



**World Cup
watch parties**
Page 3

A Lasting Tribute to Freedom
Explore the pages filled with signatures
from across our community.
Pages 14 and 15

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Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

Celebrating a milestone

Glen Cove High School Valedictorian Saoirse Fiedor addressed the class of 2026 during its commencement on June 26, reflecting on how far her fellow graduates have come in their academic journeys and looking ahead to the future that awaits them.

Napolitano wins Howard Scholarship

By ROKSANA AMID

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Glen Cove High School senior Benjamin Napolitano has been named the recipient of the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce's 2026 Dr. Glenn Howard Jr. Scholarship, earning the award for an essay exploring how local businesses can better support neurodiverse people through workforce development and inclusion.

The scholarship was presented at a chamber ceremony on June 18 recognizing Napolitano's academic achievements, leadership and community service as he prepares to attend Hofstra University this fall, where he plans to study kinesiology on a pre-med track.

The chamber renamed its scholarship six years ago in honor of the late Dr. Glenn Howard Jr., a principal scientist at Pall Corporation, who served on its board for decades and chaired the scholarship committee.

"Most people don't realize that the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce not only assists our businesses to thrive, but we also support many local non-profits," the group's president, Dr. Maxine Mayreis, said, citing organizations including

Nosh Delivers and Cove Animal Rescue. "For many years, the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce has helped college-bound or trade school-bound graduating seniors with scholarships."

Benji's Essay was insightful and objective, but also came across with heart and soul.

DR. MAXINE MEYREIS
President,
Chamber of
Commerce

Mayreis said that Howard was influential in both the chamber and the broader Glen Cove community. She described him as "a walking encyclopedia" and "an authority on so many different subjects,"

noting his knowledge of bylaws, city government, ordinances, Robert's Rules of Order and molecular biology.

This year's scholarship challenged students to address the role businesses should play in tackling community issues such as sustainability, work-

CONTINUED ON PAGE 8

Senior Center science program engages young and old alike

By ROKSANA AMID

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Young people and seniors gathered at the Glen Cove Senior Center on Tuesday for an afternoon of chemistry, combustion and curiosity as Mad Science of Long Island presented its interactive "Fire and Ice" show.

The free program featured live demonstrations exploring the properties of fire and ice, with experiments that included igniting paper to demonstrate combustion and using dry ice to create thick fog that drifted through the center's cafeteria. Young people volunteered to participate in the interactive show, in which they used

hair dryers to levitate Ping-Pong balls while parents, grandparents and senior center members watched.

The event was part of the facility's ongoing effort to offer intergenerational programming to connect older adults with younger generations.

"We really make a point of providing several intergenerational activities so that members of all ages can enjoy our programming," Eric Shuman, the center's activities coordinator, said.

Shuman added that grandparents are encouraged to bring their grandchildren to the center for the programs, which introduces younger families to its services. "These intergenerational

CONTINUED ON PAGE 5

NEWS BRIEFS



Courtesy Gaitley Stevenson Mathews

Glen Cove Mayor Pam Panzenbeck, far right, administers the oath of office to the 2026-27 Tribute and Honor Foundation Board of Directors. Pictured, from left, are Christina Abbondandolo, Janice LaRocca, Koorosh Leibowitz, Lydia Wen Rodgers, