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VOL. 35 NO. 13 MAR. 26 - APR. 1, 2026 \$1.00



Tim Baker/Herald photos

## Celebrating Irish pride since 1989

Thousands of residents and visitors crowded downtown Glen Cove to watch the St. Patrick's Day Parade last Sunday. At right, firefighter Anthony Tripp joined the march to celebrate Irish heritage and pride. Story, more photos, Page 14.



# Schools will cut costs to fill a budget gap

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

The Glen Cove City School District is proposing a series of program reductions — including eliminating a summer academic program, pausing a GED initiative and cutting conference and curriculum spending — as it works to close a \$3.58 million budget gap in anticipation of the 2026-27 school year.

District officials outlined the cuts at the March 18 Board of Education meeting, emphasizing that they are designed to avoid impacts to classroom instruction while addressing a growing structural deficit.

Superintendent Alexa Doeschner said the district is responding to financial pressures that have developed over time, driven by slowing state aid growth, declining enrollment and past tax decisions.

“The gap between our revenue growth and our cost growth is the core of our challenge,” Doeschner said. “By making responsible cuts now,

we will not be in a position to make drastic cuts.”

The first phase of reductions includes ending a summer academic program that was funded by federal Covid relief money, reducing administrator and teacher conference spending by 50 percent, and curtailing most curriculum writing work except for new-course development.

**B**y making responsible cuts now, we will not be in a position to make drastic cuts.

**ALEXA DOESCHNER**  
 Superintendent

The district will also pause its Twilight Program, a GED initiative with 29 students enrolled and an average daily attendance of about five, according to administrators. Additional measures include adjusting staffing levels based on enrollment, reassigning teaching assistants and monitors to reduce reliance on outside agencies, and scaling back supply and postage budgets.

At the same time, officials stressed that key academic and student support services will not be affected. The district will not cut classroom teaching, Advanced Placement courses,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 7

## Brisbane honored for 30 years of service

The Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club is recognizing Deborah M. Brisbane for three decades of service to the organization and the youth of the Glen Cove community, marking the milestone during Women's History Month.

Brisbane first became involved with the club as a committee member supporting events, according to a Feb. 27 press release. Her leadership and dedication quickly set her apart, and she went on to serve as board president, helping guide the organization's growth and long-term stability.

During her tenure, Brisbane led fundraising campaigns, supported scholarship initiatives and helped shape strategic planning efforts, while also overseeing human resources decisions and safety protocols. She mentored multiple executive directors and worked to strengthen board governance, including recruiting new members to support the club's future.

Founded to provide a safe and supportive environment for young people, the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club offers programs focused on education, leadership development, recreation and the arts. The organization serves children and teens across the community, aiming to promote academic success, healthy lifestyles and strong character.

Club officials said Brisbane's influ-

ence extended beyond leadership, shaping programs that support the academic, social and emotional development of youth and expanding opportunities for those who rely on the club's services.

"Debbie has given her heart to the organization," Executive Director Franca Trunzo said in the release. "Her vision and tireless commitment have strengthened our Club and our Board."

Following her 30 years of service, Brisbane will transition into the role of board chair, where she will continue to provide strategic guidance. The club also announced that Aimee Eberle, a longtime board member, will serve as the new board president.

The club will honor Brisbane at its Legacy & Leadership Spring Event on April 18 at the Piping Rock Club.

—Roksana Amid



Noelle Hatalovsky/Herald

Friends Kyriaki Eliades, Athanasia Tsiolis, Nikoleta Mountrikis, Maria Tagaris, Nina Katsanos, waved Greek flags during Glen Cove's Hellenic Heritage Day last year.

## Celebrating Greek Heritage downtown

The City of Glen Cove will host a Hellenic Heritage Day celebration on Saturday, March 28, honoring Greek Independence Day and the lasting contributions of Hellenic culture.

The event is scheduled for 1 p.m. at Village Square, located at the intersection of School Street and Glen Street. Community members are invited to gather for a cultural observance that highlights Greek heritage, traditions and faith.

Hellenic Heritage Day is part of the city's broader lineup of seasonal

events and celebrations, which bring residents together through cultural programming, festivals and commemorations throughout the year.

Organized in partnership with local Greek organizations and faith leaders, the celebration aims to recognize the legacy of generations who have preserved Greek customs and passed them on within the community. Messaging surrounding the event emphasizes both remembrance and appreciation.

—Roksana Amid



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# Highlighting the lasting impact on youth

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

The 5th annual Glen Cove Youth Recreation Dinner brought together community members at the Crescent Beach Club on March 19 to celebrate volunteers and raise more than \$30,000 for local sports programs, underscoring the vital role community support plays in sustaining youth athletics.

The sold-out event honored coaches, organizers and longtime contributors to Glen Cove's youth recreation programs, while generating funds for equipment, uniforms and facility improvements through ticket sales, sponsorships and raffles. Proceeds from the evening were directed back into programs supported by the Friends of the Glen Cove Youth Board.

Councilman Kevin Maccarone, a co-founder of the event, credited the community for helping expand programming in recent years. "We've had a fun time in the last couple of years," he said, noting that organizers had been able to jump-start new projects and smaller initiatives that made a meaningful impact. Looking out at the crowd, Maccarone added, "I can't help but feel honored," thanking attendees for their continued support and influence in the lives of young people.

City Councilwoman Danielle Fugazy Scagliola also addressed the crowd, sharing well wishes on behalf of her brother, Brian, who was unable to attend due to illness. She congratulated the evening's honorees and recognized the many coaches in attendance. "At almost every single table here, there is a coach," she said. "I cannot tell you how important sports and youth athletics are in our community. It means everything."

Scagliola, who has both coached and raised children in local programs, emphasized the long-term impact of athletics. "Strong youth programs build strong, confident athletes, and it builds strong school programs," she said, adding that coaching and volunteering in Glen Cove has always been rooted in giving back to the community.

The evening highlighted a range of honorees across youth sports, recognizing individuals and families who have made lasting contributions to Glen Cove's recreation programs. Dan Mariano was honored for his work in baseball and softball, while Tip Henderson was recognized for his contributions to golf. Kerry Catanzano was honored posthumously for junior basketball, and Paul Dennis was similarly recognized in memoriam for junior soccer. Joe and Lisa Marconi were honored for their involvement in junior football and cheer, and Scott and Jessy Kaff were recognized for their work in junior lacrosse. Jerry Cornelis received the lifetime achievement award, and Susan Discala was honored as parent volunteer.

Among those recognized, Henderson's contributions spanned decades, including his work with the golf commission and early fundraising initia-



Photos courtesy Gil Associates Photography

Community members gathered at the Glen Cove Youth Recreation Dinner to celebrate volunteers and support local youth sports programs through fundraising efforts.



Tip Henderson was honored for his decades of service and contributions to youth recreation and community fundraising efforts in Glen Cove.

tives that helped shape how the city supports its recreational programs today. He was instrumental in organizing events such as the Arbor Day golf outing, which raised money to plant trees on the municipal course—many of which still stand.

Henderson, now the city's attorney, reflected on the lessons sports can teach, drawing from his own experience with golf. "The only obstacle, the only opponent, is ourselves," he said, describing the mental challenges of the game. He added that for those who truly understand golf, it is played "between the six inches between your ears."

Community support remained strong throughout the night, reflecting a shared commitment to providing opportunities for Glen Cove's young athletes. Beyond fundraising, the dinner reinforced the importance of volunteerism and local engagement in maintaining and growing the city's recreation programs.



Award recipients were recognized during the Glen Cove Youth Recreation Dinner for their contributions to local youth sports and community programs.



Danny Mariana, was honored on behalf of the Glen Cove Baseball and Softball Association for 39 years of coaching and dedication to city youth. His commitment and leadership have made a real difference for generations of players.

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## ON THE ROAD WITH A TAKEOUT QUEEN

# Takeout Hunting Tips

I'm always hunting for new takeout, which requires persistence and human-restaurant-radar. This month, I'm happy to share four of my takeout hunting tips. Give these tips a try and you'll find:

cookie, I expect it to be soft and chewy, or crunchy and nutty, or chocolate-y and buttery. Miraculously, Bill's cookies are all of these at the same time. He bakes with his suit on as soon as he gets home from work.

### ZoZo's on the Bay (424 Bayville Ave., Bayville)

Tip #1: Take a scenic drive to the end of a street you've never visited. That's the way I discovered this new family-friendly restaurant with pizza galore and much more. During my visit, the place was filled with neighborhood families and friends ordering foods ranging from 20 types of Neapolitan, wood-fired pizza, to six types of Detroit-style pizza, plus pasta, sandwiches, calzones, soups, salads and four versions of Nonna's meatballs. If you build your own pizza, you can add 17 different toppings.

I ordered a Margherita pizza with soft dough underneath joined by a crisp crust on top. I also ordered a Greek salad on the side, which was so large, I was delightfully surprised to carry the leftovers home.



CATHI TUROW

### Danny's Chinese Kitchen (147 Mineola Ave., Roslyn)

Tip #3: While traveling past a strip of stores on a busy street, drive slowly. You won't want to miss a small, new restaurant. That's the way I found this new Chinese takeout café. The enormous menu includes all popular Chinese dishes, plus many highlights. I love the vegetable zoodles—which are a mixture of shredded zucchini, carrots, bamboo shoots and mushrooms. I also love the 47 types of soups on the menu including "China Town Style" noodle soups. The proteins and vegetables are vibrant and super fresh. Best of all, every meal includes three fortune cookies. I love deciding which one I think is true.

### Dough & Co Pizza Oyster Bay (25 E. Main St., Oyster Bay)

Tip #4: If you notice a restaurant has closed, stalk the location in case a new café opens in its place. That's the way I found this new artisan pizza shop. There are many gourmet slices to go, in addition to whole pies that are round, square, GF, vegan, or created with cauliflower. I loved my spinach and artichoke slice in a shallot cream on a thin square. The ingredients worked together so beautifully, they seemed to say, "We got this. We'll be annoyed if you add more toppings."

The big ta-daah at the end of my meal was the Italian-style donut filled with pistachio cream. Twelve different versions will be coming soon!

### Sugar Daddy Baker (63 Fourteenth Ave., Sea Cliff)

Tip #2: In a quaint neighborhood, stroll along the side streets. That's the way I stumbled on this amazing Cookie Stand in front of a private home. Every Sunday at 8 a.m., the homeowner/licensed baker, Bill Kocis, places incredible cookies on shelves which you can purchase on the spot or order in advance through the website ([www.sugardaddybaker.com](http://www.sugardaddybaker.com)). A few of my favorites are the Chocolate Walnut Crunch cookie, the Papa Bar, the Dark Chocolate Peanut Butter cookie, and the to-die-for Oatmeal cookie. They all have width and height!

When I bite into any old regular

Happy hunting. See you next month!

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### Book Review:

## "The Pursuit of Happiness"

by Jeffrey Rosen (Part 2)

Both Franklin and Jefferson were fond of quoting Seneca's prescription for happiness: "The true felicity of life is to be free from perturbations... to enjoy the present, without any anxious dependence on the future. Not to amuse ourselves with either hopes or fears, but to rest satisfied with what we have, which is abundantly sufficient; for he that is so wants nothing... tranquility is a certain equality of mind, which no condition or fortune can either exact or depress. Nothing can make it less, for it is the state of human perfection."

