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Genealogy and history club
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Roksana Amid/Herald

Police Chief William Whitton, second from left, and his daughter, Amanda, joined by Deputy Chief Chris Ortiz and Sgt. Roberto Telese, celebrated National Night Out.

Unity and gratitude at city's annual National Night Out

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

A crowd gathered outside the Glen Cove Police Department on Tuesday to celebrate National Night Out, a community tradition meant to strengthen the bond between law enforcement and the public. This year's event had special meaning, because it doubled as a tribute to police Chief William Whitton, a lifelong Glen Cove resident who has led the department since 2007.

As music played and families enjoyed food, games and public safety demonstrations, Glen Cove High School freshman Marc Delacruz explained why he showed up.

"I wanted to come out here because I've been here a lot of times, and I just thought it would be fun," he said.

The gathering, which took place on Bridge Street, was a celebration of safety, service and community pride. Co-sponsored by the city, the Glen Cove Police Benevolent Association, the Youth Bureau, the Volunteer Fire Department, EMS, the Housing Authority, the Downtown Business Improvement District and several local businesses, the event offered family-friendly fun and a chance to say thank you to the Police Department.

Deputy Chief Chris Ortiz reminded attendees that Glen Cove was one of thou-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

Training for emergencies at Sea Cliff F.D.

By **LUKE FEENEY**

lfeeney@liherald.com

Around 75 North Shore residents attended a workshop at the Sea Cliff Fire Department on July 31 designed to help them prepare for any type of natural or man-made disaster.

The workshop was a collaboration between the state's Citizen Preparedness Corps and the Nassau County Legislature's minority leader, Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, whose office has been co-hosting these sessions with the state for around five years.

"I thought it was a very successful event and very effective," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "The feedback has been terrific. A lot of what is discussed is common sense, but it makes you really think about things, and it reminds you of how important some things are."

The Citizen Preparedness Corps, part of the state Divi-

sion of Homeland Security and Emergency Services, aims to give residents the tools and resources they need to prepare for natural or man-made disasters and emergencies, respond accordingly and recover as quickly as possible to pre-disaster conditions.

It makes you really think about things, and it reminds you of how important some things are.

DELIA DERIGGI-WHITTON
Minority leader,
Nassau County
Legislature

"Offering these programs to our constituents is a really helpful big thing that we do, and collaborating with the state makes it easier," DeRiggi-Whitton said. "I would hope that we continue to do it and educate as many people as we can."

Workshop participants are taught to develop family emergency plans and the importance of maintaining emergency supplies. Each attendee received a free Citizen Preparedness Corps Response Starter Kit filled with items to use during an emergency, including a radio, flashlight, batteries, freshwater packets, food packs,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 13

Free coupons for seniors this August

The Town of Oyster Bay and Nassau County are partnering to announce that income-eligible adults aged 60 and over can now receive free \$25 coupon booklets from the New York State Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. These coupons can be used to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables at authorized farmers' markets and farm stands.

"We are committed to enhancing the quality of life for our senior residents," said Town Supervisor Joseph Saladino. "The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program is an excellent initiative that helps seniors maintain a healthy diet while enjoying the fresh produce our local markets have to offer. It is important for us to provide opportunities that support the well-being of our older adults, and this program does just that by making nutritious food more accessible."

The coupon distribution will take place on Aug. 11 from 10 a.m. to noon at the Hicksville Community Center, located at 28 West Carl Street, Hicksville and Aug. 21 from 10 a.m. to noon at the North Massapequa Community Center, located at 214 North Albany Ave., North Massapequa. Coupons will be distributed on a first-come, first-served basis, with a limit of one booklet per person per year.

Coupons can be used at Deep Roots Farmers' Market, located at 100 Garvies Point Road, Glen Cove, open Saturdays 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. (May 31 to Nov. 1), at the Country Fresh Farmingdale Farmers' Market, located at Village Green, 316 Main Street, Farmingdale, open Sundays from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. (June 1 to Nov. 23), and at the Seaford Farmers' Market, located at Seaford LIRR Parking Lot 3, Sunrise Hwy. & Washington St., open Saturdays from 7 a.m. to noon (June 7 to Dec. 27).

"By participating in this program, our seniors can enjoy the benefits of fresh, locally grown fruits and vegetables, while supporting the local economy," added County Executive Bruce Blakeman.

The Farmers' Market Nutrition Program and Mobile Farm Stand are sponsored by the Nassau County Office for the Aging, the New York State Department of Agriculture & Markets, the New York State Department of Health, the New York State Office for the Aging, and the USDA Food and Nutrition Service.

To find additional farmers' markets participating in the coupon program, [Agriculture.ny.gov/farmersmarkets](https://agriculture.ny.gov/farmersmarkets). For more information, call the Nassau County Office for the Aging at (516) 227-8900.

District expands free meal program

The Glen Cove City School District has announced that all students enrolled in the district will be eligible to receive free breakfast and lunch for the 2025-2026 school year, regardless of household income. The district's decision comes as part of an amendment to its participation in the National School Lunch Program and the School Breakfast Program.

Under the new policy, every child attending a school or site within the district will have access to meals at no charge. This expansion aims to eliminate food insecurity among students and support families facing financial challenges, ensuring that no child is left hungry during the school day.

The district has also released updated income eligibility guidelines for families who may still qualify under the free or reduced-price meal scales for administrative purposes. For example, a family of four earning up to \$41,795 annually qualifies for free meals. A family of the same size earning up to \$59,478 annually would be eligible for reduced-price meals, though this year, no fees will be charged under the universal free meals policy.

The program is being coordinated through the office of Theresa Kahan, the Assistant Superintendent for Business. Kahan can be reached at tkahan@glencoveschools.org for more information.

an@glencoveschools.org for more information.

In compliance with federal civil rights law and U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) guidelines, the district has emphasized that it does not discriminate based on race, color, national origin, sex (including gender identity and sexual orientation), age, or disability. Individuals who believe they have experienced discrimination under this program are encouraged to file a formal complaint through the USDA's Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights.

Complaints can be submitted by mail to the USDA in Washington, D.C., by fax at (202) 690-7442, or by email at program.intake@usda.gov. Forms and additional information are available at <https://www.usda.gov/sites/default/files/documents/USDA-OASCR%20Complaint-Form-0508-0002-508-11-28-17Fax2Mail.pdf>.

The district encourages all families to take advantage of the free meal service to ensure students are well-nourished and ready to succeed in school. Additional resources and language support are available for families with disabilities or those who require materials in languages other than English.

—Roksana Amid



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Photos courtesy Lydia Wen Rodgers

The club meets at the Robert R. Coles History Room to discuss local history and ancestry.

Genealogy group connects past and present

By **ROKSANA AMID**

ramid@liherald.com

What started as a modest attempt to meet community demand for genealogy resources has grown into a thriving network of libraries helping Long Island residents discover their roots and share local history.

The North Shore Genealogy Collective — a partnership between six libraries in Glen Cove, Oyster Bay-East Norwich, Gold Coast, Bayville, Locust Valley, and Manhasset — marked its third anniversary this year. The group, formed during the pandemic, has become a regional hub for amateur genealogists seeking not only ancestral connections but a sense of belonging.

“The demand was always there,” said Lydia Wen Rodgers, librarian and archivist at the Glen Cove Public Library. “Forming a collective meant we could support each other and offer consistent, high-quality programming across all the libraries.”

Rodgers first launched the in-person Genealogy Round Table during the pandemic, when patrons needed access to tools like the Ancestry.com database, which could only be used on-site. Participants came masked, many bringing boxes of family records and handwritten notes.

“Three and a half years later, we’re still going strong,” she said. “At the beginning of 2025, we even expanded the name to the Genealogy and Local History Round Table because so many of our discussions veered naturally into Glen Cove’s past.”

Each month, the Round Table explores members’ family research, discusses challenges in tracing lineage, and highlights upcoming historical events and genealogy workshops. The group also takes field trips to local landmarks, including the Matinecock Masonic Historical Society and the Levittown Historical Society and Museum.

“Our members are all ages and backgrounds, but we share a love for Glen Cove,” Rodgers said. “I often look around the room and think, this is what makes this city beautiful — a cross-section of people coming together to learn from one another.”

For club member Koorosh Leibowitz, the link between genealogy and local history is personal. Known for digging through estate sales and antique



Roksana Amid/Herald

Koorosh Leibowitz, brought postcards he bought privately from a home in Glen Cove.

collections, he often brings in historical items to share with the group. One recent find was a bag of early 20th-century postcards he uncovered in a Glen Cove home.

“At first, I thought they were just random postcards from places like California, Jerusalem, and Rome,” Leibowitz said. “But when I flipped them over, I realized they were all addressed to a family on Duck Pond Road — the Willits family, which is a well-known name around here.”

The earliest postcard was dated 1904 and addressed to Frederick E. Willits.

“These cards are more than just souvenirs — they’re genealogical records,” he explained. “You can



Susan McMahon, president of the Underhill Society, frequents club meetings to learn about local history.

see where someone went on holiday, who they were writing to, and sometimes even mentions of relatives like ‘Aunt So-and-So.’ If you’re a Willits descendant, this is invaluable history.”

The collective’s impact has been life-changing for some. Katina Csillag, a Glen Cove resident and former president of the Friends of the Library, began researching her family in 2023 using the Glen Cove Library’s Robert R. Coles History Room. Encouraged by fellow club members, she took a DNA test that revealed a half-brother she never knew existed.

“It was an emotional discovery,” Csillag told the Herald. “I’d been searching for a piece of myself for years. The library’s resources — and the people in that room — helped me find it.”

Stories like Csillag’s show the power of community-based genealogy work.

“This isn’t just about names on a chart. It’s about human connection,” she said. “Whether it’s finding a lost relative or learning how your family contributed to local history, these stories ground people in something larger than themselves.”



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Book Review: “SuperAging”
by David Cravit and Larry Wolf

Subtitled “Getting Older Without Getting Old” this new book starts with the premise “... imagine bringing a whole lifetime of knowledge, experience, skills, talent, relationships, wisdom (and, let’s face it, money) to two or three more decades ahead of you in which to leverage all those assets into an ongoing wonderful experience.” With the Baby Boomer generation far outliving and “outhealthening” any prior generation, we are in the era of the “superager”, founded upon seven pillars.

Attitude: Believing in exciting new possibilities, optimism is a major life extender. Purposes and goals are a result of an active curiosity about the potential for the gift of these years. Practice a positive thinking booster program everyday. Search for “positivity apps” and get daily positive quotes. They work!

Awareness: Whereas older adults previously accepted the advice of professionals as gospel, today’s superagers are avid consumers of information. The challenge today is the approach to information gathering and the curating of the “informational torrent”. Tips and techniques for searching and filing your information are provided.

Activity: Keeping fit, mentally and physically delves into the nine components, arising out of the Blue Zones Project, for extending longevity — move naturally, have a purpose (worth an extra 7 years!), downshift, the 80% rule for eating, plant-based diet, moderate alcohol, faith-based community family, social networks.

