZO 2025, DE LA BIBLIOTECA PUBLICA DE GLEN COVE PARA VOTAR EN EL PRESUPUESTO DE LA BIBLIOTECA PUBLICA Y PARA ELEGIR A UN JUNTA DE FIDEICOISARIO DE LA BIBLIOTECA POR MEDIO DEL PRESENTE SE NOTIFICA que se llevara a cabo una reunion especial de los votantes calificados de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove en conformidad con lo dispuesto en la Seccion 260 y 270 de la Ley de Educacion de Estado de Nueva York, en dicho Distrito el 22 de Abril 2025 entra las 9am y las 9pm Dicha reunion sera de ayunda para los siguientes fines:  
Para votar sobre las siguientes prosiciones: SE HA RESUELTO que el presupuesto propuesto de la Bilioteca Publica de Glen Cove, Deistro Escolar de la Ciudad de Glen Cove segun lo preparado por los Fideicomisarios de dicha Biblioteca publica para el ano 2025/2026, y segun se haya modificado, se apruebe por la presente; y que la cantidad de los mismos, menos los recibos, se aumenta mediante la recaudacion de un impuesto sobre bienes inmuebles gravables en dicho Distrito Escolar.  
Con el fin de elegir; un (1) Fideicomisario de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove por un (5) mandato de cinco anos.  
La votation sobre los asuntos mencionados se emitira mediante urnas.  
POR FAVOR, TOME NOTA que la junta de la Biblioteca, en conformidad con lo dispuesto en la Seccion 260 y 270 de la Ley de Educacion, convoca dicha reunion Especial de Distrito.  
SE DA AVISO ADICIONAL, que las peticiones que nominan al candidato para el cargo de administrador de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove deben presentarse al secretario entre las horas de 9am y las 9pm., a mas tardar el 24 de marzo de 2025, el trigésimo día anterior a la eleccion, momento en el cual sera elegido el candidato asi

nominado. Cada peticion de nominacion debe dirigirse al Secretario del Distrito, debe estar firmada por al menos veinticinco (25) votantes calificados del Distrito, debe ondicar la residencia de cada firmante y debe indicar el nombre y la residencia del candidato.  
Los formularios de muestra las peticiones se pueden obtener del Secretario de Distrito en la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, Nueva York  
SE DA AVISO ADICIONAL, que una copia de los gastos estimaados propuestos para ser votados estara disponible en la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, Nueva York, entra las 9am y 5pm todos lod dias, except los sabados, domingos o festivos durante los catorce dias anteriores a dicha reunion.  
SE DA AVISO ADICIONAL, que la Junta de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove realizara una audiencia especial sobre el presupuesto el 18 de Marzo 2025 en la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, Nueva York. a las 7pm  
SE DA AVISO ADIOCIONAL, que los votantes califacados del Distrito pueden inscribirse entre las 9am y 4 pm. La fencha final para inscribirse en la reunion que se celebrara el 18 de marzo es el 5 de marzo. Si un votante ha votado en alguna eleccion en los ultimos 4 anos (2020) o si es elegible para votar conforme al Articulo 5 de la Ley Electoral, el o ella es elegible para votar en este eleccion. Todos las demas personas que deseen votar registrarse. La lista de registro preparede por la Junta de Elecciones de Condado de Nassau se Archivaran enla oficina del secretario de Distrito de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave, Glen Cove, Nueva York, y estara abierta a inpeccion por cualquier votante calificado Del Distrito entre las horas de 9am y 4pm hora vigente cualquier, dia despues del martes 18 de Marzo de 2025 y cada uno de los dis anteriores a la fecha establecids para la Eleccion de la

Biblioteca y la Votacion de Presupuesto, except los sabados, domingos o dias festivos, incluida la fecha establecida para la reunion.  
BOLETAS AUSENTES POR FAVOR, TOME NOTA, que las solicitudes de boletas de votacion en ausencia. Para la Eleccion de la Bibliotecs y la Votacion de Presupuesto se puede solicitar en las oficinas del Secretario del Distrito, de la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave, Glen Cove, Nueva York. Tales solicitudes deben recibirse al menos (7) siete dias antes de las elecciones si se va a envir la boleta al votante. Ninguna boleta de votante ausente sera votada a menos que haya sido recibida en la oficina de Secretario de Distrito, en la Biblioteca Publica de Glen Cove, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, Nueva York a mas tardar a las 5:00 pm hora del dia, en el Fecha de la eleccion.  
Gina Rant  
Oficinista  
152046