Seneca wrote extensively on how to control anger by avoiding rash judgments, techniques used by Washington to delay his responses sufficiently to allow his passions to cool. Of anger, Seneca wrote "There is no countering the first heat and fury of it, for it is deaf and mad. The best way is (in the beginning) to give it time and rest". Washington declared, in his first inaugural address in April 1789, that "There is no truth more thoroughly established than the indissoluble union between virtue and happiness." Both Jefferson and Adams,

exchanging letters for over fifty years, believed virtue consisted of benevolence to all, with Adams summing up his sixty years of reading with four short words "Be just and good."

The author considers that modern psychology has confirmed the ancient sages' advice saying that emotional self-regulation is essential for fulfilling our potential, leading to long-term happiness. Cognitive therapy today, drawing on the Founders' concept of using reason to calm the mind, uses examining our thoughts to help us discard the "cognitive distortions" that contribute to depression and anxiety. As Emerson said in concluding his famous essay entitled "Self-Reliance", "Nothing can bring you peace but yourself. Nothing can bring you peace but the triumph of principles."

If character is destiny, then improving one's character is the key to improving one's destiny. Jeffrey Rosen's scholarly book points the way by unearthing the wisdom of the ages through the thoughts and actions of our Founding Fathers.

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# Push to protect opioid settlement funds

By AIDAN WARSHAVSKY

awarshavsky@liherald.com

A half dozen Democratic Nassau County legislators led by Olena Nicks are looking to have much more than the 8.5 percent of the \$95 million in opioid settlement money distributed, as Nicks unveiled legislation to protect opioid settlement funds.

The announcement of the proposed legislation comes after \$13.7 million in interest was moved from the settlement fund that the county operates into a general account, also run by the county. The \$95 million is proceeds from settlements with opioid manufacturers, retailers and distributors, secured in 2021.

“That raises some serious questions,” Nicks said. “Are we moving quickly enough to meet the needs of the residents who are struggling? Are we honoring the intent of these funds?”

Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton, the Legislature’s minority leader, said that the settlement reached in 2021 did not outline when the funds had to be distributed. She said that every time she and fellow legislators investigate the transfers, they are told it remains within the fund.

“There are no restrictions on how that money is being moved,” DeRiggi-Whitton said.

Nicks noted that the proposed legislation aims to establish permanent safe-



Aidan Warshavsky/Herald

County Legislators, led by Olena Nicks, third from right, announced legislation for permanent safeguards for how opioid settlement funds should be used.

guards to ensure that settlement funds and interest earned remain dedicated to prevention, treatment, recovery and education. She said the legislation would increase transparency by allowing the public to see how the resources are being used.

The settlement money is used by state and local governments and approved organizations such as health care providers and community groups. Nicks, who volunteers with the Uniondale Fire Department, said the legislation is about bolstering support and

education.

“We need to support the first responders, the health professionals and the service providers who are confronting this crisis every single day,” she said.

DeRiggi-Whitton said that like her fellow legislators, she has also attended breakfasts and meetings. She said that many health care groups and organizations are concerned over the loss of federal funding — some even mentioning the possibility of staff layoffs.

“All of these incredible institutions in Nassau County, and we still can’t get

them the funds they need,” she said. “It’s probably the worst thing I’ve seen in 20 years.”

Legislator Arnold Drucker said the decision by Republican Nassau County Executive Bruce Blakeman and his administration to pull money from the fund is offensive and violates their commitment to taxpayers and residents in the county.

“It’s a betrayal of the administration’s commitment to this life-saving opportunity,” Drucker said. “It’s going to cost lives.”

Christopher Boyle, the director of communications for the county, said the practice of moving accrued interest to the general fund is standard, and that the money is being used properly.

“Like all other county funds, the interest accrues to the general fund,” Boyle said. “Opioid overdoses have declined by 16 percent in just the past year (countywide, according to the Nassau County Medical Examiner’s office). The money is being put to good use.”

Nicks called for the \$13.7 million to be transferred back into the settlement fund and increase spending from the fund countywide.

“We need to act now,” Nicks said. “Addiction does not wait, and neither should we.”

The legislators did not say when the proposed legislation would be discussed among the other county lawmakers.

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## Is Your Insurance Keeping Up?

By Celeste Gullo – Celeste & Co. Insurance Group

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# HERALD SPORTS

## New coach guides experienced Hofstra softball

By ANDREW COEN

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A Hofstra softball program with a storied history reaching 18 NCAA Tournaments added a coaching legend last year looking to raise more banners.

The Pride appointed Susan Cassidy-Lyke as Hofstra's new head softball coach in July after 21 years leading the diamond at Molloy University softball where she guided the Lions to three Division II National Championship Tournament appearances.

"I was born and raised on Long Island so I am very familiar with the championship tradition here at Hofstra," Cassidy-Lyke said. "This is a good experience for me and a good challenge."

Cassidy-Lyke inherited a Hofstra team that returned 13 players from a 2025 team that went 22-28 and fell in the Coastal Athletic Association (CAA) semifinals. Hofstra was picked to finish in a tie for first in the CAA North Division with Stony Brook.

Hofstra boasts two preseason All CAA players in senior pitcher Emma Falen and senior shortstop Alanna Morse, a local product out of Mepham High School.

Morse is coming off a 2025 season in which she led the team in hitting with a .343 batting average with 49 hits in 143 at bats. She is off to another strong start during her final season in a Hofstra uniform as a leadoff hitter batting .365 through 25 games with three home runs to lead the team in both categories.

"She is very talented offensively and defensively and just a great kid that seems to do the right thing all the time," said Cassidy-Lyke of Morse. "She leads by example."

Falen recorded a 12-10 record with a 3.14 ERA last season after transferring from UC-Riverside. The Folson, Calif. native recorded seven strikeouts in a 2-1 win against Stony Brook on March 7.

Freshman Madison Steppe has emerged as the ace of the Pride pitching staff this season following a standout career at Monticello High School in



Former Mepham star Alanna Morse had a team-high .343 average a year ago.

Charlottesville, Va. Steppe recorded a season-high 10 strikeouts in an 8-5 victory against Buffalo on Feb. 28 in Harrisonburg, Va.

The Hofstra lineup has plenty of balance early in the season with five hitters batting over .290 in Morse, junior third baseman Gabby Sultan, sophomore catcher Gemma D'Orazio and junior second baseman Nicole Cansel. Junior right fielder Lily Yepez, a former Mepham teammate of Morse, has caught fire offensively with a .455 average in 44 at bats after missing the start of the season due to injury.

"She is another homegrown talent and it's definitely a staple for us," said Cassidy-Lyke of Yepez. "She really does a lot of different things out of the bottom of the lineup hitting for power, as a slap hitter and can bunt with some good speed."

Hofstra entered the week at 12-13 overall and 8-1 in CAA play after a sweep at Hampton. The Pride have played the early portion of its home schedule at Farmingdale State due the harsh winter



Photos courtesy Hofstra Athletics Communications/Keith Lucas and Nick DeCastro

Emma Falen had 12 wins in the circle for the Pride in 2025.

weather, but are slated to return to Bill Edwards Stadium for a three-game series against Campnell on April 10-12. The regular season concludes with three games against Monmouth at Bill Edwards Stadium from April 30 to May 2.

The six-team CAA Tournament commences from May 6 to May 9 with the winner earning an automatic bid into the NCAA Tournament. The Pride can

qualify for the double elimination CAA playoffs by placing in the top four in the North Division or one of two wildcard teams.

"They've come a long way since the beginning of the year and we have faith they can do it," Cassidy-Lyke said. "It's really just going to be about consistency and not letting the game get bigger than it is."

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# District prioritizes classroom instruction

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

special-education services, athletics, extracurricular activities, counseling services or arts programs.

“We are not cutting core classroom teaching because that will remain untouched,” Doeschner said, adding that decisions are being made with “one overriding principle of protecting the classroom experience.”

A number of factors have contributed to the district’s budget gap. After several years of large increases, state foundation aid has stabilized. Glen Cove saw increases of more than 30 percent annually between 2021 and 2024, but the projected increase for 2026-27 is just 2.04 percent, or about \$468,000.

Meanwhile, costs continue to rise rapidly. Health insurance is expected to increase by 10 percent next school year and transportation by 8 percent, and the rate of inflation is exceeding the rate at which the district’s revenue is growing.

Declining enrollment is also affecting revenue. The district has lost roughly 300 students over the past decade, including about 145 in the last two years, resulting in less state aid and a higher calculation of wealth per pupil, which reduces the state’s share of funding.

The district’s tax levying practices have also contributed to the budget gap. In three of the past six years, the dis-



Photos courtesy Glen Cove City School District

**Superintendent Alexa Doeschner, left, and Theresa Kahan, assistant superintendent for business and operations, detailed proposed budget cuts and outlined a plan to reduce the district’s \$3.58 million deficit at the March 18 Board of Education meeting.**

trict budgeted tax increases that were below the allowable cap, leaving \$1.7 million in potential revenue uncollected. Officials said those decisions were made “in good faith to protect taxpayers,” but have lowered the starting point for future tax calculations.

Despite these challenges, district officials said, Glen Cove remains financially stable. The district recently received an AA2 credit rating from Moody’s, placing it among the state’s highest-rated school systems.

“That reflects strong financial man-

agement, healthy reserves and a strong ability to meet our long-term obligations,” Doeschner said.

The district also avoided a fiscal stress designation from the state comptroller’s office, though officials noted that Glen Cove is five points away from being classified as “susceptible to stress,” largely due to cash timing issues.

For the 2026-27 school year, the district initially projected a \$7.57 million budget gap. After applying \$2.8 million in reserves, the gap was reduced to \$4.77 million. And the first round of reductions, according to Theresa Kahan, the assistant superintendent for business and operations, has lowered the remaining deficit to \$3.58 million.

“This gap is real,” Kahan said. “It is structural and it requires a structural change.”

The district, she said, will continue reviewing programs, staffing and reserve use while awaiting final state aid figures in the state budget.

The proposed tax levy for 2026-27 is \$81.57 million, a 2.42 percent increase, the maximum allowed under the state tax cap.

District officials plan to present additional updates at a budget work session on Monday, with a complete spending plan proposal expected by April 15. The budget vote is scheduled for May 19.

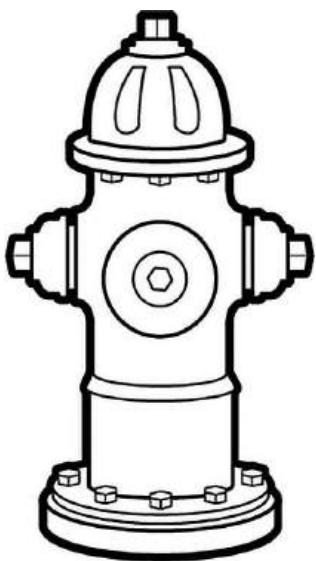
## ATTENTION CITY OF GLEN COVE WATER CUSTOMERS



The City of Glen Cove Water Department will be conducting its semi-annual fire hydrant flushing of 85 dead-end water mains on Wednesday April 1, 2026 - weather permitting and continue for approximately four (4) weeks.

This operation will take place Monday through Friday from 7:00am until 3:00pm.

Residents may notice discolored water and reduced water pressure during this time. The discoloration will clear up as we move out of your area. If you experience discolored water, please allow the cold water to run for 5 to 10 mins until it clears. Water customers are cautioned to check for discoloration particularly prior to using washing machines.



This process is to clean accumulated dissolved mineral sediments in the water mains prior to the system’s peak usage period. The water discoloration poses no health risk. Customers may choose to keep a supply of clear water in the refrigerator for drinking and cooking during periods of any discoloration in the water.