Accomplishments: Viewing post-65 as a continued opportunity to grow and achieve goals, this section outlines myriad ways to continue personal growth. As the authors point out, “Accomplishment, promoted by longevity, produces even further longevity.”

Attachment: The health risks of loneliness are well documented. Superagers reach for more connection, often digitally. New adult communities are arising right on college campuses, creating exciting new intergenerational possibilities.

Avoidance: Avoiding ageism, especially against oneself, means challenging your own and society’s outdated views on aging — stereotypes as to what older adults look and act like.

Autonomy: The dazzling new array of living options, and various means for affording them are explored, including using the home as an asset. For more, visit superagingnews.com.

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CRIME WATCH

ARRESTS

- A 44-year-old Glen Cove woman was arrested on July 29 for aggravated unlicensed operation, an unregistered vehicle, no insurance, an uninspected vehicle and a Glen Cove Court arrest warrant for various vehicle and traffic law violations on Herb Hill Road.
- A 45-year-old man was arrested on July 29 and charged with aggravated unlicensed operation of a motor vehicle, operating an unregistered vehicle, no insurance, unlicensed operation, and a Glen Cove arrest warrant on Herb Hill Road.
- A 33-year-old Glen Cove man was arrested on July 30 and charged with trespassing and a Nassau County District Court arrest warrant for grand larceny and petit larceny on Glen Street.
- A 45-year-old woman from Flushing was arrested on July 30 and charged with unauthorized practice of a profession on Dosoris Way.
- A 42-year-old man from Uniondale was arrested on July 31 and charged with driving while intoxicated and multiple vehicle and traffic law violations on Cedar Swamp Road.
- A 51-year-old woman from Flushing was arrested on July 31 and charged with unauthorized practice of a profession on Forest Avenue.
- A 56-year-old man from Glen Cove was arrested on July 31 and charged with criminal possession of a controlled substance and driving while intoxicated on Town Path.

People named in Crime Watch items as having been arrested and charged with violations or crimes are only suspected of committing those acts of which they are accused. They are all presumed to be innocent of those charges until and unless found guilty in a court of law.

NEWS BRIEF

Medicaid enrollment assistance

The Glen Cove Public Library will host an in-person Medicaid enrollment assistance session on Monday, August 25, 2025, from 12:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. in the Community Room. The event is organized in partnership with the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council, which will provide facilitated enrollers trained by the New York State Department of Health.

This free service is open to adults and children who are blind or disabled, as well as individuals aged 65 and older who may be eligible for Medicaid programs. The enrollers will help participants understand available Medicaid options and assist with completing and

submitting applications.

The goal of the program is to simplify the enrollment process and ensure that eligible residents receive the benefits they need. No appointment is required, but those seeking more information are encouraged to contact the Nassau-Suffolk Hospital Council directly at 631-435-3000.

The Glen Cove Public Library is located at 4 Glen Cove Avenue, Glen Cove, NY 11542. The event is part of the library’s ongoing commitment to support the community with access to essential health and social services.

—Roksana Amid

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LIRR tickets could rise by over four percent, expire quicker

By **BRIAN KACHARABA** bkacharaba@liherald.com

On July 30, the Metropolitan Transportation Authority released a proposal outlining a series of fare and ticket changes for the Long Island Rail Road, as well as increases in bridge and tunnel tolls. If approved by the MTA this fall, the changes would take effect in January 2026. Here's a breakdown:

1

■ LIRR ticket price increases

The MTA is proposing an average fare increase of 4.4% on one-way peak, monthly, and weekly tickets for most Long Island Rail Road routes.

An off-peak city ticket would be raised by 25 cents to \$5.25 and a peak city trip will have the same increase at a cost of \$7.25.

Monthly fares would be capped at \$500.

If approved, this would mark the LIRR's first fare hike since August 2023, when prices rose by 4.5%.

2

■ Ticket activations

All one-way mobile tickets would automatically activate upon purchase and expire after four hours. Paper tickets would also expire four hours after purchase.

Currently, LIRR one-way and round-trip tickets are valid for 60 days from the date of purchase, and 10-trip tickets are valid for six months.

A new "Day Pass," allowing unlimited travel, would replace the round-trip ticket. It would be valid from the time of purchase until 4 a.m. the following day.

3

■ Bridge and tunnel tolls

Tolls on MTA bridges and tunnels are expected to rise by 7.5% for E-ZPass users with Tolls by Mail.

This would increase the toll from \$6.94 to \$7.46 for crossings such as the RFK, Whitestone, Throgs Neck, and Verrazzano-Narrows bridges, as well as the Queens-Midtown and Hugh L. Carey tunnels.

The Cross Bay and Marine Parkway bridges would go from \$2.60 to \$2.80.

Like the LIRR, the last hike for all nine bridges was in 2023.



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Suozzi urges reversal of TPS termination

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

With the federal government set to end Temporary Protected Status for thousands of Hondurans living in the United States, U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi joined labor unions and immigrant advocates on July 31 to urge the Department of Homeland Security to reverse its decision before the Sept. 8 deadline.

“I want to start by applauding President Trump for securing the border and for his efforts to deport criminals. I agree with those policies. But, now I believe it has gone too far,” said Rep. Suozzi. “I think we need to work together to find some form of compromise to move forward because what is happening now is bad for business, bad for law enforcement, and it is actually very inhumane and unfair to people. I believe it is un-American.”

Speaking at the 1199 SEIU headquarters in Hicksville, Suozzi said the loss of TPS protections would uproot families, destabilize small businesses, and harm local economies. Temporary Protected Status allows nationals from countries facing armed conflict, environmental disaster or other extraordinary conditions to live and work legally in the United States. Honduras was designated for TPS in 1999 following the devastation caused by Hurricane Mitch.

“There are about 50,000 Hondurans



Tim Baker/Herald file

U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi joined labor unions and immigrant advocates on to urge the Department of Homeland Security to reverse its decision before the Sept. 8 deadline.

in the United States of America who have Temporary Protected Status, many who live right here in my district,” Suozzi said. “They pay taxes. They raise their families here. And right now, they are terrified.”

Two TPS recipients living on Long Island joined the press conference by phone using aliases, citing concerns about retaliation. William, who owns two businesses and employs 20 workers,

said he has lived in the U.S. for over 25 years and has two U.S.-born children.

“It’s a terrifying thing for us,” he said. “We don’t know what is going to happen to our family, the businesses we own, or the community we serve.”

Alfredo, a restaurant owner with a 17-year-old son, said he has been in the U.S. for nearly three decades and has no criminal record.

“I have been living in this country

and doing the right things, paying my taxes, being a good neighbor,” he said. “To be honest, I do not know what to do.”

According to the National Immigration Forum, TPS recipients from Honduras, El Salvador, and Haiti contribute a combined \$4.5 billion in annual wages to the U.S. economy and an estimated \$6.9 billion to Social Security and Medicare over a 10-year period.

Arlene Gannon, of Community Care and Home Health Services, said the impact of ending TPS would be significant. Of the company’s 2,000 employees, 800 are TPS holders.

“Once your TPS is revoked, you are no longer eligible to work,” Gannon said. “So not only will this economically devastate Long Island and Queens, but this will transpire across the country.”

Nadia Marin Molina, co-executive director of the National Day Laborer Organizing Network, called the move to terminate TPS “arbitrary,” and said it contradicts the U.S. government’s original promise to provide safe haven.

“TPS holders have done this for decades,” she said. “The Trump Administration is breaking this promise for Honduras and many more countries.”

Suozzi and the participating organizations called on the federal government to reinstate TPS protections and allow Congress time to pursue long-term immigration reform.

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'We're a service-oriented police department'

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

sands of communities across the country taking part in National Night Out.

"In doing so, they are making a statement that they will not tolerate crime in their communities, and that they support their local law enforcement," Ortiz told the crowd. "Your being here tonight is showing your support for the officers of the Glen Cove Police Department, and we appreciate you."

Ortiz then made the announcement that many had been anticipating, of this year's National Night Out honoree. Each year the department recognizes someone who exemplifies a commitment to justice, public safety and support for law enforcement. This year the honor went to Police Chief William Whitton, who has been an integral part of the Glen Cove community for over four decades.

"This year's honoree has impacted everyone's lives in this audience, whether you know it or not," Ortiz said. "He has been my teacher, my mentor, my leader and, best of all, my friend. I have personally become a better police officer and a better person due to his influence."

Ortiz reflected on Whitton's steady leadership in moments of crisis, and his enduring impact on the department's culture. "I have watched him be a calming force in some really maddening times and emergency situations," Ortiz

said. "He embodies everything it means to be Glen Cove's National Night Out honoree."

Whitton, 65, was visibly moved as he took the microphone. "I am honored to be the honoree, for sure," he said, recalling his long history with the department. "I became the chief of police in 2007. That was the first year we decided to participate in National Night Out. I think back over those 18 years, and I think about all the worthy honorees that came before me. I am truly humbled to be amongst their greatness."

Born and raised in Glen Cove in a home built by his grandfather, Whitton attended city schools and earned a degree from Long Island University's C.W. Post campus in 1983. He initially planned to go to law school, but was encouraged by a neighbor in law enforcement to take the police exam. He did, and it set the course for the next 40 years of his life.

Whitton joined the department in 1984, and worked his way through the ranks: patrol officer, motorcycle unit, detective, sergeant in 1997, lieutenant in 2003, deputy chief in 2006, and chief in 2007. Along the way, he gained a reputation for professionalism, empathy and innovation.

He credited former Deputy Chief Robert McDonald and longtime PBA President Patrick Hall — both of whom were in attendance — for helping turn

the department into a model of collaboration and excellence.

"Robert McDonald and myself turned this ship in a different direction," Whitton said. "We changed everything about how this organization functions — from technology to crime solving to community service. But we couldn't do it without the buy-in of the men and women of the Glen Cove Police Department."

That helped reshape the culture of the department, he added, to focus on communication, trust and community service. "We took this Police Department and we changed the culture of it," Whitton said. "We really did."

Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck praised Whitton as someone she knew she could rely on from her first day in office. "He handles every situation with great integrity," she said. "He is a man that we know we can always count on."

State Sen. Jack Martins said that Whitton's leadership is one of the reasons Glen Cove is considered one of the safest cities in New York state. And Assemblyman Charles Lavine added that Whitton's record speaks for itself. Lavine described taking part in the event as a blessing.

"It's really cool to see," Whitton's daughter, Amanda Whitton, told him, beaming with pride. "It's really impressive. You're something to look up to."

For Whitton, the recognition was less



Roksana Amid/Herald

Glen Cove High School freshman Marc Delacruz looks forward to National Night Out every year.

about himself and more about the mission. "What we came out with on the other side of things was a better product to give to the community — to keep it safe, to keep it happy," he said. "We're a service-oriented police department. 'Committed to Excellence' is on our vehicles, and we truly do try and commit this place to excellence."



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RichnerLive Gala celebrates

By ALYSSA R. GRIFFIN

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Herald Community Media held its first ever Health & Beauty Awards of Long Island Gala, presented by RichnerLive on July 16, people from across the Island flooded into the ballroom of The Heritage Club at Bethpage to get a glimpse of the beautiful honorees this year's had to offer.