PUBLIC & LEGAL NOTICES  
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LEGAL NOTICE  
NOTICE OF SPECIAL LIBRARY DISTRICT MEETING ON APRIL 22, 2025 OF GLEN COVE PUBLIC LIBRARY TO VOTE ON THE PUBLIC LIBRARY BUDGET AND ELECT ONE TRUSTEE OF THE GLEN COVE PUBLIC LIBRARY  
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a Special meeting of the qualified voters of the Glen Cove Public Library will be held pursuant to the provisions of Section 260 and 2007 of the Education Law of the State of New York at the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York, in said District on April 22, 2025 between the hours of 9 a.m. and 9 p.m. Said meeting will be held for the following purposes:  
To vote on the following proposition:  
RESOLVED that the proposed budget of the Glen Cove Public Library, Glen Cove City School District, as prepared by the Trustees of the said Public Library, for the year 2025/2026, and as the same may have been amended, be and hereby is approved; and that the amount

thereof, less receipts, be raised by the levy of a tax upon the taxable real property in the said School District.  
For the purpose of electing; one (1) Trustee for the Glen Cove Public Library. For a (5) five-year term  
The vote on the aforesaid matters will be cast by ballot in a ballot box.  
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that the Library Board pursuant to the provisions of Section 260 and 2007 of the Education Law hereby calls said Special District Meeting.  
FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that petitions nominating the candidate for the office of Trustee of the Glen Cove Public Library must be filed with the Clerk of the District between hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m., no later than March 24, 2025 the thirtieth day preceding the election, at which time the candidate so nominated is to be elected. Each nominating petition shall be directed to the Clerk of the District, must be signed by at least twenty-five (25) qualified voters of the District, shall state the residence of each signer, and must state the name and residence of the candidate.  
Sample forms of the petitions may be obtained from the Clerk of the District at the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York.  
FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that a copy of the proposed estimated expenditures to be voted upon shall be made available at the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York, between the hours of 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. each day other than Saturday, Sunday or holiday, during the fourteen days preceding such meeting.  
FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Board of Trustees of the Glen Cove Public Library will hold a special budget hearing on Tuesday April 15, 2025 at the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York at 7:00 p.m.  
FURTHER NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the qualified voters of the District may register between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. at the Glen Cove Public

Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York. The final date to register for the meeting to be held on April 15, 2025 is March 31, 2025. If a voter has voted in any election within the last 4 years (2021) or if he or she is eligible to vote under Article 5 of Election Law, he or she is eligible to vote at this election. All other persons who wish to vote must register. The registration list prepared by the Board of Elections of Nassau County will be filed in the Office of the District Clerk of the Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York and will be open for inspection by any qualified voter of the district between the hours of 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. prevailing time, on any day after Tuesday, March 31, 2025, and each of the days prior to the date set for the Library Election and Budget Vote, except Saturday, Sunday or holiday, including the date set for the meeting.

Dear Great Book Guru,  
*One of my favorites places in the world is Venice and I have visited it many, many times over the years. Alas, this year I'm not able to make the journey. Do you have books that might help me experience Venice while in Sea Cliff?*  
*Lover of All Thing Venetian*

Dear Lover of All Things Venetian,

I too am a huge fan of Venice and often tell my friends that Sea Cliff and Venice are so very much alike. I do admit they usually look puzzled at this comparison.

But I have a perfect solution to your malaise – Donna Leon’s newest literary mystery: “A Refiner’s Fire.” This is the thirty-third book in her Commissario Brunetti series.

Brunetti is a seasoned lawyer, police commissioner, and Roman scholar. His wife, a Henry James expert, teaches at the university.

## THE GREAT BOOK GURU

### Villainous Venice



ANN  
DIPIETRO

This book opens in early spring 2024 and Venice is dealing with the problem of “baby gangs” - young boys all under fourteen - thus too young to be prosecuted. They stage wild meetups just to appear on social media.