We appreciate your cooperation, and apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.  
Thank you.

**Water Department: 516.676.2238**  
**water@glencoveny.gov**

# Inspiring girls and LGBTQ youth through music

By JULIA CAPITELLI

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Nini Camps was a solo singer-songwriter in New York City when Kristen Henderson, the bassist for the all-female rock band Antigone Rising, asked her to get together to write music in 2009. The band soon got an offer to open for Joan Jett, and invited Camps to be a vocalist. The opportunity launched more than a decade of performances, and nonprofit work, with Camps as Antigone Rising's lead singer.

The band was formed in 1993 by sisters Cathy and Kristen Henderson, now Kristen Ellis-Henderson. Several members have joined and left over the years. After Camps joined the Hendersons, Antigone Rising quickly made a record and resumed playing shows after a hiatus.

"It just felt like a good fit," Camps said. "We had so much fun."

Camps, 54, has lived in Sea Cliff for roughly 15 years with her wife, Brooke. She said that she enjoys Sea Cliff's thriving music scene.

Before the coronavirus pandemic began in 2020, Antigone Rising band was busy making music, touring and creating a nonprofit, Girl Rising. After the pandemic lockdowns eased, the group continued to play together on a smaller scale.

Girls Rising launched in 2014, after the band was invited by the U.S. State Department to travel to Israel and the Palestinian territory. There Antigone Rising worked in schools and community centers, playing music and talking to students and educators about their creative and musical process.

The trip, Camps explained, helped inspire them to

create the nonprofit. "We were an all-female band, and our crew that we took with us was female, and it was an anomaly," she said. "... They were like, 'We've never seen this. This is unusual.' And we realized that as we went along, this was something that we faced a lot, even in the States."

After returning to the United States, Antigone Rising began visiting LGBTQ centers, community centers and schools as they toured. Camps said the band got so many requests for these visits that they essentially became part of their tours and even events around which they based their schedule.

Girls Rising's mission is to inspire young girls and LGBTQ youth to pursue nontraditional career paths and encourage all children to think, act and be themselves. Through performances, presentations and workshops, the band carried out the mission for nearly a decade, though it is now in what Camps described as a "pause." "Things need a chance to sometimes rest and breathe" after operating for so long, she said.

Antigone Rising hosted the Girls Rising Music Festival annually for roughly eight years, first at Sea Cliff Beach and then at Glen Cove's Morgan Park. It featured female artists, both seasoned musicians and younger ones just starting out.

"We were in a place where we were kind of in the middle," Camps said, "where we were able to reach out to women who were real game-changers and real trailblazers ahead of us, who are very successful, and we were able to sort of hand that down to young women who were just making their way."

As part of each year's festival, the band recognized



Courtesy Nini Camps

Nini Camps is currently working on her first solo album since she joined Antigone Rising.

women making a difference — who "showed up" — with a Game Changer Award. The band received donations and grants from artists like Joan Jett and Melissa Ethelridge. With that money, Antigone Rising was able to provide instruments and music education in Glen Cove, and help support young women pursuing music education.

Camps said that the band isn't currently seeking gigs, but will take one if the opportunity presents itself. In the meantime, she is working on a solo album, her first since she joined the group.

# A lifelong love of science sparked by dinosaurs

By ALYSSA R. GRIFFIN

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Not all scientists begin their careers in labs — some start in the shadow of dinosaurs. For Ray Ann Havasy, 63, of Port Washington, that early fascination led to a career defined by academic achievement, creative outreach and global science engagement.

With degrees in zoology, education and biology, and a doctorate in science education from Columbia University in 1998, Havasy built a foundation that combines rigorous scholarship with a passion for making science accessible.

She began her career in education, teaching science at East Meadow High School and Schreiber High School, in Port Washington, and later at the New York Institute of Technology's School of Education.

Her interest in dinosaurs led to work with the Dinosaur Society and, in the early 1990s, as a technical adviser on "Jurassic Park," helping guide how dinosaurs were portrayed while balancing scientific accuracy with cinematic storytelling. She partnered in the development of the touring "Dinosaurs of Jurassic Park" exhibit. Blending film props with real fossils and scientific content, the exhibit toured internationally for nearly eight years beginning around 1993, drawing crowds across the United States and in cities in Europe and the Netherlands. What stood out most, Havasy said, was the universal reaction: Children everywhere were captivated.

"The exhibit was amazing — I went all around the world with it," she said. "That was a great experience,



Courtesy Ray Ann Havasy

Ray Ann Havasy, founder and director of the Center for Science Teaching & Learning, in Rockville Centre, has built a multifaceted career focused on education.

also seeing that dinosaurs and science are universal."

The exhibit also supported paleontological research worldwide, turning public interest into funding for scientific discovery — reinforcing her belief that hands-on experiences can spark lifelong curiosity.

That philosophy led her to Rockville Centre, where she founded the Center for Science Teaching & Learning in the Tanglewood Preserve in 2000. What began as a teacher-training initiative has grown into a hub for interactive, family-focused learning.

"A lot of museums are 'look but don't touch,'" Havasy said. "We're the exact opposite. Our whole mission is to encourage people to learn about science and like science, because a lot of us went through school thinking science was hard and yucky."

Today she continues to promote hands-on learning while encouraging more young women to pursue science with animals, nature and interactive experiences for fun learning.

"I wasn't doing it for accolades," she said. "I was doing it because these opportunities are exciting."

Michele Anselmo, a teacher and an educator at the center, has worked with Havasy for over 15 years, on several innovative projects. "Ray Ann's knowledge of science and education provides a wonderful support system for me and the other educators here," Anselmo said.

Through her work, Havasy hopes to create a future in which more girls see science as a natural and attainable path. "I think it's important that we find a way to encourage women to get involved in science," she said. "I speak a lot to young women about encouraging them to be more attuned to being involved in science, and that would be a dream of mine, to have kids — young women — understand that science, engineering and math is for them, and is something that the world wants them to do."

# Delivering change as a leader in maternal care

By MELISSA BERMAN

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For Dr. Jacqueline Marecheau, chair of obstetrics and gynecology at St. John's Episcopal Hospital, Women's History Month is more than a celebration: It is a call to confront one of the nation's most urgent and persistent health crises.

Marecheau has spent her career delivering babies and caring for mothers, working on the front lines of maternal health in underserved communities. She has been at Episcopal Health Services for six years, and her work is rooted in community health, equity and supporting the teams who care for women and families every day.

Marecheau earned an undergraduate degree in biomedical education from the Sophie Davis School of Biomedical Education (now the CUNY Medical School) and a medical degree from the SUNY Health Science Center at Brooklyn.

"I went through my third year of medical school rotations and I fell in love with OB/GYN," she said. "I realized that I was drawn to women's health because it interested me in medicine and advocacy. OB/GYN is a field where you can see direct results of action and education, and that's always been meaningful to me."

Marecheau's experience underscores a troubling reality: Maternal health risks in the United States remain alarmingly high. About 22 women per 100,000 die from childbirth-related causes each year, and roughly 50,000 experience severe complications. The



U.S. continues to have the highest maternal mortality rate among high-income nations, with Black women facing the greatest risks.

Between 2018 and 2021, Black women were three to four times more likely to die from pregnancy-related causes than white women, according to federal health data. Marecheau emphasized that these disparities are rooted not in biology, but in systemic inequities including gaps in care, delayed diagnoses, implicit bias and lack of access to resources.

At EHS, which serves the diverse and historically underserved Rockaway peninsula, Marecheau sees these challenges play out daily. The community has long faced barriers to high-quality care, but, she said, the hospital is working to change that narrative.

"I love improving access to pre-natal care, helping women navigate complex health decisions," she said, "and knowing I can create a safer and healthier outcome for women who haven't always historically been prioritized brings me immense joy."

In August 2025, St. John's opened a new state-of-the-art labor and delivery suite, restoring comprehensive maternity services to the area. The facility features private suites and emphasizes patient-centered care.

Marecheau has championed programs including doula support services, postpartum care initiatives and the Centering Pregnancy model, which combines prenatal visits with group education to improve outcomes for mothers and babies.



Tim Baker/Herald

Dr. Jacqueline Marecheau is the chair of obstetrics and gynecology at St. John's Episcopal Hospital in Far Rockaway, which serves the diverse Rockaway peninsula.

"My focus these days is making sure services are equitable and culturally responsive," she said.

Hospital staff have received additional training to better recognize early signs of complications, and systems have been implemented to ensure that patients receive follow-up care after they're discharged, a critical period when many maternal deaths occur.

"No woman should feel that her pain is ignored or her concerns are dismissed," Marecheau said.

# If you've wondered where balloons end up . . .

By ABBEY SALVEMINI

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For Cynthia Seibold, recognizing the achievements and resilience of women is deeply personal. Raised by a single working mother, she saw firsthand the strength, determination and perseverance it takes to overcome challenges. Today she carries that legacy forward, and takes pride in inspiring strong, capable and resilient women herself.

Seibold's path to founding Balloon Mission was unconventional. After earning a master's degree in secondary education, she spent 20 years in the insurance industry, analyzing risk and researching hazards for organizations including the NBA and the NHL. "My mission at that job was to protect people from harm and save money," she said. The role sharpened her research and problem-solving skills — which would later inspire her environmental advocacy.

The pandemic was a turning point. The health scare forced reflection. "It showed me how precious and fragile life is," Seibold, 57, said. "Whatever days are left, I want to give back in some way."

A lifelong Long Islander, she found peace by the ocean, but noticed balloon debris piling up on local beaches. While volunteering at cleanups, she researched the environmental impact of balloon releases. She was stunned by the volume of data on their harm to wildlife, waterways and ecosystems worldwide, with little accountability.

In March 2022, a New York Times article on the surging popularity of balloon decor was published on her late mother's birthday, and Seibold took that as a sign. "The idea of a solution would not leave me



Courtesy Cynthia Seibold

Cynthia Seibold, the founder of Balloon Mission, at a World Ocean Day beach cleanup in June 2020.

alone," she said of the problem of balloon waste. "If not me, who was going to do it?"

So she launched Balloon Mission, the first balloon collection-recycling infrastructure in the United States. "Here I am, an ordinary citizen stepping up," she said. "Not certified in anything, but I did know how to research." The early days were challenging,

filled with "soul-crushing" moments and fears of being laughed at for "chasing balloons."

What began with collection bins in three schools and one library has grown into a regional and national effort. In three years, Balloon Mission has collected more than 65,000 post-event balloons.

Seibold says that collaborative partnerships with strong, inspiring women helped make the initiative possible. "I would not be me without these partners," she said, citing Allison DePerte, of the Atlantic Marine Conservation Society, and Maureen Early, of the waste-management company Reworld.

She also praises Tara Moran-Schneider, senior conservation biologist with the Town of Hempstead's Department of Conservation and Waterways, for installing 20 "No Balloon Release" signs in local parks and on beaches.

"We've become the experts in the room through research and data collection," Seibold said — not because of advanced degrees, but thanks to research, partnerships and persistence.

Women have guided her journey. "It's vital for young girls to see female leaders in all roles," she said. "Leading by example shows that positive change is possible. There is no age limit." Since Balloon Mission started, she has worked with Girl Scout troops, educating communities about responsible balloon practices by expanding "No Release" signs across Long Island.

Seibold's message to women with a passion for change is simple: "If you have an idea or solution that has latched onto you and won't shake free, that wakes you up in the middle of the night," she said, "you have to pursue it."