"This evening we celebrate the people and organizations shaping the future of health and beauty," said Stuart Richner, CEO of Richner Communications and publisher of Herald Community Media, "Those whose innovation, leadership and dedication are making a lasting difference in our community."

Regarding launching this new program, RichnerLIVE Executive Director Amy Amato shared, "This is a remarkable group of professionals who do more than just excel at what they do. They uplift, empower, and heal our community every single day. Whether helping someone feel beautiful, recover their strength, or simply feel seen and supported, this work touches lives in profound ways. It's an honor to recognize that impact here tonight."

Over 40 honorees were presented with awards in various categories pertaining to the health and beauty industry on Long Island, including Spa 505, Tranquility 3 Spa & Salt Cave and more.

Following the VIP cocktail hour which offered networking and a shopping and vendor experience for attendees, event emcees Krista Bennett DeMaio, founder of Pretty Local and Mae Caime, CEO and transformational architect of aMAEzing Midlife and Beyond kicked off the evening's program and ceremony with a panel discussion on the industry.

Featured panelists included Dr. Luis Fandos, founder and CEO of Alluring Age Anti-Aging and Wellness Center; Dr. Helen Hsieh, founder and medical director of Vibrance 360, and Catherine Canadeo, CEO and founder of Health and Wellness Corp, who all also received awards later in the evening.

"With the new technology that we now have available, we can identify abnormal cellular processes that are going on," Fandos said, "And by correcting those, any beauty treatments that you do will have a much longer lasting effect."

Hsieh discussed common myths within the health and beauty industry. "More is not always better. Just the right amount is better than more. If you eat too much, it's not good for you," she said.

Canadeo mentioned the importance of addressing stress for one's health. "It's very important to be mindful of ourselves. We get distracted on a day to day basis and our emotional wellbeing is crucial. It is essential to glow from within," she said.

Atul Bhatara, founder and CEO of Atul Skincare was amongst the honorees for the Achiever category. His skin-



Photos by Tim Baker/Herald

EMCEE's and Honorees (Left) Mae Caime and (Far right) Krista Bennett DeMaio speak with our panelists: (Left to right) Dr. Luis Fandos, Catherine Canadeo, and Dr. Helen Hsieh.



Attendees at the Health & Beauty Awards

care focuses on using safer ingredients in their products. Being born with cerebral palsy, he's been able to defy the odds and be a voice for the disabled community.

"Throughout this journey, a lot of people didn't believe in me. Don't let somebody else's opinion of you become your reality," Bhatara said, "You control your own reality. Fear is false evidence appearing real, fear does not exist. It's just something that comes up in your mind when you get overwhelmed."

Constance Korol, CEO of Meta 180, received an award in Holistic Integrative Health. Her business centers around helping individuals dealing with issues from anxiety to physical ailments with a holistic approach both in-person and virtually. "Most of my clients, when I'm with them for some time, they'll say 'I just never knew that I could feel this way.' That's really the best part is seeing my clients grow," Korol said.

Honoree, Dr. Linda Harkavy, was a recipient of the Science & Skin award. Harkavy is the president and medical director of Form & Function Aesthetics



Our lovely gift bags sponsored by our amazing honorees

and Wellness, which uses different devices and equipment to treat various physical issues. Harkavy said, "It's a broad based aesthetic and wellness practice. The aesthetics came along with me because looking beautiful is a part of feeling great."

These honorees were nominated not only by RichnerLive, but by people with

in their communities as well. To see a complete list of the winners, visit RichnerLive.com/health-beauty-awards/2025-honorees.

Proceeds from the event will be donated to The Maurer Foundation. For more information on the event or other events by RichnerLive, visit RichnerLive.com.

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GLEN COVE HERALD – August 7, 2025

Health and Beauty innovators



Melissa Baptiste/Herald
Atul Bhatara from Atul Skincare.



Melissa Baptiste/Herald
Linda Mashkabova, FNP from The Beauty Cellar NY.



Tim Baker/Herald
Jim Wang from Spa 505.



Melissa Baptiste/Herald
Alice Khalkad from House of Skin.



Tim Baker/Herald
Tom Amigdalos from PureCare Pharmacy and Wellness.



Melissa Baptiste/Herald
Linda Harkavy, MD from Form and Function Aesthetics and Wellness.



Tim Baker/Herald
Sarah K. Girardi, MD, FACS from Tideline Center for Health & Aesthetics.



Melissa Baptiste/Herald
Meredith Vandegrift, MD, FACS from Vandegrift Plastic Surgery.



Melissa Baptiste/Herald
Sharon Grasso, Ingrid Dodd, Dana Persico from the Rebranding Menopause Podcast.



Tim Baker/Herald
Luis Fandos, MD, FAAAM, FABAPM from Alluring Age Anti-Aging and Wellness Center with Amanda Fandos, Jessica Jordan, Pina Prainito and Jasmin Joya.



Melissa Baptiste/Herald
Ali Artz from Ambiance Salon and Spa.



Tim Baker/Herald
Marisa Russell from Meadow & Bark.



Melissa Baptiste/Herald
Samara S. Churgin, MD, FACS from Churgin Plastic Surgery.



Melissa Baptiste/Herald
Donna Arigo from ISDIN USA.



Tim Baker/Herald
Leticia Huston from HER Spa Room & Benefit Cosmetics/LVMH.



Melissa Baptiste/Herald
Stephen T. Greenberg, MD, FACS from Greenberg Cosmetic Surgery.



Tim Baker/Herald
Ladies from Tranquility 3 Spa & Salt Cave: Therese Montanile, Angela Cui (honoree), Angela Wang and Maria Spatola.



Photos courtesy Nicole Loizides Albruzzese

The Gold Coast Dance Festival, hosted by New York Dance Theatre, marked its 5th annual celebration on Aug. 2.

Bringing world class dance to the Gold Coast

The Gold Coast Dance Festival, hosted by New York Dance Theatre, marked its 5th annual celebration on Aug. 2, from 6 to 8 p.m. at Morgan Memorial Park in Glen Cove. This free, community-focused event drew several hundred attendees and showcased 15 diverse acts—featuring performers from prestigious companies such as Alvin Ailey, New York City Ballet, Dance Theatre of Harlem, Broadway, and more. A highlight was the new Lindy Hop on the Beach workshop led by Jaime Shannon. The festival's broader mission includes supporting dance education, raising community awareness, and providing resources to aspiring young artists and at-risk youth through free workshops and scholarships.

—Roksana Amid



The Gold Coast Dance Festival features a diverse group of dancers in a wide range of styles.



Performers from Ballet Nepantla wowed the audience with their fluid movements and bold attire.



Nicole Loizides Albruzzese co-founded the Gold Coast Dance Festival five years ago.



Lauhala Matt performed a traditional Hula dance.

Twin trouble

Dear Great Book Guru,
I was at Matt's Deli (formerly Arata's) having a delicious breakfast with friends when the discussion turned to books. We were swapping recent favorites when someone mentioned a new book about twins, time travel, and multiple endings - sort of like the Choose Your Own Adventure novel series. Have you heard of it?

Lover of Matt's Deli

Dear Lover of Matt's Deli,

I am a huge fan of Matt's too. "The Catch" by Yrsa Daley-Ward is an interesting mix of all the elements you mention and more. The story opens in the present with Clara, a celebrity author, recounting the huge success of her latest novel, "Evidence."

The next chapter introduces us to her twin sister, Dempsey, who is struggling as a data entry clerk living in a shabby London apartment. We learn the women were orphaned as infants when their mother drowned herself in the Thames River thirty years ago.

Adopted into two very different families - Clara to a wealthy, upper class couple and Dempsey to a mean-spirited difficult city councilor - the women have been estranged for many years. On the day of their thirtieth birthday, Clara sees a woman she insists is their mother shop-lifting a Rolex watch.

Even more bizarrely, the woman looks about thirty years old. Clara rushes to share this information with Dempsey who is skeptical at best. Soon the woman, named Serena, has insinuated herself into their lives and things become more and more sinister.

Along the way, we meet a myriad of colorful characters from the past and present as the sisters struggle to find out who Serena is and what happened thirty years ago. A puzzling but compelling read... recommended.

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



ANN
DIPIETRO

OBITUARIES

Gabriele Gore

Gabriele Gore, 87 of Glen Cove, died on July 24. Beloved husband of the late Alfonsina; loving father of Louis (Patricia), Maria (Michael Pascarelli), Salvatore (Victoria) and Josephine (Sal Epifania); dear brother of the late Josephine Melfi and many brothers; adored grandfather of Lauren, Krystal, Jessica, Ashley, Amanda, Nicholas, Heather, Brian, Sal Jr., Matthew, Gianna and Andrew; special great-grandfather of 10. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove.

Agnese Santoli Natale

Agnese Santoli Natale, 60, of Glen Cove, died on July 19. Loving wife of Anthony; devoted mother of Emily, Arthur and Angelina; beloved daughter of Angiolina and the late Emilio. Also survived by loving nieces and nephews. Agnese was a great cook, she had an amazing garden and she loved to travel. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove.

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Firefighters convention returns to Long Island

By CAROLYN JAMES
cjames@liherald.com

The Firefighters Association of the State of New York will host its 153rd Annual Convention Thursday through Saturday at the Hyatt Regency Long Island, in Hauppauge.

The event is expected to draw more than 1,000 attendees, including volunteer firefighters from across New York, vendors and dignitaries. It will mark the 15th time the association has held its convention on Long Island since the organization was founded in 1872.

“We are very happy for the return of the FASNY convention to the Long Island region,” the organization’s president, Eugene Perry, said. “We are proud to welcome firefighters and guests from across New York state back to our vibrant and historic convention.”

Organizers estimate that the three-day event will generate about \$1.1 million in economic activity for Suffolk County, with nearly 1,500 hotel-room nights expected to be booked as well as dining, social events and other spending.

The association is partnering with Discover Long Island, the region’s official tourism agency, to support the convention.

“Our organization is committed to driving economic impact through tourism, and our dedicated sales team works year-round to bring major meetings and events like these to Long Island,” Discover Long Island’s interim CEO, Mitch Pally, said. “We are proud to host these dedicated individuals who serve communities across the state, and look forward to showcasing Suffolk County’s hospitality, natural beauty and distinctive appeal.”



Eugene Perry, president of the Firefighters Association of the State of New York, right, spoke at last year’s convention with Ed Tase, a former FASNY president.

The convention will open with the annual golf tournament at the Wind Watch Golf & Country Club, adjacent to the Hyatt Regency. Attendees will also take part in training sessions, FASNY’s annual meetings and ceremonies honoring outstanding service.

A highlight of the event will be a keynote address by Chief Patrick Kenny, author of “Taking the Cape Off: How to Lead Through Mental Illness, Unimagina-

ble Grief and Loss.” Kenny will speak on first responder mental health.

“I’ve heard him speak before, and his story is very moving,” Perry said. “Attendees should be ready with tissues.”

Other scheduled events include the annual Heroes Awards and a Friday-evening Tailgate for Heroes and scholarship fundraiser, featuring the Long Island-based band Peat Moss and the Fertilizers.