When these rival gangs are picked up by the police, parents are called to retrieve them. One of the boys is left and a kindly policewoman walks him home.

This good deed opens up an amazing tale of deceit, corruption and violence going back to 2002 with its aftermath coloring the lives of high-powered government officials and low level mobsters. Throughout this, we see the unique beauty of Venice’s plazas, churches, canals, and byzantine streets. As always, the crime is secondary to the story - and the story is always Venice - highly recommended.

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

Coach Dolecki’s impact on student-athletes and the school’s baseball program. Former players, colleagues, and local officials are expected to be in attendance to pay tribute to his lasting legacy. Jon Dolecki Field, Glen Cove High School, 150 Dosoris Lane. For more information, contact Glen Cove High School at (516) 801-7610.

ABSENTEE BALLOTS  
PLEASE TAKE FURTHER NOTICE that an application for an absentee ballot for the Library election and budget vote may be applied for at the office of the District Clerk, of Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove, New York. Such application must be received at least (7) seven days before the election if the ballot is to be mailed to the voter, or the day before the election if the ballot is to be delivered personally to the voter. No absentee voter ballot shall be canvassed unless it shall have been received at the office of the District Clerk, Glen Cove Public Library, 4 Glen Cove Ave., New York, not later than 5:00 p.m., prevailing time, on the date of the election.  
Gina Rant  
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## OPINIONS

# We can't let seniors be the victims of budget cuts

**A**s we recognize National Nutrition Month, a time dedicated to highlighting the importance of healthy eating and food security, we find ourselves facing a looming crisis that threatens the very foundation of support for some of our most vulnerable neighbors. The proposed federal budget cuts could have devastating consequences for Long



**NEELA  
MUKHERJEE LOCKEL**

Island families, particularly for our seniors who rely on essential programs like Meals on Wheels.

In 2024, EAC Network delivered 150,000 meals to thousands of hungry, vulnerable senior citizens in Nassau County alone.

These meals, provided through our Meals on Wheels program and our four Senior Community Centers in Merrick, Point Lookout, Hempstead Village and Roslyn, allow seniors to maintain their independence, receive valuable nutrition, and stay connected to their communities. For many, this program is more than just food — it's a lifeline that combats malnutrition, social isolation and health decline.

The proposed budget cuts would

severely limit our ability to continue these services at the current scale. This isn't just about numbers on a spreadsheet; it's about real people — our parents, grandparents and neighbors — who have worked their entire lives to build our communities and now find themselves in need of support. Slashing funding for senior nutrition programs means fewer meals, fewer wellness checks and, ultimately, greater strain on our already overburdened health care and social service systems.

For seniors like Marie, a widow who regularly visits our Hempstead Senior Center, our programs aren't just about receiving food — they're about dignity and survival. "I'm a widow and I live alone now," Marie says. "Being in the house all day is not one of my things. I come every day because I like to socialize." Stories like hers aren't unique; they are similar for thousands of seniors who rely on our programs to remain independent.

The ripple effect of these cuts extends beyond our seniors. Families who depend on supportive services will feel the strain as they're forced to step in to fill the gaps. Working caregivers, already juggling jobs and responsibilities,

will face increased financial and emotional burdens. The loss of funding could also impact jobs in the caregiving and nonprofit sectors, further destabilizing local economies.

A Senate and House bill passed this month calls for harmful cuts to the Department of Health and Human Services, including significant top-line cuts that could impact critical social service programs for our seniors, such as Medicaid, SNAP and the Meals on Wheels program. Any reductions would profoundly affect Meals on Wheels providers like us who rely on federal funding to deliver essential

services to vulnerable seniors in our community. Today, nearly 13 million older Americans face the threat of hunger, and 56 percent of seniors report feeling lonely. Cuts to these vital programs are unconscionable, and must be prevented.

Beyond the impact on seniors and their families, these cuts would also place immense pressure on local volunteers and nonprofit workers who dedicate their time to keeping these programs running. With fewer resources, we may be forced to turn away seniors in need or reduce meal deliveries, leaving many at risk of malnutrition and

social isolation.