Roksana Amid/Herald photos

A collaboration among three Glen Cove churches has grown to a coalition of seven congregations including Calvary A.M.E Church, First Baptist Church, Glen Cove Christian Church, Iglesia Ciudad de Refugio, St. John's of Lattingtown Episcopal Church, Iglesia Ciudad Casa de Dios Internacional, and St. Paul's Episcopal Church.

# Celebrating Easter Dawn at Morgan Park

By **ROKSANA AMID**

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The Community Easter Dawn Service will return to Morgan Memorial Park on April 5, bringing together local congregations for a bilingual sunrise gathering overlooking Hempstead Harbor.

Set against the backdrop of the harbor and a 16-foot cross erected near the jetty, the annual service has become a staple in Glen Cove since it was first established in 2016 by three churches seeking to create a shared space of worship. Now in its 10th year, the event is organized by a coalition of seven local churches and continues to emphasize unity across denominations.

Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, an elder in the Presbyterian denomination and chair of the organizing committee, said the service is designed to complement traditional Easter worship.

"The service has always been intended not as a replacement for worship at one's own church, but rather as an opportunity for area churches and all who celebrate Easter to come together briefly at the start of the day, united by a shared faith," Stevenson-Mathews said. "It is not meant to take the place of one's regular Easter service or fulfill any obligation within one's own tradition, but rather to complement those celebrations."

He added that the structure of the program reflects that intention.

"For this reason, the gathering is kept to approximately 30 minutes," he said. "It is not a full Mass, does not include Communion, and the Easter message — typically shared by two or three clergy — is also shorter than one would typically experience in a full service."

Clergy leading the service will include Rev. James E. Booker of Calvary A.M.E. Church, Pastor Raul Martinez of Iglesia Ciudad Casa de Dios Internacio-



The sunrise Easter service last year on the beach at Morgan Memorial Park began with the soulful sounds of "Amazing Grace," played by bagpiper Robert Lynch, who stood at the base of a 17-foot-tall cross.

nal, Pastor Tommy Lanham of Glen Cove Christian Church and Rev. Roger C. Williams of First Baptist Church.

Assisting with the service will be Merle Richards, choir president and evangelist at Calvary A.M.E. Church; Claudette Bryan, evangelist at Calvary A.M.E. Church; Donna Brady, worship leader at Shelter Rock Church; Stevenson-Mathews; and Minister Carol Buchanan of First Baptist Church.

The service will be held in person at Morgan Park and streamed live on the Easter Dawn Facebook page, allowing those unable to attend to participate virtually.

Pastor Raul Martinez, who has par-

ticipated in the service for the past three years, said the event carries a powerful message of unity.

"It is a blessing to gather as one community united by the promise of the Resurrection, central to all of the Christian faith," Martinez said.

That sense of unity is also reflected in the service's multilingual components. Lydia Wen, a Mandarin Chinese interpreter who has participated in past services, said the gathering offers a rare moment of connection across cultures and denominations.

"Sunday morning is like the most segregated time of the week for Christians," Wen said. "Everybody kind of



Rev. James E. Booker of Calvary A.M.E. Church spoke passionately about the importance of celebrating Easter.

goes to their own denominations, and I think this is pretty incredible to come together to do this before we all go to our own services."

Wen added that the shared message transcends language.

"I just think it really is a reflection of heaven in the future, because there's going to be so many different languages spoken," she said. "Even though it's just 'He is risen,' it's such a short line, but really I think it's profound because it's everything that we all believe."

Community members are also invited to take part in the service's choir. A rehearsal will be held at 6:30 p.m. on Monday, March 30. For more information on the event or to donate towards advertising contact organizers at: [easterdawnglencove@gmail.com](mailto:easterdawnglencove@gmail.com).

The service, which runs approximately 30 minutes, is open to all and will take place rain or shine.

# Students gather at ERASE Racism summit

By MELISSA BERMAN

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High school students from across Long Island gathered at Hofstra University for ERASE Racism's 2026 Long Island Leaders of Tomorrow Conference, a daylong event focused on leadership, dialogue and social change.

ERASE Racism, a Long Island-based civil rights organization, hosted the conference as part of its broader mission to address structural racism, particularly in public education and housing.

The conference brought together students from Nassau and Suffolk counties on March 18 to take part in interactive workshops and discussions aimed at building connections across school districts and communities. Students from more than a dozen districts — including Baldwin, Bellmore-Merrick, Glen Cove, Hewlett-Woodmere, Long Beach, Malverne and Valley Stream — took part. Organizers said the goal was to equip students with practical tools they could bring back to their schools and communities.

"Long Island is the 10th most segregated metro region, even according to the 2020 census," Nicole Grennan, program associate for ERASE Racism, said. "We have this long history of structural racism even in the form of racial covenants and red-lining that was happening in the region. As a result, our schools



Melissa Berman/Herald

High school students from across Long Island participated in interactive workshops and discussions at ERASE Racism's Leaders of Tomorrow Conference on March 18.

are very segregated."

Participants engaged in sessions designed to strengthen leadership skills while exploring issues related to race, equity and opportunity. The program emphasized collaboration among students from diverse racial and socioeconomic backgrounds, encouraging them to share experiences and develop strategies for creating more inclusive school environments.

"It was really important to us, as a civil rights organization, to connect students across their racially and socioeco-

nomically segregated lines," Grennan said. "We believe it's important that students interact with students who don't look like them and have an understanding of what's going on in Long Island and their surrounding communities."

By connecting young people from different regions of Long Island, the event aimed to foster understanding and empower a new generation of leaders committed to equity and civic engagement.

"Part of the reason why I wanted to bring our students here is because I have

a social justice lens, and I wanted the students to not only hear the language, but see what's going on in neighboring communities so they can collaborate together," Betyne Farrell, a school psychologist at Baldwin High School, said.

Anissah Brown, a member of ERASE Racism and a junior at Calhoun High School in Merrick, said it was inspiring for her to attend, and to both educate and learn from her peers. "I get to inspire others to be more involved in their community, and attack racism at hand when they see it," Brown said.

She said that coming into the conference, she expected unity and knowledge. "What I didn't expect was the amount of ignorance that is still among my peers today," she added. "A lot of stuff that people don't know, stuff that people brush off as normal, and a lot of normalization of racial slurs and racism in general in their schools."

Long Beach High's dean of students, Phil Bruno, said he has noticed that, globally, those of the same religions and races have tension within their own communities.

"Long Beach itself is a very mixed community, and we represent a lot of different parts of the world," Bruno said. "We're trying to give a voice to these young people so that they feel comfortable to have these conversations with people in public, and build that type of character in our children."

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# Legal win for residents grieving property taxes

March 26, 2026 - GLEN COVE HERALD

By CHRIS COLUCCI

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The Appellate Division of the New York State Supreme Court, Second Judicial Division reached an important decision in favor of homeowners last month. The court strengthened residents' abilities to provide supportive evidence and documentation when challenging their yearly property tax assessments.

The appeal reversed a Nassau County Supreme Court case that had previously complicated the process for homeowners submitting documents, including assessments of comparable properties and completed sales of similar homes, when filing an "unequal assessment claim" during Small Claims Assessment Review proceedings. The appellate verdict went into effect immediately, and applies to the current assessment year, 2027-28.

"This is a very significant case," said Shalom Maidenbaum, founder of Maidenbaum Property Tax Reduction Group and Maidenbaum and Sternberg, the law firm that brought the case to court. "It could've impacted all of Nassau County and curtailed the rights of taxpayers." The decision affects any Nassau homeowner filing an assessment grievance, and is especially beneficial to residents of certain villages who may have been assessed at an inaccurate or outdated assessment ratio.

In the final order of the matter of Yeung v. Assessor of the Village of Great Neck Estates — the initial case presented to the appellate court — the court wrote in its conclusion, "The hearing officer's determinations denying the petitioners' Small Claims Assessment Review applications were arbitrary and



Tim Baker/Herald

"This is a very significant case," Shalom Maidenbaum said. "It could've impacted all of Nassau County and curtailed the rights of taxpayers."

capricious and lacked a rational basis in the law." Mark Miller, one of the most experienced lawyers on the Maidenbaum team, explained that multiple lower-court decisions throughout Nassau County can now

be clarified, since some hearing officers had been inconsistently applying existing laws to homeowners' ability to present evidence. "Hundreds of cases can now go back to court," Miller said. "This decision gives them standing."

The appellate court's decision is expected to remain in effect without further challenge. Legal experts say that it would require costly, involved legislation to overturn it.

While the legal victory provides homeowners with invaluable support, experts say they should not misinterpret the ruling as a guarantee that their assessments will be reduced. "They just have the right to present that evidence," explained Amy Madmon, a partner at both Maidenbaum and Sternberg and Maidenbaum Property Tax Reduction Group, explained. "Essentially, it's confirming the tools that homeowners have. Whether it's successful or not depends on the case, but a hearing officer does have to hear the argument and take it into account when they're making a decision."

The deadline to file a property tax assessment grievance in Nassau County is March 31. There's no risk for homeowners — an unsuccessful appeal results in no penalties and no increased assessment. There's also no inherent expense: Homeowners can either submit a grievance at no cost on their own, or hire a property tax grievance firm, such as Maidenbaum, which typically charges no fees if the appeal is unsuccessful, and charges a percentage of the amount of the reduction, often up to 50 percent, for a successful appeal.

More information about filing a grievance, including applications and steps to file, can be found at [nassaucountyny.gov/arc/arow](http://nassaucountyny.gov/arc/arow).

## Easter Sunday

### MENU

\$75 per person, plus tax and gratuity

**APPETIZERS**  
(CHOOSE 1)

- Pizza Rustica
- Stuffed Artichoke
- Baked Clams
- Stuffed Mushrooms
- Eggplant Balls
- Burrata Mozzarella with tomato and mixed baby greens
- Bussola Chopped Salad

**ENTREE**  
(CHOOSE 1)

- Lamb Shank Osso Buco over polenta
- Beef Braciolo with gnocchi
- Veal Sorrentino
- Chicken Parmigiana with spaghetti
- Branzino Oreganata with spinach
- Seafood Diavolo with linguine
- Pork Chop Milanese with cherry peppers & melted mozzarella in a Scarpariello sauce
- Linguini Lemon Pesto with zucchini and pignoli nuts

**DESSERT**

Choice of: Napoleon Cake | Pastera Napolitana | Chocolate Mousse Cake | Tiramisu

**KIDS MENU**

12 & under, \$28 plus tax and gratuity

- Fried Mozzarella
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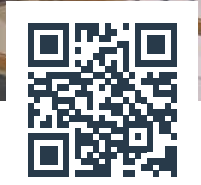
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Bagpipers marched through downtown Glen Cove, filling the parade route with traditional Irish music during the St. Patrick's Day celebration.



Members of Small Steps Irish Dance performed along the parade route, showcasing traditional Irish step dancing during the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Volunteers from Cove Animal Rescue marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, accompanied by a participant in a cat costume who drew smiles from the crowd.



# The St. Patrick's Day Parade

By ROKSANA AMID

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The City of Glen Cove marked a milestone this year as thousands gathered for its annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, a tradition rooted in Irish heritage and community pride that dates back to 1989.

Jenkins noted that the parade, founded in 1989, is considered one of the oldest Hibernian-led parades on Long Island. She added that the event has grown significantly over the years to become the largest of its kind on Long Island.

This year's parade carried added significance, taking place just one day after World Down Syndrome Awareness Day on March 21, reinforcing the event's focus on inclusion and community impact.

The parade was founded by former Councilman Brian Fitzpatrick alongside members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, including Michael Moran, whose role helped establish what would become one of the region's largest celebrations.