Michael Barry, president of the Suffolk County Fire Chiefs Council and a 41-year member of the Medford Fire Department, said the convention is about more than celebration and tourism.

“We hope this event brings out people and they can understand the value of a volunteer fire service and all that it does,” Barry said. “It’s about compromise and sacrifice — giving up time from family to complete training and respond to calls, all to help your community.”

Perry agreed. “This year’s convention promises to be a meaningful celebration of service, tradition and unity,” he said. “We look forward to a memorable and successful event that honors firefighting and inspires the future of volunteer service.”

Perry added that the members of the FASNY board were pleased that Suffolk County Executive Ed Romaine recently approved legislation that gives volunteer firefighters preference for affordable housing in the county, which will enable many young recruits to stay on Long Island, make their homes here and continue their volunteer fire service.

FASNY represents approximately 80,000 volunteer firefighters and EMS personnel statewide. For more information about the convention, visit fasny.com/events/2025-annual-convention.

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Attendees applaud emergency workshop

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1
heavy-duty gloves, tarp, emergency blanket, water container, glow stick and whistle.

State National Guard, collaborating with experts from the Division's Office of Emergency Management and Office of Fire Prevention and Control, led the training sessions. The workshops are held at venues such as armories, community centers and other locations statewide and are coordinated with local county emergency management staff.

The state was hit by 10 climate and weather disasters last year that each caused more than \$1 billion in damage across the country, according to data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

The destruction faced by New York was a part of a larger national trend as The United States experienced 27 billion-dollar weather and climate disasters in 2024 just one less than the record of 26 set in 2023, according to NOAA National Centers for Environmental Information. The total cost of these disasters exceeded \$182.7 billion, the fourth highest on record.

The number of weather and climate disasters causing over a billion dollars in damage in the United States has risen from around three events annually during the 1980s to 19 events annually during the last 10 years, according to Climate Central; a nonprofit comprised of



Luke Feeney/Herald

Joshua Carsons, left, and Gaison Alvarado, of the state National Guard.

scientists and communicators researching and reporting the facts about the changing climate and its impacts on people's lives.

"It is important to prepare our community and share knowledge that we've experienced in lessons learned," Joshua Carsons, one of the National Guard presenters, said. "So that they don't have to go through those things themselves and they could be better prepared."

On the night of the training, as it happened, Gov. Kathy Hochul declared a state of emergency for Long Island and other counties in the state after the National Weather Service warned of potential flash flooding for the New York

metropolitan area. New York City and its suburbs were hit with several inches of rain, flooding Long Island Rail Road stations, subway stations, expressways, and streets.

Carsons admitted that he was concerned about the possibility of canceling the event due to the hazardous conditions but was adamant in his belief on the importance of the workshop. "I'm a servant leader," he said. "In my humble opinion, if I have an opportunity to share and reach out to at least one person, it's meaningful for me. So, I'm down with that."

Response from attendees was extremely positive, with applause greeting the

presenters as the workshop concluded. Glen Cove residents Rob Crest and Hailley Foss both recommended going again, the couple got an email and they "signed up instantly"

"I thought it was very informative, and I thought maybe more people should come," Crest said. "Some basic stuff that I wasn't aware of, and I now have it in this, and I have it all there, I have information to the government. Younger people should have come."

Foss said she learned the importance of "being more aware of an emergency and grabbing my cell phone more quickly."

Esther Ceedeno, a Glen Cove resident, praised the information shared during the workshop and said that she wanted "to learn more," about preparing for an emergency. "It's not just preparing for something that happens when I'm home," she said. "But also, if I'm in transit. So, I need to be prepared if I'm in a restaurant, on a plane or if I'm working."

The next workshop held by the Citizen's Preparedness Corps in Nassau County will be at Westbury Memorial Public Library on Aug. 14 at 9 a.m. DeRiggi-Whitton said that she is looking to host workshops in Glen Head and Glen Cove and is working towards securing a location for them.

"It's a good reminder for everyone," she said. "It gets you trained to have everything in one place."

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HEALTH MEMO

Parker Jewish Institute showcases healing power of music with Sur Sagar ensemble

A musical ensemble at the Parker Jewish Institute brings harmony and wellness to residents and patients alike.

The ensemble is known as Sur Sagar, which means “Ocean of Melody” in Hindi. It features five women from the Institute’s long-term care residence at Parker’s Indian Cultural Unit. The Indian Cultural Unit is the first of its kind in the region, accommodating the rehabilitation, health-care and cultural needs of older adults in New York’s growing Indian population.

At Parker, members of Sur Sagar come together in song to create something special. Beyond their enchanting melodies, Sur Sagar represents the therapeutic power of music in elder care. Music therapy can help reduce anxiety, improve cognitive function and provide a powerful outlet for emotional expression for older adults. While Parker’s residents and patients diligently participate in physical, occupational and speech therapies that nurture their bodies, these musical gatherings nourish their spirits, helping



them to feel at ease so that they can heal.

The enthusiasm and unity of Sur Sagar members illuminate the profound impact of culturally meaningful activities. As part of Parker’s Indian Cultural Unit, these sessions incorporate familiar melodies and rhythms that resonate deeply with residents, awakening cherished memories and creating moments of pure joy.

Sur Sagar embodies the essence of Parker’s Indian Cultural Unit. The unit fosters the understanding that healing and

care must address the physical being while also honoring cultural identity and nurturing the soul through art and expression.

About The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation<

The Parker Jewish Institute for Health Care and Rehabilitation is headquartered in New Hyde Park, New York. The facility is a leading provider of Short-Term Rehabilitation and Long-Term Care. At the

forefront of innovation in patient-centered health care and technology, the Institute is a leader in teaching and geriatric research. Parker Jewish Institute features its own medical team, and is nationally renowned as a skilled nursing facility, as well as a provider of community-based health care, encompassing Home Health Care, Medical House Calls, Palliative Care and Hospice. Parker Jewish Institute is also home to Queens-Long Island Renal Institute (QLIRI), providing patients with safe, comfortable Hemodialysis treatments in a relaxed setting, as well as PRINE Health, a Vascular Center offering advanced vascular services. The Center and QLIRI further Parker’s ability to expand access to essential health-care services to adults in the greater New York metropolitan area. For more information, visit parkerinstitute.org or call (877) 727-5373.



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Queens-Long Island Renal Institute offers Home Hemodialysis/ Certified Home Health Care available through Parker Jewish Institute

Queens-Long Island Renal Institute (QLIRI), a 2025 Best of Long Island winner and located at The Parker Jewish Institute, now offers a state-of-the-art Home Hemodialysis Program for people battling kidney disease. Those patients who also require Certified Home Health Care can access it conveniently through QLIRI's affiliate, Parker Jewish Institute.

With QLIRI's Home Hemodialysis Program, patients can transition from an in-center setting to receiving hemodialysis from the comfort of their home, using the Tablo Hemodialysis System. Enrolled patients are first trained by a registered nurse. The nurse provides step-by-step guidance four days a week over the course of four weeks, or longer if necessary. With this training, patients learn to use the system before transitioning to the convenience of home hemodialysis.

If needed, patients of Parker's Certified Home Health Care Agency receive individualized nursing, medical, and rehabilitation services, so they can maintain maximum independence in the comfort of their homes. Home-care services can include skilled-nursing care; physical, occupational and speech therapy; home-health aides; medical social services; medical supplies; and 24-hour telephone availability.

Call (718) 289-2600 with questions. To learn more about QLIRI's Home Hemodialysis Program, visit qliri.org. For more on Parker's Certified Home Health Care, visit parkerjewishinstitute.org.



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August 10 | **Gershwin and Bernstein on Broadway**

Massapequa Philharmonic - David Bernard, Conductor

August 17 | **The Midtown Men**

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August 24 | **Are You Ready for It? - A Taylor Experience**

The Music of Taylor Swift

August 31 | **Miami Sound Revue**

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Dems demand answers about NUMC matters

By JORDAN VALLONE

jvallone@liherald.com

Nassau County Democrats are continuing to press Republican lawmakers for answers about Nassau University Medical Center, raising a long list of concerns that stretch back to the spring — before New York state officials initiated the takeover of the hospital and its parent organization, the Nassau Health Care Corporation.

Following a July 29 Newsday report that former health care executives charged a \$1,400 Manhattan restaurant bill to the hospital in late May, Democratic Legislators Seth Koslow and Delia DeRiggi-Whitton announced the referral of the allegations to local, state and federal prosecutors. Koslow is running for county executive, and DeRiggi-Whitton leads the legislature's minority caucus.

The public hospital in East Meadow, according to a news release from the minority caucus, is \$1.4 billion in debt. Interim leadership at NUMC, appointed over the last two months by state officials, have accused the hospital's former president and chief executive Meg Ryan of authorizing \$3.5 million in improper severance payments, including at least \$1 million in excess of hospital policy. Ryan and her legal team have rebuffed the claims, with Ryan announcing her intent to sue NHCC alleging wrongful termination, lost wages and intentional reputational damage last month.

"The payments she authorized were permissible under hospital policy and consistent with years of established practice by the CEOs who preceded her," Alex Hartzband, an attorney with Grubin Law Group representing Ryan said in a release.

Ryan maintained that during her time as president and chief executive, the hospital system "expanded services, improved quality of care, and reduced expenses."

"My top priority has always been giving people the best possible health care and protecting our dedicated employees," she said.

Provisions in New York's budget that passed in May allowed the state to begin taking over parts of the hospital system and changing its leadership structure. The move shifted control from Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman to Gov. Kathy Hochul and state Democrats.

The restructured board includes six members appointed by the governor — including one recommended by the state Assembly speaker and state Senate president — two appointed by the Nassau County executive, two by the county Legislature's majority, and one by its

minority.

State officials have filled their allotted seats, with Stuart Rabinowitz, former president of Hofstra University, being named the board chairman by Hochul. Dr. Richard Becker, a system executive from Northwell Health, was named interim president and chief executive by the board. Blakeman has not yet designated his appointees, having expressed his frustrations with the state's overhaul in June.

"While Nassau's only safety-net hospital was drowning in \$1.4 billion worth of debt," DeRiggi-Whitton said at a July 29 news conference in Mineola, "top executives were treating themselves to lavish lobster dinners, luxury hotels and first-class perks. NUMC exists to save lives."

"Every single dollar for every perk that was used and every impromptu payout that was spent of these executives are taxpayer dollars that should have been used to help the people of Nassau County," Koslow said. "There are 300,000 residents that use the hospital every single year. Every single dollar spent on these lavish expenses could have been used to help those patients."

In three certified correspondences sent on July 29

to the offices of Nassau District Attorney Anne Donnelly, New York Attorney General Letitia James, and U.S. Attorney Joseph Nocella, the minority caucus requested an investigation into the "lavish and questionable" spending by former NUMC executives; the allegations against Ryan and the "improper" payouts; and the "unexplained theft and recovery" of documents from former board chairman Matthew Bruderman's home, shortly before his abrupt firing in April.