Long Island has always been a community that takes care of its own, and now is the time to stand together and demand that our leaders protect the programs that keep our most vulnerable residents safe and healthy. Investing in senior nutrition isn't just the right thing to do — it's the fiscally responsible choice. Every dollar spent on Meals on Wheels and our senior centers helps prevent costly hospitalizations and long-term care placements, saving taxpayers money in the long run.

Failing to invest in senior nutrition today will only lead to higher health care costs tomorrow. Research shows that proper nutrition reduces hospitalizations and the need for long-term care, saving taxpayers millions of dollars in avoidable medical expenses. It's clear: Preventing hunger is a cost-effective strategy that benefits everyone.

As Congress debates these budget proposals, I urge our elected officials to prioritize the health and well-being of our seniors. Let's ensure that National Nutrition Month isn't just a time for awareness, but a catalyst for action. And I urge you, our Long Island community, to take action. Call your representatives, write letters and speak out — because protecting our seniors should never be up for debate.

*Neela Mukherjee Lockel is president and CEO of EAC Network.*

## PSEG Long Island celebrates its engineers

**W**hen you think about an electric company, you probably think about the lineworkers who take on physically challenging work on high-voltage equipment while standing in bucket trucks high above the ground. While

PSEG Long Island does have many lineworkers, did you know we also employ more than 200 engineers?

We marked National Engineers Week in February, and World Engineering Day on March 4, but it's still a great time to celebrate this group of practical problem-solvers and everything they do for the roughly 1.2 million customers we serve.



**DAVID  
LYONS**

This year's Engineers Week theme was "Design Your Future," and that's precisely what our engineers do at PSEG Long Island. We have civil engineers who design the foundations and

structures that physically support critical electrical infrastructure, laying the groundwork for the equipment that will power our lives.

We have electrical engineers who design the protection of the power system using protective relays, increasing the safety of those lineworkers who maintain the equipment, as well as the general public.

We have radio frequency engineers who design and plan upgrades to PSEG Long Island's advance metering infrastructure — an initiative that has improved billing accuracy, helped customers manage energy costs, and allowed us to even more effectively address outages. Thanks to our RF engineers, smart meters provide high read rates to improve bill accuracy and also call out their status nearly instantaneously, giving visibility of outages across the entire territory to develop efficient resource planning and provide faster outage restoration response.

We also have engineers focused on

finding cost-effective solutions to the challenges of a grid evolving to accommodate renewable energy. Some of this work is literally mapping out the future through Hosting Capacity Maps, Energy

Storage Maps and Electric Vehicle Charging Maps.

Engineering expertise has also been required to design the infrastructure upgrades required to interconnect with and transmit the renewable energy being built all around Long Island. This includes:

Engineering, surveying and designing a major expansion of the existing substation layout, including extensive relocation of existing transmission towers and redesigned transmission and substation layout in the most optimal and reliable manner to enable the interconnection of approximately 900 megawatts of offshore wind.

Engineering and designing a sturdier, resilient and creative solution in a space-constrained substation footprint to reliably serve increased customer demands and reduce the impact on

neighboring communities by implementing equipment that can blend in with the surrounding area.

Balancing environmental and community needs to service a growing customer base with new routes for power transmission on the South Fork.

Continuously evaluating and proposing solutions to enhance reliability and resiliency of the power grid in the evolving landscape of an energy and demand portfolio that includes renewable projects and electric vehicle demands.

I am proud to celebrate today's PSEG Long Island engineers and everything they accomplish for the people of Long Island. At the same time, I want to celebrate the future engineers who might be reading this. We offer summer internships to college students, and we are frequently looking for new engineers to grow our ranks as we continue to build the energy grid of the future. Please visit [pseglin.com/careers](https://pseglin.com/careers) to learn more.

*David Lyons is interim president and chief operating officer of PSEG Long Island.*



## OPINIONS

# Celebrating the immigrants who made America great

This month of March will see far more people attending more St. Patrick's Day parades on Long Island and in New York City than in all of Ireland. This is a tribute to the enormous contributions that Irish-



**PETER KING**

Americans have made to American life in so many fields and professions, and the importance the Irish attach to preserving and maintaining Irish traditions and culture for future generations. Whether in government, politics, the military, the police, business and finance or so many other areas of American life, the Irish have made their mark.