Moran's daughter, Maureen Basdavanos, a former deputy mayor and past grand marshal, said her father was very instrumental founding of the parade here in Glen Cove, adding that "he and Brian Fitzpatrick were really the ones that brought the parade here."

Basdavanos emphasized the cultural significance behind the event, noting that the Irish community has long been "such a proud group of people that really want to keep their heritage alive, and keep their traditions alive, that they love to come together as a group."

The parade's legacy has extended across generations. Basdavanos's son, Sean Basdavanos, a past president of the Glen Cove Ancient Order of Hibernians, said his involvement was rooted in continuing that tradition. He described joining the organization "to carry on what (his grandfather) had started, to continue to promote Irish culture and Irish heritage."



Pat Furlong of Glen Cove, born on St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, celebrated the occasion dressed as a leprechaun during the parade.



Tim Baker/Herald photos

Participants from the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club made their way along the parade route, greeting spectators during the St. Patrick's

The Hibernians division in Glen Cove now bears Moran's name, reflecting his lasting influence on the organization and the parade itself.

In its early years, the event relied on strong community support. Mary Moran, Michael Moran's wife, said he "definitely always wanted something like it to start up in Glen Cove," believing it would bring generations together. She recalled how community members, particularly women, helped sustain the event by preparing food and supporting organizers behind the scenes as the parade grew.

This year's parade also highlighted inclusion and community impact. John Cronin, co-founder of John's Crazy Socks, served as grand marshal, becoming the first person with Down syndrome in the United States to lead a St. Patrick's Day parade.

The parade supports ACDS, a Plainview-based organization that provides services for children and adults with Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities. Jenkins noted the connection, saying the honoree made the year "truly special."

Participants included pipe bands, marching bands, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Hibernians and numerous local organizations. The parade is fully funded by sponsors and donors, with proceeds benefiting charitable causes.

The parade stepped off from Finley Middle School and made its way through downtown Glen Cove, ending with a celebration at St. Patrick's Parish Hall.

More than three decades after its founding, the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade continues to reflect the vision of its founders — a celebration of heritage, family and community that spans generations.



Members of Loggia Glen Cove, an Italian-American fraternal organization, marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, representing their community along the route.



Courtesy John O'Connell

Children danced during the post-parade celebration at St. Patrick's Church in Glen Cove, enjoying music and festivities after the St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Members of the Glen Cove Senior Center participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, waving to spectators as they made their way through downtown Glen Cove.



Glen Cove friends Mackenzie Alessandro, 11, Lexi Alessandro, 7, Sophia Moran, 6, and Zoe Petsis, 9, watched the St. Patrick's Day Parade together along the route.



John Cronin, grand marshal of the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade, waved to spectators along the route as he led the procession through downtown Glen Cove.



Bagpipers marched through downtown Glen Cove, filling the parade route with traditional Irish music during the St. Patrick's Day celebration.



Members of Small Steps Irish Dance performed along the parade route, showcasing traditional Irish step dancing during the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade.

Volunteers from Cove Animal Rescue marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, accompanied by a participant in a cat costume who drew smiles from the crowd.



# The St. Patrick's Day Parade

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@iherald.com

The City of Glen Cove marked a milestone this year as thousands gathered for its annual St. Patrick's Day Parade, a tradition rooted in Irish heritage and community pride that dates back to 1989.

Jenkins noted that the parade, founded in 1989, is considered one of the oldest Hibernian-led parades on Long Island. She added that the event has grown significantly over the years to become the largest of its kind on Long Island.

This year's parade carried added significance, taking place just one day after World Down Syndrome Awareness Day on March 21, reinforcing the event's focus on inclusion and community impact.

The parade was founded by former Councilman Brian Fitzpatrick alongside members of the Ancient Order of Hibernians, including Michael Moran, whose role helped establish what would become one of the region's largest celebrations.

Moran's daughter, Maureen Basdavanos, a former deputy mayor and past grand marshal, said her father was very instrumental founding of the parade here in Glen Cove, adding that "he and Brian Fitzpatrick were really the ones that brought the parade here."

Basdavanos emphasized the cultural significance behind the event, noting that the Irish community has long been "such a proud group of people that really want to keep their heritage alive, and keep their traditions alive, that they love to come together as a group."

The parade's legacy has extended across generations. Basdavanos's son, Sean Basdavanos, a past president of the Glen Cove Ancient Order of Hibernians, said his involvement was rooted in continuing that tradition. He described joining the organization "to carry on what (his grandfather) had started, to continue to promote Irish culture and Irish heritage."



Pat Furlong of Glen Cove, born on St. Patrick's Day in Ireland, celebrated the occasion dressed as a leprechaun during the parade.



Tim Baker/Herald photos

Participants from the Glen Cove Boys & Girls Club made their way along the parade route, greeting spectators during the St. Patrick's

The Hibernians division in Glen Cove now bears Moran's name, reflecting his lasting influence on the organization and the parade itself.

In its early years, the event relied on strong community support. Mary Moran, Michael Moran's wife, said he "definitely always wanted something like it to start up in Glen Cove," believing it would bring generations together. She recalled how community members, particularly women, helped sustain the event by preparing food and supporting organizers behind the scenes as the parade grew.

This year's parade also highlighted inclusion and community impact. John Cronin, co-founder of John's Crazy Socks, served as grand marshal, becoming the first person with Down syndrome in the United States to lead a St. Patrick's Day parade.

The parade supports ACDS, a Plainview-based organization that provides services for children and adults with Down syndrome, autism and other developmental disabilities. Jenkins noted the connection, saying the honoree made the year "truly special."

Participants included pipe bands, marching bands, Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, the Hibernians and numerous local organizations. The parade is fully funded by sponsors and donors, with proceeds benefiting charitable causes.

The parade stepped off from Finley Middle School and made its way through downtown Glen Cove, ending with a celebration at St. Patrick's Parish Hall.

More than three decades after its founding, the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade continues to reflect the vision of its founders — a celebration of heritage, family and community that spans generations.



Members of Loggia Glen Cove, an Italian-American fraternal organization, marched in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, representing their community along the route.



Courtesy John O'Connell

Children danced during the post-parade celebration at St. Patrick's Church in Glen Cove, enjoying music and festivities after the St. Patrick's Day Parade.



Members of the Glen Cove Senior Center participated in the St. Patrick's Day Parade, waving to spectators as they made their way through downtown Glen Cove.



Glen Cove friends Mackenzie Alessandro, 11, Lexi Alessandro, 7, Sophia Moran, 6, and Zoe Petsis, 9, watched the St. Patrick's Day Parade together along the route.



John Cronin, grand marshal of the Glen Cove St. Patrick's Day Parade, waved to spectators along the route as he led the procession through downtown Glen Cove.

*Wishing all of  
our friends  
and neighbors  
a Happy Passover!*

From the staff of  
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## NEIGHBORS IN THE NEWS

### Raising money for cancer research

James Pascucci is continuing his efforts to raise money and awareness for childhood cancer through the St. Baldrick's Foundation.

Now in his fourth year participating, Pascucci, who was born with Down syndrome, shaves his head each year as part of the charity event. Last year, he raised nearly \$2,500, earning recognition as both the top individual fundraiser and part of the highest-raising team. He was also named a Squire for his continued commitment.

This year, Pascucci began growing his hair before Christmas to prepare for the event. With support from employees at the Glen Cove Stop & Shop, as well as friends and family, he raised \$1,885, just below last year's total.

Beyond fundraising, Pascucci is known in the community for his generosity. Since the COVID-19 pandemic, he has focused on giving back by contributing to food drives, supporting local churches and spending time with senior citizens.

He also creates and distributes themed goodie bags throughout the year to store employees, customers and others he meets.

Known for his smile and what many



Courtesy Pamela Jane

James Pascucci participated in the St. Baldrick's Foundation head-shaving event, raising \$1,885 this year to support childhood cancer research.

call his "healing hugs," Pascucci continues to make a lasting impact through both his charitable work and daily acts of kindness.

-Roksana Amid

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Tim Baker/Herald

The Long Island Association held its annual What's New In Washington panel on March 16. U.S. Representatives Andrew Garbarino, far left, and Nick LaLota, LIA Acting President and CEO Stacey Sikes, and Representatives Laura Gillen and Tom Suozzi discussed several issues.

# L.I. representatives gather for a lively debate

By ROSKANA AMID, JEFFREY BESSEN  
& CAROLYN JAMES

of the Herald

Against a backdrop of a military action in the Middle East and a domestic economy that swings up and down as the price of oil steadily rises, Long Island's congressional delegation took part in a spirited but congenial debate of ideas and issues last week at the Long Island Association's annual What's New In Washington panel.

Representatives Andrew Garbarino, Laura Gillen, Nick LaLota and Tom Suozzi spoke on issues ranging from the economy to immigration to energy, with LIA Acting President and CEO Stacey Sikes moderating the March 16 discussion.

"The thing that's so brilliant about the system, I think, is today we're going to have [four] Congressional representatives —two Democrats, two Republicans," Lawrence Waldman, the LIA's board chairman, said. "They're going to sit in the interview with Acting President Stacey Sikes, and I'm sure they'll agree on some of these issues and disagree on some."

## Andrew Garbarino

All of the legislators noted progress on the effort to raise or eliminate the limit on the income tax deduction for state and local taxes, a measure critical to Long Island homeowners facing some of the nation's highest property taxes, as well as a \$1.5 billion infrastructure package for transportation, water quality and storm resilience.

"We have worked together on a bipar-

tisan infrastructure bill, one of the best things we did," Garbarino, a former assemblyman, said, noting frustrations with Albany over implementation.

His 2nd Congressional District stretches from Massapequa, in Nassau County, east to Shirley, in Suffolk County.

The four lawmakers had differing perspectives on Operation Epic Fury, the military effort against Iran. Suozzi and Gillen praised its objectives, but criticized Congress's lack of oversight and what they described as the Trump administration's failure to define a long-term strategy.

"There does not seem to be a plan, and shouldn't that have been thought of ahead of time?" Suozzi asked.

Garbarino countered, noting that congressional committees are briefed regularly, and that prior administrations have taken similar actions. All agreed that any escalation involving ground troops would require Congressional approval.

## Laura Gillen

Speaking on her proposed Dignity Act, which would give illegal immigrants what she called "a pathway to legal status," Gillen said, "If you're going to do transformative legislation, it's better to tap in with both sides," noting that the effort began with 10 Democrats and 10 Republicans. "And that's the way we can get a law like this across

the finish line, by working together."

Gillen, who represents the 4th Congressional District, which spans nearly the entire South Shore of Nassau County, noted that the administration's "One Big, Beautiful Bill" has added to the national debt. "It caused the average American to have \$1,600 in extra cost," she said. "We're not going in the right direction. We can fix that, but there has to be political will."

Gillen noted the impact of the federal crackdown on illegal immigration on local businesses.

"People are afraid to patronize businesses," she said, adding that new business in Hempstead is "going to go out of business already, because people — there's an ICE car parked in an apartment lot across from Main Street, and even if no one's in there, people see it, and they're afraid to go out."

## Nick LaLota

LaLota said that one party doesn't have a monopoly on "this nation's most major issues, and we do work together on certain big things."

With the cost of energy on the minds of consumers, he noted that "the economy is growing, we have more demand, more power here on the Island and across the nation." LaLota added that there's "a ton of natural gas" in New York's Southern Tier. "If we do things the way that Pennsylvania does them in

that same part of the world," he noted, jobs will be created and prices will be lower.