"We're not going to stand for this," Koslow said. "We believe it's public corruption. That's why we are referring these issues and these incidents for further and full investigations."

"These matters must be investigated for the sake of taxpayers, for the sake of this government and for the sake of our people in Nassau County," he added. "We deserve a hospital that puts patients first — not lavish lifestyles for high paying executives. This goes deeper than what we see today, and that's why we're calling on our state and federal officials to investigate this alongside our county district attorney's office."

In a Newsday story on the same matter, a spokesperson from the Nassau DA's office stated the office has "previously initiated an investigation into NUMC mismanagement," adding that it remains active and ongoing. The office confirmed the receipt of the minority caucus's letter.

STEPPING OUT



Production photos courtesy Joan Marcus
The true story of entrepreneur and inventor Joy Mangano now comes to life on stage, with Betsy Wolfe, top right, in the title role.



STAGE APPEAL

Long Islander adds "JOY" Off-Broadway

By Iris Wiener

Jerome Vivona knew from a young age that he was meant to tell stories. From performing at his Bayville elementary school, to "West Side Story" and "Guys and Dolls" at North Shore High School, he found there was a freedom in theater that was especially unique.

An accomplished performer, writer, producer, director, and choreographer, Vivona (Broadway's "Seussical," "Kiss Me Kate") returns to the New York stage, Off-Broadway, in "JOY: A New True Musical." Running now through Aug. 17, it's based on entrepreneur Joy Mangano. Vivona plays Judge Jeremiah Abernathy (an integral figure in Mangano's life), and is also a standby for other roles.

Vivona is right at home with JOY, which is mostly set at Mangano's childhood residence on Long Island. As a teenager, Vivona was an avid athlete working part-time at an East Norwich ski shop (where he once helped Billy Joel and Christie Brinkley), and initially decided to attend college on a soccer scholarship; however, thanks to the encouragement of his teachers, he found that the calling to be a dancer was stronger.

At age 17 he entered a Sea Cliff studio and said, "I want to be a professional dancer." He trained privately for six to eight hours each day for six months until he had caught up with the more experienced dancers.

"I worked very hard, and with the studio's tutelage I ended up at the Joffrey Ballet School," says Vivona. "[Afterwards,] I was very fortunate to tour with ballet companies."

His life took another incredible turn when, at 23, he first met Jerome Robbins, for whom he was about to audition for "Jerome Robbins' Broadway."

"He took a liking to me and I took private rehearsal sessions with him in which I learned all of the 'West Side Story' choreography. Working with him and his believing in me was a seminal part of my career."

Vivona went on to tour with Robbins' show nationally and internationally, which was followed by a turn in the Paris production of "West Story," where he met his wife, performer and dancer Michelle Vivona. It wasn't long before he made his Broadway debut in "Guys and Dolls."

"JOY" entered his life through the connections and friends he's made through the years.



Courtesy Daniel G. Weiss
Jerome Vivona's commanding presence is well suited to his latest project.

towns, mascots and street names.

"Any time there was something that didn't ring true to Long Island, I would mention it," he says. "It feels like home [on stage], and it feels good to be representing Long Island in a show about Long Island and someone as successful as Joy. I'm proud to be telling her story."

At 58, Vivona stands by the same values he held true when he was raising his children, who graduated from the East Meadow School District.

"I've always taught them that you should follow your dreams and believe in what your impact can be," he says. "This show has taught me that I can continue to believe in myself and that being on stage telling a story is what I'm all about."

When Vivona is not performing, he and Michelle can be found in Mineola, where they own and operate American Theatre Dance Workshop, an award-winning conservatory-type performing arts school.

With new projects on the horizon, Vivona surely wouldn't mind seeing "JOY" head to Broadway.

"I don't think you leave the theater without a smile on your face and maybe a tear in your eye."

"JOY: A New True Musical" is at the Laura Pels Theatre, 111 West 46th St., New York. Tickets are available at joythemusical.com or by calling (833) 274-8497.

"My relationships are what brought me back and my friends having a belief that I would be the right fit. I'm really thrilled that [director] Lorin Latarro and choreographer Joshua Bergasse gave me the opportunity because the show is beautiful, powerful and uplifting."

As he puts it: "JOY" is about the dynamics of a family and how that can change your trajectory in life if you let it. It's a powerful story about one woman who found herself in a situation where she had her back up against a wall, and she was able to create this mop that allowed her to change her family's life and the lives of countless others. It really is 'joy,' and I think that what we need right now is a story that makes us feel good about humanity."

As the only native Long Islander in "JOY," Vivona helped with the authenticity of the actors' dialect.

"During rehearsals we had a dialect coach who was going to play a recording for the actors to help with their speech," Vivona says. "Instead ... I was the reference for them. Whenever Betsy [Wolfe, who plays Mangano] said, 'How do you say this?' they would look for me and ask how to say 'mop' or 'car door.' They even asked me to record my mom saying a couple of things."

Vivona also spoke with the production team about local



'My Son The Waiter'

Brad Zimmerman celebrates the 10th anniversary of his hit comedy "My Son The Waiter: A Jewish Tragedy, with a sequel; "My Son The Waiter: A Jewish Tragedy & Still Not Famous! His long journey to follow his show biz dream and his parents who suffered through it continues with plenty of laughter along way. Brad moved to New York and "temporarily" waited tables for 29 years, while pursuing his career as an actor. After many years, he finally got a role on the Sopranos and work as a comedian opening for Joan Rivers, George Carlin and Brad Garrett. He tells of his pursuit, along with stories about his childhood, family, and misbegotten love life with warmth, wit, self-deprecating humor, and wicked charm. Zimmerman also examines the trials and tribulations of waiting on tables — particularly for someone not exactly invested in that career, and with little tolerance for persnickety diners.

Friday, Aug. 1, 8 p.m.; Saturday, Aug. 2, 2 and 8 p.m.; Sunday, Aug. 3, 2 p.m. Through Aug. 24. Jeanne Rimsky Theater at Landmark on Main Street, 232 Main St., Port Washington. Tickets available at landmarkonmainstreet.org.



'The Rocketman Show'

Remember when rock was young? You will when you blast off into the stratosphere with this electrifying tribute to the Rocketman himself. With a nostalgic setlist, this is a must-see for Elton John fans — of all generations. Rus Anderson, Elton John's official body double for his Farewell Yellow Brick Road world tour launch, recreates an early Elton concert complete with flamboyant costumes actually worn by Elton himself. Elton's greatest hits, wildest outfits and outrageous stage antics come to life again as Anderson brings you the magic and live persona of a young Elton like no other. He storms around the stage with a fun-loving sense of flamboyance; part diva, killer vocalist, fierce piano player, all rock 'n roller. This is a detailed version of Elton John's '70s shows that's not to be missed. Anderson's painstaking attention to detail includes wearing Elton's iconic boots, glasses and jumpsuits from 1973, as well as a sparkly Swarovski tuxedo from '84.

Friday, Aug 8, 8 p.m. \$82, \$71.75, \$60.25, \$49.25, \$37.25, \$35. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com.

YOUR
NEIGHBORHOOD

CALENDAR

AUG 7 **On Exhibit**
Nassau County Museum of Art's latest exhibition, "At Play," surveys artists' perennial fascination with entertainment in all forms. Framing this topic between the nineteenth century Belle Époque and today, the exhibit includes works by Pablo Picasso, Reginald Marsh, Everett Shinn, and Max Beckmann among many others. The works are gathered to represent a wide range of expressions, from entertainment-related activities to the fascinating personalities involved. It encompasses dance, music, theater, movies, circus, boating, and beach scenes, along with horseracing and various sports, both active and passive. Also featured are archival items from The Metropolitan Opera and the New York Philharmonic, including costumes by Marc Chagall for Die Zauberflöte, vintage fashion items by such designers as Alfred Shaheen, and iconic costumes from the Folies-Bergère in Paris. On view until Nov. 9.

- **Where:** 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** Ongoing
- **Contact:** nassauuseum.org or (516) 484-9337

AUG 8 **Summertime grooves**
Get ready for an unforgettable evening of live Cuban music with SonMilanes as part of the Downtown Sounds summer concert series. Bring a lawn chair, enjoy local dining, and dance under the stars in the heart of Glen Cove.

- **Where:** Village Square, Downtown Glen Cove
- **Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 759-6970

Little Learners' Forest Animals
Planting Fields Little Learners series continues with a wild adventure for the little ones to explore animals that live in the forest. The journey begins with a fun and engaging story all about creatures that call the woods their home. Then, explore what happens to the forest after dark — who wakes up, who goes to sleep and how the nighttime world comes to life. After that, get creative with a craft to take home. For ages 2-5. Registration required. \$15 per child.

- **Where:** Education Center, 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 10-11 p.m.
- **Contact:** plantingfields.org or call (516) 922-9210



AUG 16 **The Midtown Men**
Former stars of the Tony, Grammy and Olivier Award-winning jukebox musical "Jersey Boys," reunited as The Midtown Men, are back with their '60s vibe at Eisenhower Park. During their time in the mega-hit musical, these talented artists — Tony Award winner Christian Hoff, Michael Longoria, Daniel Reichard and Tony Award nominee J. Robert Spencer — shared the stage for over 1,000 performances. The high-octane musical tour de force that took the Jersey Boys phenomenon to Broadway and beyond, is now rocking the stage as a concert. These Broadway veterans, with their powerhouse band, are realizing the dream they brought to life as the iconic Four Seasons. The dynamic foursome now celebrates the music that defined the 1960s. The Midtown Men is the next chapter for these accomplished entertainers, making them the first vocal group ever formed by the principal cast of a high-profile Broadway show. Not only have they continued to win over audiences of all ages in nearly 2,000 live shows, their self-titled debut album, The Midtown Men: Sixties Hits was met with critical acclaim and garnered five star album reviews across iTunes and was followed by their first radio single "All Alone On Christmas" with producer Steven Van Zandt and members of Springsteen's E Street Band.

- **Where:** Harry Chapin Lakeside Theatre, Eisenhower Park, East Meadow
- **Time:** 7 p.m.
- **Contact:** nassaucountyny.gov

AUG 9 **Gala Blanca: A Magical Night in White**
Enjoy a magical evening in the beautiful Hempstead House Garden at Sands Point Preserve. Surrounded by vibrant wildflowers, with an expansive view of the Long Island Sound and a backdrop of the sun setting on Hempstead House, guests will experience an unforgettable night in a setting like no other. Get ready for free-flowing cocktails, delicious dinner, dancing under the stars, and mesmerizing entertainment. Dress in white for this joyous celebration of summer! All proceeds benefit the natural and historic gem that is the Sands Point Preserve and the Conservancy's work to maintain and uphold it as a beloved community resource. General admission is \$190, premium tickets are \$350.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or contact Melanie Dunbar at melanie.dunbar@sandspointpreserve.org or call (516) 570-2236

Deep Roots Farmers Market
Shop fresh and local at the Deep Roots Farmers Market! Enjoy a vibrant selection of Long Island-grown produce, artisanal goods, fresh baked items, handmade crafts, and more. The market also features live music, family-friendly activities, and community vendors. Come support local farmers and makers, rain or shine!