While these achievements are a tribute to Irish America, they are first and foremost a tribute to America, and the opportunities that are open to hard-working immigrants in our great coun-

try, which make it possible for new generations to take advantage of what has been accomplished by those who went before them.

The United States is more a stained glass window than a melting pot — a mosaic of people from many different countries, each maintaining their ethnic traditions and all comprising an overall beauty.

The reality is that despite people's love for the "old country," it was the United States that made it possible for them to flourish and achieve their potential. With the Irish, it was centuries of oppression, religious bigotry, poverty and a murderous famine that compelled so many to leave the Emerald Isle. For Jews, it was antisemitism in so many Eastern European countries. For the Vietnamese boat people, it was all about fleeing Communist rule. And the list goes on.

But for this unique experiment to continue to succeed, traditions and the

rule of law must be maintained.

One basic tradition that prevailed for so long was that immigrants would strive to learn and speak a common language — English. That would be the glue that bound together so many disparate peoples. As Theodore Roosevelt said, "We have room for only one language here, and that is the English language" — the language, T.R. said, of George Washington, and Abraham Lincoln, and of the Declaration of Independence. Failing to encourage immigrants to learn English consigns them to linguistic ghettos and prevents them from attaining the American Dream.

Similarly, immigration must be done legally. There must be secure borders. At a time when the threat of international terrorism is so real, it is more essential than ever that we know who is in this country. There is also the necessity that we not allow people with criminal records or contagious illnesses to enter the country, keeping in mind that

**D**espite the love for the 'old country,' it's the U.S. that has helped them flourish.

it would be the immigrant community that suffered. When I was in Congress, there was a period of 17 months during which the ruthless Central American gang MS-13 butchered 25 people to death — each of those victims being a fellow immigrant.

As a grandson of immigrants, I strongly believe that it is the constant infusion of new generations of immigrants that has made our nation great. People from countries that have been warring and killing each other for centuries live here in peace. Old animosities die hard, and there may not be instant love, but they find ways to work together in peace and stand together in war. They are Americans.

So, as Americans, I hope we all celebrated St. Patrick's Day — as we do Columbus Day, Israeli Day, Pulaski Day, Steuben Day, Caribbean Day and all the parades honoring the proud history of all the races, peoples and nations that have made America great.

*Peter King is a former congressman, and a former chair of the House Committee on Homeland Security. Comments? pking@liherald.com.*

# The rise and fall of Mayor Eric Adams

November 2021 was a significant month in the history of New York City. Eric Adams was elected the 110th mayor of that great city. By any measure, most of its 8.25 million residents were thrilled to have a new occupant of City Hall, after the two lackluster terms of Bill de Blasio. Adams rode to victory on the

strength of being a former police officer and an experienced elected official.

While Adams is not a resident of the Nassau-Suffolk region, we Long Islanders have a close connection with the city, where we gravitate for work and/or entertainment. Adams was



**JERRY KREMER**

elected on a tidal wave of support from voters of both political parties. As an ex-cop, state senator and borough president, he came into Gracie Mansion with the hope that his tenure would give the city the breath of fresh air it badly needed.

De Blasio left office with very little goodwill. While he claimed numerous successes in building new housing,

there is no lasting monument anywhere in the city attesting to his success. Most of the stories about his time in office centered on his daily late arrival at City Hall after spending most of the morning exercising at a Brooklyn health club.

For some unexplained reason in the middle of his second term, de Blasio chose to declare his candidacy for the White House, which required frequent trips to Iowa and other primary states. His fantasy of being president required him to travel accompanied by taxpayer-funded police protection. All in all, de Blasio found a number of ways to alienate the voters in the Big Apple, and most city residents couldn't wait for him to leave public office.

Adams started his term with a wave of good publicity about his plans for a better city. His pledges for police reform were welcomed, because the department was in need of changes and the city wanted someone who could lower the crime rate. His habit of visiting numerous nightspots was welcomed by some, because Adams was making a statement that it was safe to be out at night, and brought attention to an

industry that needed a shot in the arm.