LaLota's 1st Congressional District stretches from Melville, in western Suffolk County, to Montauk.

## Tom Suozzi

Suozzi highlighted his work with the bipartisan Problem Solvers Caucus. The group includes 46 members of Congress, evenly split between Democrats and Republicans.

"We have committees that work together on issues, on everything from affordability," Suozzi said, noting that the caucus also addresses immigration and national security.

Despite those efforts, Suozzi described Washington as increasingly difficult to navigate. "The problem is, the environment is so toxic in Washington, D.C.," he said. "And the leadership on both sides really is only focused on winning the majority." He added that the political climate is likely to worsen as the midterm elections approach.

Suozzi also pointed to several economic concerns facing many Americans, including tariffs, artificial intelligence data centers, and rising health care costs tied in part to the elimination of the premium tax credit.

"The economy is in trouble," he said. "Everybody knows the economy is in trouble." He argued that strong stock market performance does not reflect the experience of most households.

His 3rd Congressional District predominantly includes Glen Cove, Oyster Bay and a portion of Queens, and stretches east to Huntington.

I'm sure they'll agree on some of these issues and disagree on some.

## LAWRENCE WALDMAN

Board chairman,  
Long Island  
Association

# VIEWFINDER • What signs of spring are you most excited to see this year?

Compiled by Herald Staff

**Eleanor Furbush** —  
Farmingdale

The flowers and sun coming up, and every day being alive.

Christie Leigh Babirad/  
Herald photos



**Caleb Kolanovic**  
Lynbrook, age 9

I get to play baseball when it's warmer and have fun at the park. And the birds are chirping.

Tim Baker/Herald photos



**Brittany Dursi**  
Rockville Centre

I really like it when the trees bloom and you're driving down the streets with beautiful flowers around. And not having to shovel anymore snow!

Tim Baker/Herald photos



**Lin Shao** —  
Oceanside

I'm most excited to feel warmer weather, longer days and everything starting to bloom again. I'm also excited that I won't need to bundle up every time I go outside.

Abbey Salvemini/Herald photos



**Antoinette Hatzopoulos**  
Glen Cove

I am most looking forward to watching the children with their curious minds and eyes explore our native garden. They get to watch the birds, the flowers bloom and see our beautiful trees grow.

Tim Baker/Herald photos

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# STEPPING OUT



## A gentle first step into the concert hall

### 'Peppa Pig' brings music to life

By Abbey Salvemini

Think if you love Mozart! The world's most famous piggy is trading muddy puddles for the conductor's baton. "Peppa Pig – My First Concert" is headed to Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, on Saturday, March 28, offering families a vibrant, interactive introduction to the world of classical music.

Joined by Mummy Pig, Daddy Pig and George, Peppa leads young audiences through playful romp designed to give toddlers and preschoolers their very first taste of an orchestra — in this case, the Aurora Orchestra. By blending catchy hits from the popular TV series with masterpieces by Mozart and Beethoven, the production creates a bridge between playground favorites and the concert hall. At just 60 minutes long, it's a perfectly sized musical adventure for "little piggies" as young as 18 months.

Families explore how different instruments create sound in this playful production giving the little ones their first taste of classical music in an engaging setting. From the first notes of the Peppa Pig theme to the soaring strings of the masters, the production invites families to see how an orchestra actually works. Peppa and her brother George learn alongside their audience, discovering the distinct sounds and shapes of the instruments as the music comes to life. It's an engaging, front-row seat to the wonders of the woodwind, brass and string families.

"This is really an interactive introduction to a live orchestra for very young audiences," says Stephanie Turner, Tilles Center's director of education and outreach.

This is a 'first concert' in the truest sense — approachable, loud and full of life. Stripping away the formality of a standard concert hall, the production encourages little ones to respond to the music however they feel moved. Children are welcome to participate throughout — whether that means clapping along, dancing in the aisles or simply reacting to the music.

"Anything they want to do," Turner says. "When kids hear familiar music, they love to get up and dance. Whatever movement or sound kids want to make is totally open."

The production also introduces a fresh face to the Peppa-verse: Lucy. Played by Evie James, this specially created character serves as the show's lively narrator, helping children navigate their very first symphonic experience, while interacting with Peppa and her friends.



The show blends puppetry, live music and audience participation, featuring four puppeteers and 12 musicians performing alongside Lucy and the Peppa Pig family. James explains that the production offers young audiences a whimsical introduction to live theater and classical music through the adventures of Peppa and her family.

"The kids respond to it so well," she says. "It's a really sweet and fun show with an educational element."

Continuing the Tilles Center's commitment to inclusive programming, this program — part of its "Family Fun!" series — it's done as a relaxed performance. The atmosphere is intentionally crafted to be welcoming and accommodating, providing a supportive space for neurodivergent audiences to enjoy the arts together.

"These performances feature modified sound and lighting levels," Turner explains. "There's also a quiet space with sensory toys if a child gets overwhelmed."

Families can check out a 'social story' before the big day. This visual guide uses photos and simple descriptions to walk children through the entire theater experience, turning the 'unknown' into a familiar and exciting adventure. Everyone is also welcome to a free family workshop prior to showtime (for ticket holders), with crafts, games and storytime.

"Our goal is to provide the arts to the greater Long Island population," Turner adds. "Through the Family Fun series, we bring shows like Peppa Pig, along with productions featuring characters like Curious George and 'Sesame Street, so families can experience live performances together."

Of course, for many children in the audience, Peppa Pig will be their first live performance.

"It's age-appropriate, gentle and welcoming," Turner continues. "You can come at any age or level and enjoy it. Even adults who've never been exposed to classical music can learn something."

For James, the true magic happens after the curtain falls. Her goal is simple: to send the kids home feeling delighted with what's transpired on stage.

"I hope they just have a fun time," she says. "Maybe it will inspire them to listen to music, play an instrument themselves or develop an interest in theater."



- Saturday, March 28, 2 p.m.
- Tickets start at \$39, VIP tickets are \$79.50; available at ticketmaster.com
- Tilles Center for the Performing Arts, LIU Post, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville

Little theatergoers follow along as Peppa and George discover the magic of live music together at Tilles Center.

Photos courtesy Logan Westom



### Isaac Mizrahi

Actor-host-writer-fashion designer-producer, performer extraordinaire Isaac Mizrahi is a truly unique talent. He regales his fans — and those just experiencing him for a first time — with song and his signature wit when he appears at Tilles Center. His one-of-a-kind show brings together comedy, comment and an array of classic and soon-to-be classic songs from Stephen Sondheim to Blondie, Comden & Green to Madonna. He's worked extensively in the entertainment industry for over 30 years. Most recently seen as Amos Hart in the Broadway production of "Chicago," he heads here after his annual (triumphant) residency at Café Carlyle in Manhattan. Isaac also performs at such venues as Joe's Pub and nationwide. Among his many credits, he's the subject and co-creator of "Unzipped," a documentary following the making of his Fall 1994 collection which received an award at the Sundance Film Festival.

Saturday, March 28, 8 p.m. Tilles Center, LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville. Tickets available at [tillescenter.org](http://tillescenter.org) or (516) 299-3100.



### The Man In Black: A Tribute to Johnny Cash

With his strikingly similar looks, baritone voice and spot-on mannerisms, Shawn Barker's uncanny resemblance to the original "Man In Black" revitalizes the true character and spirit of Cash himself, for a one-of-a-kind show. In character throughout the entire evening, he takes the audience through each era of Cash's life and music, including hits like "Folsom Prison Blues," "I Walk The Line," "A Boy Named Sue," and "Ring of Fire," backed by a full band. Born and raised in a working-class suburb of St. Louis, Barker took a schoolboy love for singing in church with his family and turned it into a career. The path to his current success wasn't a straight line from gospel choir to Johnny Cash tribute act. After serving his country in the Army, Barker returned home to Missouri, took a job as a carpenter, and spent all of his free time learning how to play the guitar. His act then quickly turned from hobby to profession.

Sunday, March 29, 7 p.m. The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington. Tickets available at

# YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR

**MAR 26** **On Exhibit**  
Nassau County Museum of Art joins in the celebration of America's 250th anniversary. Its landmark exhibition explores how Long Island has reflected and shaped the story of American art. From Revolutionary-era portraiture and folk art to nineteenth-century landscapes, Impressionism, and the bold innovations of Abstract Expressionism and Pop Art, the exhibition highlights how every major art movement found expression here. From Brooklyn to Montauk, Long Island's natural beauty, coastal light, and close connection to New York City inspired generations of artists and gave rise to thriving art colonies and postwar creative communities. Featuring paintings, decorative arts, and historical objects displayed together in immersive settings, the exhibit celebrates the region's enduring influence and its rich artistic legacy. On view through July 12.

- **Where:** 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** Ongoing
- **Contact:** [nassaumuseum.org](http://nassaumuseum.org) or (516) 484-9337

**MAR 28** **Nature Walk**  
All are welcome to a Shu Swamp stroll. Using nature awareness skills, learn and have fun, gaining a greater sense of belonging to the preserve's natural and human history. These are open-ended experiences inspired by the season and what is discovered the trail.

- **Where:** Shu Swamp Preserve, 27 Frost Mill Road, Mill Neck
- **Time:** 10 a.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 318-4724

## Notes In Nature: Of Air And Water

Visit Planting Fields for the thrilling season opener of "Notes in Nature"! This program features a unique and atmospheric combination of the flute, harp, violin, viola, and cello with the Long Island Chamber Music collective that shouldn't be missed! The program opens and closes with two French impressionist masterworks, starting with Francaix's nuanced Quintet. \$45 per person in advance, \$50 at the door if seats are available. Includes a complimentary glass of wine.

- **Where:** 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 7-8:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** [plantingfields.org](http://plantingfields.org) or call (516) 922-9210



## APR 9 '...how I wish you were here'

Wish You Were Here celebrates the 50th Anniversary of Pink Floyd's album "Wish You Were Here," acclaimed as "one of the greatest albums of all time," and cited by Pink Floyd keyboardist Richard Wright and guitarist David Gilmour as their favorite album. The band delivers a critically-acclaimed, stunningly authentic and heartfelt tribute experience, faithfully and expertly reproducing Pink Floyd's timeless musical soundscapes with entirely live music and vocals. Immerse yourself in this captivating journey through Pink Floyd's musical catalog with this top-level act! Wish You Where Here continues its 30-year tradition of combining sight and sound to capture the mood, emotions, and intensity of the Floydian theatrical concert experience — in a spectacular tribute of music, performers, lighting, video, lasers and inflatables — performed live with no backing or click tracks. The band is arguably the longest continually-performing Pink Floyd tribute act with an unparalleled history of sold-out concerts, record-breaking festival events and celebrated theater productions. The show utilizes a veteran 10-piece musical ensemble featuring seven vocalists and a Floydian stage production — sound effects and vintage videos on a large circle screen, flying inflatables, theatrical vignettes with props, and a sensational light show with moving lasers, rolling fog and state-of-the-art intelligent lighting — all produced with a fan's obsession for detail. The band authentically recreates the music from Pink Floyd's entire career, performing the crowd favorites that all rock fans recognize, interspersed with the show-stoppers that appease even the most ardent Floyd fanatics.

- **Where:** Tilles Center, LIU Post campus, 720 Northern Blvd., Brookville
- **Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** [ticketmaster.com](http://ticketmaster.com) or [tillescenter.org](http://tillescenter.org) or (516) 299-3100

## Blood Drive

The Glen Cove Fire Department is hosting a community blood drive. Donors can enjoy breakfast served by the department and receive a "Pint for a Pint" offer from Garvies Point Brewery.