- **Where:** 100 Garvies Point Road, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 9 a.m.-1 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 676-6666

Dinner Detective Murder Mystery
Enjoy an evening of suspense, laughter, and great food at America's largest interactive true crime mystery dinner show! At The Dinner Detective, you'll enjoy a delicious dinner while working to solve a thrilling whodunit. Just be careful, the culprit could be sitting at your table — or even you! Admission includes dinner, entertainment, wait staff gratuity, a prize for the Top Sleuth, and more.

- **Where:** 200 Dosoris Lane, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 6 p.m.
- **Contact:** (646) 518-8771

Unbox A-Saurus for Us!
Dr. Patricia Osiris visits with young paleontologists-in-training at Long Island Children's Museum's new stage production. This interactive theatrical experience invites visitors to join the eccentric paleontologist (a.k.a. "Dr. Patti") as she attempts to reveal a never-before-seen dinosaur specimen — if only she can figure out how to open the crate it's locked in. Along the way, the audience becomes key players in solving problems, sparking laughter and exploring the world of dinosaurs in a lighthearted "scientific" comedy that blends imagination and learning. \$5 with museum admission, \$10 theater only.

- **Where:** Museum Row, Garden City
- **Time:** 11 a.m. and 1 p.m.; also Aug 20
- **Contact:** licm.org or (516) 224-5800

Ecotherapy Walk
Sands Point Preserve's reserve's historic mansions and waterfront grounds are the backdrop for a calming stroll with certified guide Linda. Ecotherapy, also known as Forest Therapy or Forest Bathing,

is not simply hiking in the woods, or a walk on a beach. The focus of Ecotherapy is on connection and relationship, allowing the heart to open to the beauty of the natural world, and at the same time, understand our belonging in that world. Registration required. \$49 per session, \$135 for series of 3; \$44 per session, \$120 for series of 3, members.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 6-8 p.m.
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

AUG 17 **Locust Valley Garden Club**
The Locust Valley Garden Club will not be meeting at the Locust Valley Library on Aug. 20 as previously announced. All visitors and potential new members are welcome to the next meeting. Participate in "Tatakizome - Japanese Hammer Art," led by program chair Jane Benstock. Use garden blossoms to create beautiful small pieces of art at the hands-on session. Bring a hammer, all other materials are provided. The "themed" lunch is "Back-to-School-Lunchbox" plates, sides, snacks and desserts. All gardening lovers are welcome!

- **Where:** 170 Buckram Road, Locust Valley
- **Time:** 10 a.m.
- **Contact:** Lorraine Tassis, ltassis@aol.com, or (516) 759-5694

Having an event?

Items on the Calendar 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 kbloom@liherald.com.

Hip-hop's untold past screens at festival

By STACY DRIKS

sdriks@liherald.com

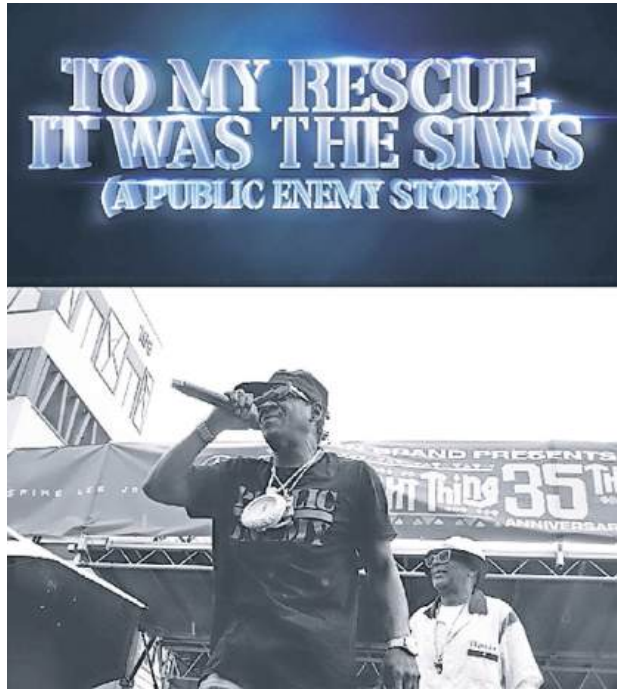
Uniondale resident and Bronx native DJ Johnny “Juice” Rosado, a key creative force behind two hip-hop documentaries, will take part in the first Long Island Music Documentary Film Festival, running from Aug. 8-10.

Rosado produced and supported two films — “Bronx Boys: The Evolution of B-Boy Culture” directed by Robert McCullough Jr. and “To My Rescue, It Was the S1Ws – The Security of The First World– (A Public Enemy Story)” executive producer and directed by Janol Ture — which will be screened on Aug. 9 beginning at 5:30 p.m.

The music icon brings nearly 40 years in music as an Emmy and NAACP Image-nominated composer, award-winning producer, turntablist, and mentor. Known for his work with Public Enemy, he’s also collaborated with legends like the Beastie Boys, Slick Rick, Mavis Staples, and KRS-One. In February he was announced as the Long Island Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame inductee, and the organizations board of directors.

“The whole point of being an artist is to try to get people to understand where you’re coming from because some people think that to be an artist means to get rich and famous,” Rosado said. “But to me, being an artist is about trying to be understood.”

For Rosado, both films spotlight underrepresented voices in hip-hop history. Bronx Boys tells the origin story of some of the earliest rocking – type of dance – crews founded in the South Bronx in 1975 – marking the 50th anniversary. And is part one of a four-part docuseries.



Courtesy Long Island Music and Entertainment Hall of Fame

The story of Public Enemy's S1WS—hip hop's silent soldiers—told through rare insights from Chuck D, Ice Cube, and others. Directed by Janol Ture, with a live talk

The film features never-before-seen footage and interviews with pioneers who helped shape hip-hop's foundation. While it doesn't include material from 1975 — since there were no cell phones to document that era — Rosado has spent his time, pre-Covid-19, recording surviving members to preserve their stories.

“We had the foresight to say, ‘let’s start documenting some of these dudes’. So we did, and then it blossomed from an archival project to a documentary,” Rosado said.

To My Rescue, tells the untold story of Public Enemy's stage crew, tracing their personal journeys and pivotal role in hip-hop's rise as a global voice of protest. Featuring commentary from icons like Chuck D, Ice Cube, and DMC, the film captures a powerful chapter in music history.

“The film provides a provocative, entertaining, and powerful story of one of Hip Hop's Greatest group's “Public Enemy”, and the force behind it,” Ture stated.

Rosado said many people recognize names like the Rock Steady Crew, but few know their Bronx-based predecessors.

“Usually when you tell a story of a very popular group, you need to talk about the principles of being singer, guitar player because what about the bass player story? What about the drummer story? What about the story how they got back together,” he said.

There is a lot of key people that have to make that happen and they get pushed to the side.”

To My Rescue sheds light on the S1Ws, a lesser-known but powerful force behind Public Enemy's imagery and political impact.

Bronx Boys Wrecking Crew are expected to attend the screening as well. After the screening of, Rosado and Ture will join a Q&A – but will mainly focus on Bronx Boys.

“I'm very grateful that the Long Island Music Hall of Fame has an entertainment hall of fame and expanded their focus and their mission to not only deal with only musical entertainment – but entertainment in general,” Rosado said.

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G.H. dojo star wins national karate title

By LUKE FEENEY
lfeeney@liherald.com

Gloria Rosendo prides herself on her strength in any fight she finds herself in. At 18 years old, she made her first national karate team. The 21-year-old Astoria native and martial artist won her third consecutive karate national championship in Fort Worth Texas. The July 9-13 event featured over 1,200 competitors from across the country. She also won the title for her weight division, 55 kilograms or 121 pounds in 2023 and 2024.

Rosendo began her karate journey at 5 years old. Her father signed her up for self-defense classes while she was in elementary school but withdrew her when she was 10. Rosendo returned to karate at 15 after her mother enrolled her hoping to instill focus and discipline in her daughter.

Her love for the sport has only increased throughout her countless hours of training. “I love the adrenaline,” she said. “And the idea of hitting people.” She emphasized the pride she had when hearing her name called. “The first thing you hear is Gloria from New York and it was nerve wracking because you know, wow,” she explained. “And my family was there when I went there, it was quite unbelievable.”

While she excels at karate, she argues it’s more of her passion than her job; when not training, she works with Let’s Get Ready, a nonprofit organization that helps students prepare for and navigate college. The eldest sibling of nine, Rosendo teaches karate to children at Glen Head Martial Arts and Fitness, where she has also trained for the past two years.

Glen Head Martial Arts and Fitness, located at 674 Glen Cove Ave., offers several services including youth, teen as well as adult karate, kickboxing, private lessons and birthday parties.

The studio’s founder, Brian Ramrup, began karate when he was 13. “I didn’t like losing,” he said. “It was something where I had an equal shot to get better just like everybody else had an equal shot to get better and that snowballed into a really magical adventure.”

Ramrup would go on to become a decorated athlete in the sport whose achievements include, among others, being a five-time American National Champion, two-time Pan American Bronze Medalist, Junior PKF Gold Medalist, three-time North American Champion and two-time US Open Silver Medalist. The 37-year-old last competed in 2023.

Six athletes from the dojo competed at the championships in Fort Worth and the team brought home three gold medals and a bronze. “It’s just an incredible feeling, to showcase your skills and beat the best,” said Rajesh Ramrup, a coach at the dojo and the founder’s brother. “It’s just quite an honor. We take pride in that.”

While the studio has been open for



Rosendo teaches karate to children at Glen Head Martial Arts and Fitness, located at 674 Glen Cove Ave., where she has also trained for the past two years.

less than a year, the brothers agreed that they felt immediately welcomed by the community in Glen Head. “One thing that I really like about the area is there is a strong sense of community,” the 37-year-old owner said. “Much stronger sense of family values.”

He met Rosendo in 2021, near the end of his professional career. He said that his love for the sport was nonexistent after Covid-19, but Rosendo helped him find his admiration for it again. “She’s an amazing, wonderful person,” he said. “It relit my passion, my spark, and it brought joy back into the sport. We built some chemistry training together. She showed a lot of heart and a lot of eagerness to grow.”

While she has family from Mexico, both of Rosendo’s parents were born in the United States and had her at a young age. The couple had to withdraw from high school to raise her. While there have been many obstacles, Rosendo said that she wants to set an example for her siblings to show that they can achieve whatever they set their mind to.

“There’s nothing that they can’t chase,” she said. “We can always go, we can always do more.”

Rosendo added that despite the demanding schedule, she is constantly looking for new ways to push herself in the sport and life. “We can always do more,” she said. “We have 24 hours in a day, what can we do with that?”

Looking to the future, the three-time national champion is heading to Queens College to pursue a Master of Science in Nutrition and Exercise Sciences, after graduating from LaGuardia Community College in Long Island City with a degree in childhood education. She plans to continue her hours of training every week with the eventual goal of stepping onto one of the highest stages of karate, such as the World Games or



Gloria Rosendo, a 21-year-old Astoria native and martial artist, won her third consecutive karate national championship.