As a show of the need for reform, Adams selected Keechant Sewell as the city's 45th police commissioner and its first woman in that job. Nassau County was a familiar place for Sewell, who had

served in the Nassau County Police Department with distinction.

For some of us who have served in government, Sewell's short tenure as commissioner was a major disappointment. Her desire to do the job was encouraging, but shortly after she took office, there were numerous stories in the media that her appointments were being second-guessed by a City Hall deputy commissioner. When Sewell saw that her actions were being undermined, she decided to resign, and now is applying her talents to a well-paying job in the private sector.

To add to the mayor's popularity decline, numerous deputies in his administration became embroiled in one bad story after another, and there were countless reports of alleged favoritism of one kind or another. The climax of the bad press occurred last month, when four highly respected deputies announced their resignations at

the same time.

The mayor was scheduled to go on trial next month on federal corruption charges, but the process was interrupted by the intervention of the U.S. Justice Department. With the obvious encouragement of President Trump, the prosecutors were ordered to drop the charges. Adams has denied that there was quid pro quo between him and the White House.

Whether he will get another term in office will be decided in June, when the Democratic city primary will take place. There are at least eight current candidates for mayor, with the field headed by former Gov. Andrew Cuomo. There are rumors that Adams may even run as a Republican, to avoid a primary loss as a Democrat.

The rise and fall of Eric Adams is a sad political tale. His candidacy brought so much promise to a city that was eager to have a new leader. Adams is no doubt disappointed by the events of the past three and a half years — and so are we.

*Jerry Kremer was an 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.*



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# HERALD EDITORIAL

## Millions are sick and tired of being sick and tired

This month marks five years since Covid-19 upended our world. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, over 1.2 million Americans died from the virus, including 86,000 New Yorkers. While life has largely returned to normal for many, an estimated 23 million Americans — 1 in 15 — and hundreds of millions more people around the globe remain trapped in a Covid nightmare.

They are suffering from post-acute sequelae of SARS-CoV-2, or PASC, better known as long Covid. With no official definition, diagnostic tests, identifiable biomarkers, effective treatments or certainty of its causes, long Covid encompasses 200-plus symptoms appearing or persisting more than 12 weeks after a coronavirus infection.

Common symptoms often differ from those of acute Covid, and include debilitating fatigue, cognitive dysfunction, dysautonomia, post-exertion malaise, gastrointestinal issues, tachycardia, myalgia, neuropathy and breathing difficulties. No organ system is spared. Many “long haulers” have battled these health challenges for as long as five years, with no end in sight, and each combination of symptoms is unique and can change daily.

Benign-sounding terminology — fatigue, “brain fog,” “post-exertion malaise,” and even the name, long Covid — belie the condition’s severity. Millions of long haulers can’t work or even leave their beds. Many struggle to find words while speaking, or to remember recent events. Their skin burns, and their blood pressure fluctuates dangerously even when they’re sitting still.

Importantly, even mild or asymptomatic Covid infections can trigger long Covid, with each new infection increasing the risk. Some medical experts believe that almost all Americans will eventually experience some degree of the disorder. The healthiest people aren’t immune: Professional athletes have been forced to retire, and some marathon runners can now barely walk.

Without an official definition of long Covid, long haulers struggle to access Medicare, unemployment, disability and private insurance benefits when they

### The Herald wants to share Long Island’s long Covid story

If you have experience with long Covid — as a long hauler, caregiver, health care professional or in any other way — email us confidentially at [longcovid@liherald.com](mailto:longcovid@liherald.com).

### Support new long Covid advocacy efforts

Visit [CureLC.org](http://CureLC.org) to learn more and donate.

need them most. Medical bills not covered by insurance can mount into the hundreds of thousands of dollars for a single patient.

Last Saturday’s International Long Covid Awareness Day highlighted the disorder’s devastating human toll. Children missing their formative years, and single parents unable to support their families, are just a few examples. Here on Long Island, 200,000 people are estimated to have the chronic and debilitating condition. Tragically, excruciating pain and seemingly insurmountable hardships have led an increasing number of long haulers to take their own lives rather than continue to suffer as shells of their former selves.