- **Where:** 10 Glen Cove Ave, Glen Cove
- **Time:** 8 a.m.–2 p.m.
- **Contact:** Pete Prudente, (516) 606-0014

## Art explorations

Converse, collaborate and create with kids at Family Saturdays at Nassau County Museum of Art. Get inspired by the art and objects in the galleries and then join educators at the Manes Center to explore and discover different materials to create your own original artwork. Kids and adults connect while talking about and making art together. A new project is featured every week. For ages 2-14. Registration required. \$20, \$10 child; members free.

- **Where:** 1 Museum Drive, Roslyn Harbor
- **Time:** Noon-3 p.m.
- **Contact:** [nassaumuseum.org](http://nassaumuseum.org) or (516) 484-9337

## APR 2 Monthly meditation

Sands Point Preserve's historic mansions and waterfront grounds are the backdrop for an evening of nature-based mindfulness and meditation with Hildur Palsdottir, first Thursday monthly. Classes are held in the beautiful rooms of the Preserve's mansions, or in the Hempstead House Garden when weather permits. Explore techniques specifically aimed at stress reduction. No feeling is final. \$17 per class.

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 6-7 p.m.
- **Contact:** [sandspointpreserveconservancy.org](http://sandspointpreserveconservancy.org) or call (516) 571-7901

## APR 3 First Fridays: Plants, People, Place

Step into a multisensory exploration of the plants that shape global cuisine and the cultural stories they carry at Planting Fields Park. This guided tour weaves through the gardens, greenhouses, and exhibition spaces, connecting the living

history of the gardens with the 2025 Catalyst installation, Sam Van Aken's The Planting Fields Stand, a grove of four multi-grafted fruit trees. Drawing on the estate's agricultural history from Indigenous stewardship to present day, the tour traces how food has been grown, shared, and celebrated here for generations. Blending horticulture, history, and contemporary art, this tour invites guests to reflect on the fruits, both literal and cultural, that nourish us. \$25.

- **Where:** 1395 Planting Fields Road, Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 10-11 a.m.
- **Contact:** [plantingfields.org](http://plantingfields.org) or call (516) 922-9210

## APR 4 Spring Egg Hunt

Join in the annual Spring Egg Hunt at Morgan Memorial Park. Families are encouraged to arrive early, as the hunt begins promptly at 11 a.m.

- **Where:** Morgan Memorial Park, Germaine St., Glen Cove
- **Time:** 11 a.m.
- **Contact:** Glen Cove City Hall at (516) 676-2000

## APR 7 Pre-Council Meeting

City officials hold a pre-council meeting to review upcoming agenda items and discuss matters scheduled for the next City Council session.

- **Where:** Glen Cove City Hall, 9 Glen St.
- **Time:** 6:30–8 p.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 676-2000

## APR 10 'An Evening of Magic' fundraiser

The Sarah Grace Foundation for Children With Cancer hosts its annual "An Evening of Magic" gala dinner. Award-winning magician Will Fern brings high-energy entertainment, including strolling magic and mind reading, to benefit children with cancer. The dinner fundraiser takes place in the Philodendrum Room at The Milleridge Inn. Tickets are \$125 and include dinner, drinks and the show; advance purchase is required. Raffles and a 50/50 drawing will also be held.

- **Where:** 585 N. Broadway, Jericho
- **Time:** 7 p.m.
- **Contact:** [thesarahgracefoundation.org](http://thesarahgracefoundation.org)

## APR 15 Locust Valley Garden Club

The Locust Valley Garden Club returns! All gardening lovers are welcome to attend the monthly meeting at Locust Valley Library. Featured speaker Steve Dougherty presents "Pruning 101," a primer on waking up trees and shrubs from winter dormancy. A themed lunch of members' home dishes follows each meeting. Join in and consider membership in the future. Meetings are held monthly, generally on the third Wednesday.

- **Where:** 170 Buckram Road, Locust Valley
- **Time:** 10 a.m.
- **Contact:** [ltassis@aol.com](mailto:ltassis@aol.com)

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

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# Music with the senior outreach network

By JULIA CAPITELLI

jcapitelli@liherald.com

Senior citizens in the community filled Jeanine's American Bistro March 19 for a lunch and performance by local musician Jimmy Moore. The afternoon marked the Sea Cliff Senior Outreach Network's monthly luncheon at the bistro.

The Sea Cliff Senior Outreach Network, run by Tracy Arnold Warzer, is sponsored by the Village of Sea Cliff and provides opportunities for seniors in the community to socialize and connect with one another. The monthly luncheons are made affordable for seniors to attend, and bussing is provided for those who do not drive.

"It's a very friendly atmosphere and conducive to building connections," Arnold Warzer said, "particularly for seniors who can feel isolated in the community, and perhaps some of them may not have come out very much during the winter."

Arnold Warzer knew Moore prior to assuming her role with the senior outreach network. Moore, a local musician and vocal teacher, performed a series of Irish songs.

"He was great, and he didn't just stand in one spot, he walked around the whole room," one attendee, Ann Mingorance, said. "And so, he was a wonderful performer as well as a wonderful singer."

The 60-year Glen Head resident attends the luncheons regularly. Mingorance said she enjoys connecting with others and praised Arnold Warzer for the variety of events she puts together for seniors. Aside from the luncheons, the senior outreach network offers artistic activities, intergenerational events and informational sessions on health and safety.

Mingorance attended the event with her caregiver.



Courtesy Tracy Arnold Warzer

Ann Mingorance, right, Boris Mourashkin and Diane Mazzeo attended the luncheon featuring a performance by Jimmy Moore, left.

She said they considered sitting at a two-person table they found upon arriving, but Mingorance told her caregiver she would prefer to sit with people they did not previously know. The two ended up joining others at a table, and Mingorance described those they met as "wonderful people."

"We had a really nice conversation and exchanged phone numbers," she said, "and are definitely going to get together in the future."

Arnold Warzer described the senior outreach network as a "senior center without walls." Some locations where the network holds events include Sea Cliff Village Hall, St. Luke's Episcopal Church and the vil-

lage museum.

Luncheons at the bistro only cost attendees \$15. Owner Jeanine DiMenna said she is happy to make the event affordable and that it is important for the venue to be accessible.

"It gives me a lot of satisfaction to be able to give back to the community in a positive way," she said, "and getting them all here together, you could see how excited they are about it. It's an event for them to get out of the house and enjoy."

The next senior outreach network event is "The Art of Breathing" workshop run by Founder of Age Well Recreation Ray Torres at village hall on Monday.

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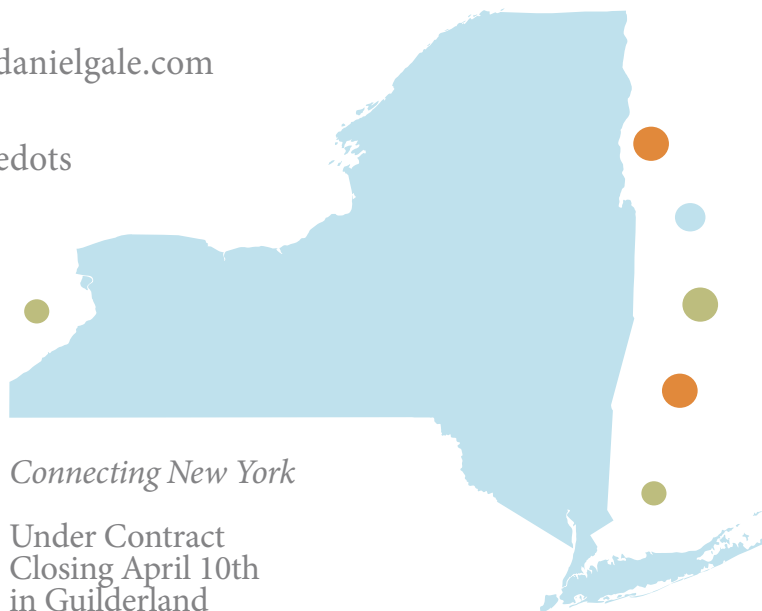
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## OPINIONS

# Islamist terrorism remains a clear and present danger

The recent series of terrorist attacks in Austin, Texas; on the East Side of Manhattan, outside Gracie Mansion; at a synagogue in Bloomfield, Mich.; and at Old Dominion University, in Norfolk, Va.; send the clear signal that federal, state and local law enforcement must be on full alert, especially for the duration of the conflict with Iran.



**PETER KING**

Threats and potential terror attacks could range from ISIS, Al Qaeda and the Iranian proxy Hezbollah to radically inspired lone wolves.

Prior to the horrific Sept. 11 attacks, our nation's counterterrorism efforts were basically

uncoordinated, both here at home and overseas. The FBI and CIA, for instance, were effectively precluded by policy and design from sharing information and intelligence with each other. Similarly, the FBI often withheld information from local police departments, including the NYPD.

There were also few adequately constructed lines of communication between the United States and overseas intelligence agencies regarding terror threats (Great Britain, Canada and Isra-

el being among the few exceptions). President George W. Bush and the majority of both parties in Congress agreed on the absolute necessity to tear down existing walls and barriers, and to establish new structures to enhance cooperation and communication.

At the federal level, this was achieved by establishing the Department of Homeland Security, which incorporated 22 previously separate agencies into one coordinated entity. These bodies included the Customs Service, Immigration and Naturalization, the Coast Guard and the Secret Service. While the FBI and CIA remained independent, protocols were established to enable greater sharing of intelligence and information between them. As well, the Office of National Intelligence was created, and the CIA, the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency were required to report to the director of national intelligence.

Action was also initiated at the state and local levels. The NYPD was particularly innovative, creating intelligence and counterterrorism units that in many ways are comparable to the CIA and FBI. Sources were developed in neighborhoods reasonably believed to be subject to terrorist influence and

intrusion. NYPD officers were assigned to key overseas embassies to report back actionable intelligence on possible terrorist plans for action in New York.

This caused some resentment among elements of the FBI and CIA, but

proved successful. For example when Al Qaeda carried out a deadly attack in the Madrid train system, an NYPD officer was quickly on the scene, reporting procedures to be implemented in the New York City transit system that proved to be very effective. Overall, under Commissioner Ray Kelly, the NYPD had over a thousand officers assigned to counterterrorism and

intelligence, resulting in more than 20 attempted attacks being prevented. Unfortunately progressive-minded elected officials assailed the NYPD's efforts as "Islamophobic," resulting in Mayor Bill de Blasio's cutting back on the NYPD's counterterrorism and intelligence operations. (Fortunately, much of its basic structure remains.)

Following the creation of the Department of Homeland Security, Congress established a comparable committee to oversee it, similar to the Armed Services and Foreign Affairs committees monitoring the Defense and State departments. I was elected chairman of the committee in its first two years —

2005 and 2006 — and again for another two-year term in 2011 and 2012. During both terms I focused on defending against Islamist terrorism — the main achievements being port and chemical plant security in my first term, and the investigation of radicalization of the Muslim community in my second term. Though key witnesses were Muslim, the radicalization hearings drew extensive media opposition but were successful.

In recent years, funding for counterterrorism programs has been reduced. The emphasis of the DHS has shifted drastically from terrorism to illegal immigration. And elected officials like Mayor Mamdani are threatening to restrict police counterterror efforts.