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LEONARDO QUINONES
AKA LEONARDO D.
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QUINONES, ET AL.,
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will sell at public
auction at the North
Side steps of the
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Supreme Court, 100
Supreme Court Drive,
Mineola, NY 11501 on
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11542. All that certain
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and improvements
erected, situate, lying
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Glen Cove, County of
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New York, Section: 30
Block: 48 Lot: 43.
Approximate amount
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\$1,256,812.05 plus
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AS SUCCESSOR IN
INTEREST TO
JPMORGAN CHASE
BANK, AS
TRUSTEE, NOT IN ITS
INDIVIDUAL CAPACITY
BUT SOLELY AS
TRUSTEE FOR
GREENPOINT LOAN
TRUST 2004-1
MORTGAGE
LOAN PASS-THROUGH
CERTIFICATES, SERIES
2004-1,
-against-
SHEILA A. ZEINETH, ET
AL.
NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY
GIVEN pursuant to a
Final Judgment of
Foreclosure entered in
the Office of the Clerk
of the County of
Nassau on May 27,
2025, wherein THE
BANK OF NEW YORK
MELLON, F/K/A THE
BANK OF NEW YORK,
AS SUCCESSOR IN
INTEREST TO
JPMORGAN CHASE
BANK, AS TRUSTEE,

NOT IN ITS INDIVIDUAL
CAPACITY BUT SOLELY
AS TRUSTEE FOR
GREENPOINT LOAN
TRUST 2004-1
MORTGAGE LOAN
PASS-THROUGH
CERTIFICATES, SERIES
2004-1 is the Plaintiff
and SHEILA A.
ZEINETH, ET AL., are
the Defendants. I, the
undersigned Referee,
will sell at public RAIN
OR SHINE at the
NASSAU COUNTY
SUPREME COURT, 100
SUPREME COURT
DRIVE, NORTH SIDE
STEPS, MINEOLA, NY
11501, on September
9, 2025 at 2:00PM, the
premises known as 24
MAPLE AVENUE, GLEN
COVE, NY 11542 and
the following tax map
identification 31-22-28.
ALL THAT CERTAIN
PLOT, PIECE OR
PARCEL OF LAND,
WITH THE BUILDINGS
AND IMPROVEMENTS
THEREON ERECTED,
SITUATE, LYING AND
BEING IN THE CITY OF
GLEN COVE, COUNTY
OF NASSAU AND
STATE OF NEW YORK
Premises will be sold
subject to provisions of
filed Judgment Index
No.: 614113/2023;
Fabiana Talarico, Esq.,
as Referee; Robertson,
Anschutz, Schneid,
Crane & Partners, PLLC,
900 Merchants
Concourse, Suite 310,
Westbury, New York
11590, Attorneys for
Plaintiff. All foreclosure
sales will be conducted

in accordance with
Covid-19 guidelines
including, but not
limited to, social
distancing and mask
wearing. *LOCATION
OF SALE SUBJECT TO
CHANGE DAY OF IN
ACCORDANCE WITH
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NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT.
NASSAU COUNTY.
LOAN FUNDER LLC,
SERIES 36093, Pltf. vs.
AMERICAN DREAM
RENOVATION'S LLC,
et al, Defts. Index
#619325/23. Pursuant
to judgment of
foreclosure and sale
entered July 22, 2025, I
will sell at public
auction on the North
Side steps of the
Nassau Supreme Court,
100 Supreme Court
Drive, Mineola, NY on
September 9, 2025 at
2:00 p.m. premises k/a
9 Capobianco Street,
Glen Cove, NY a/k/a
Section 21, Block 4, Lot
30. Approximate
amount of judgment is
\$495,267.38 plus costs
and interest. Sold
subject to terms and
conditions of filed
judgment and terms of
sale. BRIAN DAVIS,
Referee. DEUTSCH &
SCHNEIDER, LLP, Attys.
for Pltf., 79-37 Myrtle
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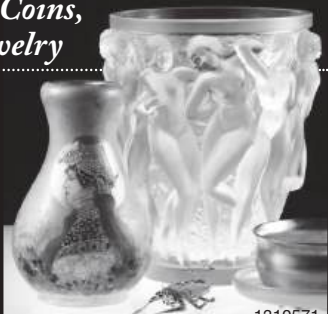
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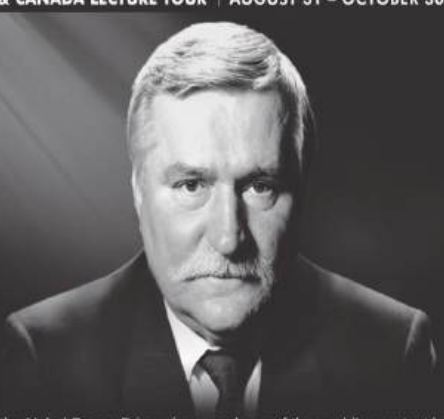
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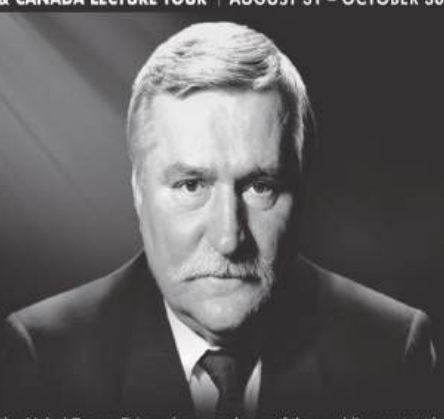
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OPINIONS

Enough with our obsession with conspiracies

Politics has always been marked by conspiracy theories. There was the theory that President Franklin Roosevelt had prior knowledge of the attack on Pearl Harbor, but allowed it to happen to force the United States to enter World War II. In the 1950s, the founder of the John Birch



PETER KING

Society wrote a manifesto concluding that President Dwight Eisenhower was a Soviet agent. More recently, there was the Sept. 11 “truther” theory that the administration of President George W. Bush had advanced notice of the 9/11 terrorist attacks, and

might have actually planned them.

Today, with social media and artificial intelligence, conspiracy theories are more rampant than ever. What allows these theories to thrive is that, by their very nature, they are inherently difficult, if not impossible, to disprove. They are based on assorted often unrelated facts, rumors, conjecture and speculation.

The ongoing furor over the handling of the Jeffrey Epstein case is a classic example of a conspiracy theory run amok and creating a conspiracy on top of itself. For years the Trump camp

peddled rumors that the Biden administration was hiding FBI files to protect prominent Democrats who were involved in the Epstein scandal, and that Epstein’s jail-cell suicide was actually an inside-job murder. Once in office, however, with complete access to all Justice Department and FBI files and records, Trump administration officials had to announce that they could find nothing irregular: There was no secret list of names, and Epstein had in fact committed suicide.

This caused apocalyptic shrieks of outrage from the fringes of MAGA world, led by the likes of Tucker Carlson. Now Trump officials were being accused by the president’s own supporters of likely collusion with myriad co-conspirators such as former President Joe Biden, Israel and Mossad. The Democrats also feigned outrage, insisting that Trump must be covering his own guilt.

The illogic of all this was, of course, that if the “files” did incriminate Trump, why didn’t the Biden administration disclose that when it had full access to the Epstein records? If congressional Democrats are so dedicated to transparency and so concerned about full disclosure, why did they do and say nothing when they were in control? And why would candidate Trump have made an issue of Epstein if he thought it would remotely incriminate him? Hopefully the Trump camp will learn that trafficking in unverified conspiracy theories is not only wrong, but it can come back to bite them.

To me, the most baseless — and insidious — theory was the false narrative that there was Russian collusion with the Trump campaign during the 2016 election. The main propagators of this “Russia hoax” were former CIA Director John Brennan, former FBI Director James Comey and former Director of National Intelligence James Clapper. I was on the Intelligence Committee during this saga, and sat through endless months of testimony in a secure committee room three floors

below ground in the Capitol.

There wasn’t one bit of evidence connecting the Trump campaign to Russia. There was, of course, the salacious and thoroughly discredited “Steele dossier,” which was in fact a political opposition memo prepared for Hillary Clinton’s campaign and based on false information from a former Russian spy. Yes, Russia had attempted to interfere in the 2016 campaign, as it always has. But Russia’s intention was to weaken Hillary Clinton’s expected presidency.

No one was more surprised when Donald Trump was elected than Russian President Vladimir Putin. It’s only now, with much of this information declassified, that I can discuss details that I learned at the time. This hoax was a true threat to democracy, undermining a duly elected president and tying down his administration with intrusive investigations for more than half of his first term of office.

It’s time for Americans to ignore the conspiracy nuts on all sides and address the real and serious issues that confront our nation.

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

Buyer’s remorse is no consolation for the losers

Have you ever heard of the term “buyer’s remorse”? It’s been a while since I’ve heard those words, but lately I’ve been hearing them from some of my friends who are Republican members of Congress when they refer to Presi-



JERRY KREMER

dent Trump’s One Big Beautiful Bill. He wanted it passed by July Fourth, and he got his way. Now that it is law, some of the Republicans who voted for it are confessing to me that maybe it went a little too far in cutting agencies and programs.

Having served in the State Legislature, I can understand what happens when a member is confronted with having to support a bill that’s nearly a thousand pages long. You may know about some of the provisions, but it’s impossible to know every section when you only have a few hours before the final vote. One of the reasons why these bills are crafted to be so thick is

because leadership knows that some parts of them couldn’t pass if they were presented as single bills.

My friends in Congress aren’t alone in their misgivings about the Big Beautiful Bill. Missouri Sen. Josh Hawley agonized for weeks over its deep Medicaid cuts, because hundreds of thousands of his state’s voters rely on Medicaid to survive. Hawley was agonizing on behalf of those hardworking citizens who don’t deserve to lose their benefits. Despite wringing his hands and suffering sleepless nights, he voted for the bill when it reached the Senate.

Two more cases in point are Maine Sen. Susan Collins and Alaska Sen. Lisa Murkowski. Both went public with their concerns about the cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program, or SNAP, which provides food assistance to more than 40 million people nationally. For days on end, the two senators expressed their concerns about their constituents losing access to food stamps that are a life-or-death necessity. But when push came to shove, they both voted for the cuts.

Hawley must have had buyer’s remorse, because a few weeks after the bill became law, he introduced his own bill, which would restore many of the

Medicaid cuts. Obviously Hawley’s upset was hypocritical, because you don’t vote for such far-reaching cuts and then introduce a bill restoring them. This was a good example of the lack of conscience surrounding the actions that were taken.

The SNAP program has for years been a target of conservatives who maintain that it and other safety-net programs like it are abused and unnecessary. And there is no doubt that some SNAP beneficiaries have used food stamps to buy beer instead of milk and bread. But the vast majority of people who get food stamps are the aged or have disabilities, and who meet the tests for approval. In the months and years ahead, it will be no consolation to those who lose their benefits that their representatives in Congress voted in favor of the Big Beautiful Bill and then had pangs of guilt about its impact.