And long Covid isn’t just a sobering health issue. Harvard University economist David Cutler estimates that it will cost the U.S. economy more than \$3.7 trillion in earnings, medical expenses and quality of life. That’s equivalent to 12 percent of an entire year of U.S. GDP.

Our national security is also at risk, with an estimated 200,000 military personnel affected. Fatigue and physical limitations can render troops unable to fight, while cognitive issues may compromise critical decision-making and intelligence analysis.

In a rare show of unity, elected officials from both sides of the aisle, as well as scientists, doctors and policy experts, agree: America is failing the long Covid community.

Although the federal government provided \$1.6 billion to the National Institutes of Health for research, those funds were wasted on an observational study rather than being used for clinical trials. Promising therapeutics remain unexplored due to funding gaps and bureaucratic obstacles, and no clinical trials got underway until just a few months ago — years after the start of the pandemic.

But Congress might be positioned to act. The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions — the chamber’s health care panel — has members who are intimately familiar with long Covid. Sen. Tim Kaine, a Virginia Democrat, has long Covid, and Roger Marshall, a Kansas Republican and a doctor, has a close family member with the condition. At a January 2024 committee hearing, senators from both parties expressed frustration with federal efforts to find a cure.

Marshall described taking his loved one to dozens of doctors, consulting 80 additional doctors, speaking to other senators with the condition and reading extensively about it. He said he was beyond frustrated by the experience, as are many long haulers, who have seen scores of doctors — sometimes over 100 — in the hope of finding relief. Specialists, though, can have two-year waitlists, and many health care professionals remain unfamiliar with long Covid, which often leads to medical gaslighting.

The long Covid community needs help immediately. Government must provide funding and cut red tape to develop effective drugs, educate medical professionals, improve patient care coordination, authorize novel uses of existing therapeutics, streamline access to insurance benefits, accelerate time to market of new treatments, research biological causes, and support caregivers.

We hope the new administration, including President Trump and Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy Jr., will take action commensurate with this growing crisis.

## LETTERS

### Inspired by a sense of sisterhood

To the Editor:

Kudos to Randi Kreiss for speaking the truth regarding the current state of our

country in her op-ed last week, “Marching then, and marching now.” Her column was encouraging, and gave me hope that the things my friends and my daughters and I are currently doing will make a difference.

Marching, meeting, or protesting with like-minded women brings me solace, and I

come away feeling inspired by a sense of sisterhood. Hopefully those still peacefully asleep will awaken before it’s too late. Great work, Randi.

ELIZABETH MURPHY  
Franklin Square



## OPINIONS

# Believing in the dignity of the working man

**“D**o you believe in the dignity of the working man?”

I’ll never forget it. She was about 60 years old, and answered the door even though she was clearly busy cooking dinner. And she invited me in to sit and talk.



**JACK M. MARTINS**

It was 20 years ago, and I was running for mayor of Mineola. As part of my campaign, I went door to door to introduce myself, ringing every doorbell in the village. Residents repeatedly invited me in to chat. I learned firsthand what was at stake for them and their families — a first-class education in what really matters.

But that question, “Do you believe in the dignity of the working man?” resonated with me, and does to this day. Yes, I did believe in that dignity, and I still do. My father was an immigrant from Portugal who came to this country with nothing in his pockets, but a lot of ambition and determination in his heart. He worked tirelessly in construction, doing backbreaking work all week,

often even on weekends to help make ends meet. He did it for his family. He’d go the extra mile, and he knew he was lucky to have the opportunity. I never heard him complain.

He went on to become a successful businessman who employed hundreds of people, and remained a role model. He owned a union shop because it was “the right thing to do.” And he hustled to line up enough jobs to make sure all his people could keep working. We were all in it together, and he understood that he had an obligation not only to his employees but also to their families. That was another lesson I learned from my old man.

That’s one of the reasons I went into government: to somehow even the playing field. And it’s why I recently introduced two bills to help New Yorkers keep more of what they earn. One would eliminate state income taxes on cash tips, and the other would do the same for overtime pay. As New Yorkers face stagnant wages and the rising cost of living, exempting tips and overtime from state taxes is a very real way to put more cash in the pockets of thousands of service industry and hourly workers statewide.