Most significantly, because of an unrelated dispute over ICE, congressional Democrats shut down the DHS at this time of maximum threat, when Islamists are using encrypted apps to circumvent our cybersecurity defenses. This is suicidal. The threat of Islamist terrorism cannot be relegated to the rearview mirror. It is a clear and present danger. Federal, state and local governments must face up to their responsibilities. (I am proud that Nassau and Suffolk are doing what has to be done.) We cannot risk another 9/11.

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

**O**ur emphasis has shifted from terrorism to illegal immigration.

## The faraway war in Iran is closer than you think

The past few weeks have been very distressing for the few of us who have had any experience living in America when a real war took place. There is no doubt that we are not in the middle of a world war in Iran, but that conflict has all the earmarks of a

happening that will trigger years of violence that could hit extremely close to our country.

I'm not an expert on military issues. I have no doubt that Iran is a major threat to the world, and every possible step should be taken to curb its efforts to acquire

nuclear weapons. I believe that Israel should be protected from a country that has pledged to wipe it off the map. But we must understand that there are consequences to these wars, and we should be aware of them. The problem is no one is telling us whether we should be concerned and why.

Iran isn't just some crazy faraway country like Afghanistan, where a war took place that didn't represent any kind of serious threat to America. During the American military involvement in that country, no one ever stopped me on the street to express fears about the "Afghanistan war." Even though we deployed thousands of our troops in that country, there was no concern on the part of our government that it could spill over into our country.

In the case of Iran, we are dealing with a bunch of ideologues who are not capable of being fully contained. History shows us that Iran enters into peace agreements and breaks its word almost immediately. Even if this current war ends on some type of settlement, there are other consequences that our nation should be aware of. What are they?

In the past month, there have been two incidents involving people who were true believers. In one, a man drove a truck into a Michigan synagogue in an effort to kill Jews. Luckily, that temple

had gone through training programs that prepared it for such an event. The war has stirred up further incidents of antisemitism.

**E**ven if it ends with some kind of settlement, there will be other consequences.

The proof that the Iran incursion isn't a faraway event is what we have been experiencing at the gas pump. When you pick a fight in the Middle East, lots of things happen. The war is having worldwide consequences. As energy costs go up, prices on all types of goods go up. No one is telling us what the long-range plan is to blunt price increases.

There are not too many people around now who can talk about what it's like to live in our country when there was a real war. As an 8-year-old boy, I experienced what happens when a country is at war. We had black-out shades in our house to protect us in the event of an air raid. Food was rationed and our neighbors became wardens in the event that faraway battle reached us in some way. Luckily, we had President Franklin Roosevelt to assure us that all would be well.

The war in Iran is far away from our country, and there won't be any air raid sirens. But we have a lot to be concerned about because of the events now taking place thousands of miles from this nation. We are dealing with a different type of enemy and must be aware of that. The zealots who embrace Iran can be found anywhere.

There is no reason for us to start hiding in our homes, nor to curtail our daily activities. But we have to be aware of what is going on on this planet and get the comfort that we deserve. We should question our representatives in Washington on what steps are being taken to keep us away from harm. It would help heal the divide over this new war.

There is no politics to this story. Our leaders, whether Clinton, Bush, Obama or Trump, must tell us what they want our wars to accomplish and what steps they are going to take to limit our pain. That's not asking too much.

*Jerry Kremer was a state assemblyman for 23 years, and chaired the Assembly's Ways and Means Committee for 12 years. He currently chairs the Capitol Insight Group, a government relations firm. Comments? jkremer@liherald.com.*



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(516) 569-4000**HERALD EDITORIAL****Spring reset should send us outside**

**A**fter months of bundling up, shoveling out and watching gray skies linger over Long Island, the arrival of spring offers something more than a change in temperature — it signals a long-awaited reset.

The return of the Major League Baseball season is as reliable a marker as any: fresh grass, open stadiums and the simple joy of being outside again.

But spring's promise goes well beyond symbolism. It offers a tangible opportunity to improve both physical and mental well-being in ways that winter simply does not allow.

The act of stepping outside — whether for a short walk, a bike ride or an afternoon at the park — can have an immediate and lasting impact. Sunlight helps regulate sleep cycles and boosts vitamin D levels, which are often depleted during the darker months. Fresh air, even in small doses, can sharpen focus, reduce stress and improve mood.

There is also something quietly restorative about reconnecting with the rhythms of the natural world. The budding of trees, the return of birds and the gradual greening of lawns and fields serve as reminders that change, even after the harshest stretches, is inevitable. After a winter defined by confinement, that sense of renewal

feels especially meaningful.

Long Island is uniquely suited to take advantage of this seasonal shift. From local neighborhood parks to expansive destinations such as Grant Park in Hewlett, Hempstead Lake State Park in West Hempstead, Eisenhower Park in East Meadow, Marjorie Post Park in Massapequa and Tanner Park in Copiague, there is no shortage of places to stretch your legs and spend time outdoors. Walking paths, ball fields, playgrounds and open green spaces are not just amenities; they are essential parts of community life that come alive again in the spring.

For families, the change in season is an opportunity to reset routines that may have grown stagnant during the colder months. Screen time can give way to outdoor play. Weekends can shift from indoor errands to shared experiences such as picnic, a pickup game or simply time spent exploring a new trail. These moments, often simple and unplanned, are the ones that tend to linger.

For individuals, the benefits are just as significant. Even a brief daily walk can serve as a mental reset, a chance to step away from the demands of work and the constant pull of screens. Outdoor activity has been linked to lower levels of anxiety and depression, improved cardiovascular health and

increased overall energy. And unlike many wellness trends, it requires no special equipment or expense — just the willingness to step outside.

There is also a social dimension to spring that should not be overlooked. As temperatures rise, communities begin to reawaken. Youth sports leagues resume, neighbors linger a little longer in conversation, and public spaces once again become gathering places. After months of isolation, these interactions help rebuild a sense of connection that winter often erodes.

Not just a season, spring is an invitation. It encourages people to be more present, more active and more engaged with their surroundings. It asks us to take advantage of longer days and milder weather, to trade routine for spontaneity and to rediscover the simple pleasure of being outside.

The message, then, is straightforward: step outside. Make plans, but leave room for the unplanned. Visit a park you haven't been to in years. Take a walk after dinner. Sit on a bench and watch a game, or better yet, join one. These small choices add up, shaping not just how we experience the season, but how we feel within it.

After a long winter, the urge to stay inside may still remain. But the better instinct — the healthier one — is to go outside.

**LETTERS****Sunshine Week highlighted freedom of information**

To the Editor:

The editorial "Sunshine week keeps democracy in the light" (March 5-11) was just what our struggling democracy needs — a timely reminder of the importance of open government.

We should all remember that in some parts of the world, governments routinely operate behind closed doors and keep their citizens in the dark about what takes place there. But not here in America, despite the efforts of some in power to block transparency.

A few months from now, when we celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, we will also mark the 60th anniversary of another landmark moment: the signing of the Freedom of Information Act. On July 4, 1966, President Lyndon Johnson signed the act into law at his ranch in Texas. As a result of this legislation, Americans can now access many government records — at federal, state and local levels — that were once unavailable to



## OPINIONS

## Overheated ambition and frozen kids

**W**hen I was a kid, my father used to offer my siblings and me a piece of advice in Portuguese: “*Devagar se vai ao longe*,” which translates roughly to “Move at a steady, sustainable pace to reach your goals.” He warned that if we didn’t, we would eventually trip and fall



**JACK  
MARTINS**

over ourselves. What he meant was simple: Move at a pace that’s realistic. Act within your limits and don’t try to bite off more than you can chew.

That’s just common sense — the kind that everyday working people pass on to their children about how to navigate life.

Unfortunately, that’s often missing in Albany. So, from time to time, I share some of Dad’s wisdom, though I still haven’t quite figured out how to get people to listen.

In June 2024 I published a column titled “Occupy the middle,” in which I proudly pointed out that New York state had achieved one of the smallest carbon footprints in the world despite having

one of the largest economies. But I also warned that some environmental advocates in Albany were aggressively pushing full electrification at a pace that would undoubtedly strain the electric grid and leave residents vulnerable during severe storms.

One of the biggest issues I raised was the state mandate forcing every school district to start switching to electric school buses by 2027. The electric grid could never supply enough power — something officials had already acknowledged. Electric buses are also less reliable in cold weather and have limited range, a serious concern during New York winters. But the biggest problem is cost: Districts are expected to spend billions statewide replacing fleets and building infrastructure, money that will inevitably be diverted from classrooms and students.

Yet here we are with my warnings already being played out. Earlier this winter in Erie County, several electric buses struggled to maintain heat during a cold snap, leaving children in freezing-cold buses, bundled up in coats and hats. The buses’ heating systems drew too much battery power, forcing drivers to

choose between keeping students warm and rationing power to complete their routes. Parents even started putting their kids on the bus with hand warmers. Similar issues occurred in Fayetteville-Manlius, where buses were nearly out of battery power after 40 or 45 miles and heaters had to again be turned off.

What are we doing? The first responsibility of government is to keep people safe, and that means ensuring that kids can get to and from school reliably regardless of the weather. Children should never have faced freezing conditions or be placed at risk of being stranded in a bus drained of power because a few over-zealous advocates demand what they want.

Safety is only part of the concern. The state imposed this mandate without fully funding it, leaving severe financial burdens on districts and taxpayers. The 2022 law requires that, starting in 2027, districts can no longer buy gas-powered buses, and by 2035 all buses must be zero-emission. Electric buses cost roughly \$400,000 versus \$130,000 for diesel, with additional expenses for charging stations, electrical upgrades and garage modifications — potentially add-

ing \$140,000 per bus. Experts estimate the statewide transition could cost \$8 billion to \$15 billion more than diesel replacements.

And where will schools get this money? From you, the taxpayers. Despite repeated delays in key parts of the mandate because local infrastructure isn’t ready, districts must now spend precious dollars on feasibility studies for electrical capacity, charging and depots.

Why are districts being asked to spend taxpayer money for something the state itself keeps postponing? School budgets are limited. Every dollar spent on compliance is a dollar taken from classrooms, student programs and aging facilities. On Long Island, where homeowners already shoulder some of the highest property taxes in the country to support their schools, all of this is a grossly unfair burden.

None of this means New York should abandon cleaner transportation. But big changes need to be made slowly and carefully, with realistic timelines and real support for the districts responsible for implementing them. Good ideas only work when grounded in reality. Or as my father used to say, when you walk slowly, you go far.

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

## LETTERS

them.

Ironically, President Johnson wasn’t a huge fan of FOIA. In a 2005 speech recalling the circumstances leading to the legislation’s becoming law, Bill Moyers, who was Johnson’s press secretary in the 1960s, noted that Johnson had at first resisted signing it.

“He hated the thought of journalists rummaging in government closets and opening government files,” Moyers said in 2005. “He hated them challenging the official view of reality.”

Nevertheless, Johnson signed the bill, largely due to pressure from the press, which supported FOIA, and Congress, which had overwhelmingly supported the legislation. It was an especially sweet victory for John Moss, a Democratic member of the House of Representatives who’d spent 12 years lobbying for greater access to government agency records, and Donald Rumsfeld, a Republican member of the House at the time who supported Moss in the effort.

But the real winners were the American people. It was a victory for democracy, a genuine “We the People” moment. Remember FOIA on July Fourth.

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*If you would like to support this service as an underwriter of next week's ad or join us for choir practice at 6:30 pm on Monday, March 30, please contact the organizers at [easterdawnlencove@gmail.com](mailto:easterdawnlencove@gmail.com)  
This is a rain or shine event. / Este evento es con sol o lluvia.*