There is also no doubt that there are

some parts of the bill that are worthy of support, but mixing the good with the bad results in mostly bad for the needy and good for the people who won’t have any sleepless nights about the tragedies that will happen on the other end of the income spectrum. Few House members who voted for the bill will suffer at the ballot box. Many serve in districts that would elect Attila the Hun if he were nominated for the seat.

The problem for fair-minded House and Senate members is that the program cuts are not a secret, and will be publicized extensively next year at election time. The latest national polls show that the legislation has high negative numbers, which won’t fade from the minds of the people who are the victims of the cuts, or many other voters.

I was surprised that about a half-dozen members of Congress from New York and surrounding states expressed their unhappiness in the Big Beautiful Bill to me. Sadly, however, their buyer’s remorse may be too little, too late come November 2026.

Jerry Kremer was a state assemblyman for 23 years, and chaired the Assembly’s Ways and Means Committee for 12 years. Comments about this column? jkremer@liherald.com.

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HERALD EDITORIAL

Support your local volunteer firefighters

The Firefighters Association of the State of New York will hold its 153rd annual convention in Hauppauge from Thursday to Saturday. While the event is an opportunity to celebrate the service and sacrifice of New York's 80,000 volunteer firefighters, it is also a moment for reflection — a chance to confront the urgent challenges facing fire protection services in our communities.

Volunteer fire departments have long been essential to public safety across the state, which has more than 1,600 of them. On Long Island alone there are nearly 180 volunteer departments, which respond to emergencies of every kind, from house fires and highway accidents to natural disasters and medical calls. And they do it all without pay. It's no exaggeration to say that these volunteers — and the emergency medical technicians and paramedics who work alongside them — are among the most selfless public servants we have.

Yet despite their critical importance, these departments face steep recruitment and retention challenges. The number of active volunteer firefighters in New York state has declined markedly in recent decades, from roughly 120,000 in the early 2000s, even as call volumes have nearly doubled over the past 30 years, from 750,000 to 1.4 million annually, according to state figures, and training demands continue to rise due to expanded safety regulations.

Balancing work, family and extensive training is no small feat, especially for volunteers. The result is that many departments are stretched thin, struggling to maintain robust crews and

ensure timely responses to emergencies.

That's where the state firefighters association steps in — and why its convention deserves more than ceremonial attention. For over 150 years, the organization has served as the voice and support system for volunteer fire service statewide.

FASNY advocates for funding, offers educational resources and legal guidance, provides mental health support, and promotes recruitment campaigns such as Is There a Fire In You?, which encourages everyday New Yorkers to consider joining their local department.

The Hauppauge convention will bring together more than 1,000 firefighters, instructors and leaders. Discussions will focus not just on tactics and technology, but on issues such as firefighters' mental health, peer support programs and the evolving needs of a modern volunteer force. These conversations matter. They have real-world implications for the safety of firefighters and the resilience of the communities they serve.

Mental health, in particular, is an area that demands greater attention. Of course firefighting is dangerous, but it is also emotionally taxing. Volunteers often respond to traumatic events involving neighbors and loved ones — a severe house fire that kills or injures its occupants, or a disaster like Hurricane Sandy. Without proper support systems in place, these experiences can take a huge toll on emergency responders. FASNY has made great strides in breaking down the stigma around mental health care in the fire service, but continuing community awareness of the

challenges these men and women face is crucial as well.

How can you show support for these selfless volunteers?

First, get to know your local department. Attend an open house. Follow its social media accounts. Volunteer departments rely on community awareness to grow their ranks and raise funds.

Second, support the volunteers' fundraising efforts. Many departments operate on limited budgets, depending heavily on donations and local drives to raise the money to pay for essential equipment. Whether it's from a resident or a business, a contribution — financial or in-kind — can go a long way toward ensuring their readiness.

Third, talk to young people about the value of volunteerism. FASNY's Junior Firefighter programs are an excellent way to introduce teens to public service and give them a sense of civic responsibility.

Finally, consider whether you might have "the fire in you." Even if running into burning buildings isn't for you, departments have many support roles — from administrative help to public education — for which willing hands are always needed. Simply stop in at a local firehouse or call them to learn more.

Volunteer firefighting is a tradition rooted in community, courage and compassion. As Long Island continues to grow, the need for well-supported fire departments becomes more urgent. The FASNY convention is a timely reminder that while these men and women may serve without pay, they should never serve without appreciation, resources or help.

LETTERS

We need more open-minded politicians like Tom Suozzi

To the Editor:

Re U.S. Rep. Tom Suozzi's op-ed, "Why I care about immigration — and why all of us should," in last week's issue: Suozzi voiced a clear understanding of the immigration issues and called, once again, for a bipartisan solution to a problem that impacts everyone in this country. He has taken this bipartisan stand on many issues for as long as I've been following him, including his previous time in Congress.

I, and many others, are re-energized that Mr. Suozzi returned to Congress. Yes, I would have loved to have him replace Kathy Hochul as our governor, but he can, hopefully, do so much more good if he can generate a following in Congress for more bipartisan solutions to the problems we face.

I consider myself one of those independent voters who try to see both sides of an issue. There are times when I agree with the Democratic platform, such as on



OPINIONS

Glen Covers shouldn't be subsidizing development

At the July 22 City Council meeting, I voted against a tax measure proposed by Mayor Pamela Panzenbeck that will increase property taxes for Glen Covers. The mayor and the council members who passed the legislation argued that

they are generating “recurring revenue” for the city’s general fund. They neglected to mention, however, that the money will be added to the general fund at the expense of taxpayers.

The new tax action will result in the city directly collecting sales

tax, bypassing Nassau County and thereby eliminating the county property tax rebate. So county property taxes will rise, taking money out of the pockets of property owners and putting it into the coffers of the Glen Cove administration, which will decide how to use it.

As the Herald recently reported, this legislation was hidden from the public,

discussed only in executive session rather than publicly, thus lacking transparency. Despite the efforts of council member Danielle Fugazy-Scagliola, and my own, to table the resolution due to inadequate information and time to review, the measure was pushed through and passed by the Republican majority.

In my view, it’s evident that the current administration seeks to control sales tax revenue so funds can be diverted in order to plug anticipated gaps in the 2026 city budget driven by lower-than-expected payments in lieu of taxes.

Over the past few years, the city and the Glen Cove School District have received no revenue from the Garvies Point Waterfront development. While the developer RXR is paying what it is contractually obligated to pay, according to the Master Tax Agreement between it and the city, the MTA was not a fair deal for city taxpayers and residents. It was poorly negotiated by the mayor at the time, leaving the city in an economically untenable position.

RXR was originally obligated to pay for all public amenities. According to the terms of the negotiated agreement, a Glen Cove agency, GCLEAC, would issue bonds for over \$200 million to pay for those amenities. The mayor said there was no recourse for the city to pay the bonds back. Rather, the repayment of the bonds to the bondholders would be covered by PILOT payments from RXR.

A 40-year PILOT payment schedule was laid out. The payments would be allocated by hierarchy: payment to bondholders first, and then the taxing jurisdictions of the city, the school district, the county and the city library. The problem for the city is that the payment schedule was based on completion of all buildings — but there was no time requirement by which all buildings needed to be completed.

To date, roughly half of the apartments have been built, so the payment due is based on that portion. The current PILOT payment only covers payments to the top of the hierarchy, the bondholders. The city, school district,

county and library are not currently receiving *any* money from the waterfront development. Yet services must be provided by the city, which means that taxpayers are on the hook to provide those services. Taxpayers are subsidizing the Garvies Point buildings.

For many years I have been vocal with my concerns about the city Industrial Development Agency’s practice of granting payments in lieu of taxes — agreements offering partial tax relief in exchange for economic development. While PILOTs may seem appealing on the surface, when they are not carefully managed, we risk subsidizing private interests at the expense of the public budget and overall equity. Without the proper oversight, contract drafting and negotiation of these PILOTs can have a devastating economic impact on a community for years.

This is exactly what is happening with Garvies Point. I will continue to push for fiscal responsibility, equitable treatment and transparency to ensure Glen Cove residents get the services they deserve without subsidizing development.

Marsha Silverman is a member of the Glen Cove City Council.



MARSHA SILVERMAN

LETTERS

gun control, where we have absurdly allowed guns to proliferate across our nation into the hands of criminals and, worse, the mentally ill who are the predominant perpetrators of mass shootings.

And there are times I agree with Republican stands, including the recent government spending cuts, which the bipartisan Government Accountability Office has been touting for years. No, I don’t condone all of the cuts, and I’m hopeful that some will be restored as a clearer picture of what is being done comes into focus.

But the overspending that we have allowed our federal government to do for the past 50 years, under both Democratic and Republican presidents, is absurd. We need to get past the anger at President Trump, who can easily infuriate even Republicans with his outlandish rhetoric, and see that much of what he is doing will benefit the majority of people.

We need to look at the math, and whether it adds up or dilutes the benefits to all of us. I’m not convinced that Trump has done that, but shaking things up and making cuts is long overdue.

And last, I would like Suozzi to run for president in 2028. The Democrats do not have a viable candidate right now, so let me be one of the first, for whatever it’s worth, to endorse Suozzi. We need someone like him, with a vision of bringing both sides of the political spectrum to the table.

tions over the past 75 years, you’ll see that fringe candidates don’t win presidential elections, no matter on which side of the aisle they sit. On the other hand, some of our most effective presidents were those like John F. Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson and Ronald Reagan, who fostered bipartisan politics.

RICHARD S. KAHN
Glen Cove

How about some new ideas, Jerry?

To the Editor:

Jerry Kremer’s column in the July 24-30 issue, “It’s long past time to shut down the cellphone,” highlighted exactly what is wrong with the Democratic Party today. Mr. Kremer spend the first half of his op-ed bemoaning current politics — in particular, the devastating “One Big Beautiful Bill,” especially for the most vulnerable among us — but offered no hint of a remedy. If he is ill-equipped to lead or advise the next generation of voters, perhaps he should step aside and allow someone who can.

Instead, Kremer spent the second half of his column belittling a dynamic young Democratic candidate, Zohran Mamdani, who has energized voters with policy ideas that address the real needs of New Yorkers — many of whom are the prime targets of the cuts that so distress Kremer. If Mamdani is inexperience

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be throwing their weight behind him and offering support and expertise.

I cannot fathom why institutional Democrats such as Kremer would prefer Andrew Cuomo, a sexual predator, or Eric Adams, an indicted alleged criminal, over a, yes, young, but moral,

crats do *not* want corrupt, lecherous and unrepentant leaders, and we do not want complacency. If Kremer can’t see that, perhaps he should shut down his phone *and* put down his pen.

KATE SCHWECHERL



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For Rent | Winter Water Views | Sea Cliff, NY
42 Central Ave #3 | MLS # 889029 | \$2,650/mo
Linda Brown, c.516.650.9145



Sold | Stunning Colonial | Sea Cliff, NY
332 Carpenter Ave | MLS# 845785 | LP: \$2,500,000
Vivian Parisi, c.516.236.0537



Sold | Charming Bungalow | Sea Cliff, NY
121 15th Ave | MLS# 845047 | LP: \$599,000
Vivian Parisi, c.516.236.0537