Tip earners are usually on the lower end of the socio-economic scale and have the least disposable income, so every dollar they earn has a much greater impact on the bottom line of their family finances. In many cases

they are women, young people, or single heads of households who have no other source of income and rarely receive a financial break.

Overtime earners tend to be nurses, cops, construction workers, or in some kind of service industry where wages are tied to hours. They make a conscientious decision to sacrifice their personal time to do more and work

harder. Why are we penalizing them for their industriousness? It would be better to incentivize the work, and reward them instead by keeping government away from their earnings.

Whether it’s a waitress in Syracuse or a cop in Brooklyn, these policies would have a ripple effect on every neighborhood in the state. The more money people keep, the more they spend in their local economies, and a rising tide lifts all boats. Just today I watched a New York Times Instagram video that explained why middle-class people are leaving New York, California

and Illinois in droves. The answer was simple: affordability. So it’s clear we need to start reversing that trend, and fast.

The current tax code already provides breaks for passive income. Investment dividends, corporate profits and inheritances all enjoy special tax treatment. Yet people who rely on just their labor see their hard-earned tips and overtime taxed at the same rate as regular wages. This imbalance disproportionately impacts workers who are already struggling, but these new laws would help correct this inequity.

And it shouldn’t be debatable. During the lead-up to the national election, both sides of the aisle embraced these policies. But it seems that now that the dust has settled, working people are again on the backburner.

I’m proposing these new laws for working men and women like my dad and countless other moms and dads across the state. Eliminating taxes on tips and overtime pay is a common-sense policy that would provide immediate relief to hundreds of thousands of New Yorkers, stimulate local economies and promote fairness in the tax system. It’s time to prioritize those who go the extra mile — and honor the dignity of the working man.

*Jack M. Martins represents the 7th State Senate District.*

**W**hy are we penalizing those who depend on tips or overtime pay?

## LETTERS

### A big month for theater in our schools

To the Editor:

March is Theatre in Our Schools Month, a time to recognize and celebrate the profound impact that theater education has on students, schools and communities. As a member of the Wantagh High School chapter of the International Thespian Society, I see how theater fosters creativity, confidence, collaboration and communication — essential skills for success in any field.

Theater is more than just performing on stage. It teaches students problem-solving, critical thinking and empathy by allowing them to step into the shoes of different characters and perspectives. Studies show that participation in theater programs enhances academic performance, improves literacy and public speaking skills, and strengthens students’ ability to work as a team. In our own school, productions like “Puffs” and “Jekyll & Hyde” have brought students together, inspired audiences and given young artists a voice.

When I step on stage, I feel as though I’m diving headfirst into a world of pure magic, where reality blurs and the impossible becomes possible. It’s the

rush of dashing through the chaos of “Puffs,” the underdog energy buzzing in every scene, knowing that even the “others” have their moment to shine. It’s the eerie thrill of “Jekyll & Hyde,” feeling the darkness and light battle within as the music swells, pulling the audience into the madness.

It’s the boundless joy of “SpongeBob,” where even the wildest, most ridiculous adventures carry real heart, and optimism soars as high as a sponge in mid-song. It’s the whimsy and wonder of “Peter and the Starcatcher,” where a simple rope can become a ship, and imagination turns the ordinary into something extraordinary. And it’s the absurdity of Monty Python’s “Spamalot,” where comedy and chaos reign, and every ridiculous moment is played with complete, glorious conviction. Stepping on stage is stepping into a story larger than life, where, for a little while, you’re not just yourself — you’re part of something bigger, something unforgettable.

We urge our community to support theater education by attending student performances, advocating for funding, and recognizing the immense value that the arts bring to our schools. Our upcoming performances include “Spamalot,” April 4-6, and the world premier of “Beyond the Gates,” a student-written original musical, on May 30.

### FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



The Drama Club’s production of “Grease” — West Hempstead Secondary School

We invite everyone to join us in celebrating Theatre in Our Schools Month by supporting local productions and encouraging continued investment in arts education. Theater changes lives, and with our communities’ support, we

can ensure it remains a vital part of our students’ education.

**LIANNA MENEGALLI**  
Student choreographer, Troupe 1623  
Wantagh High School





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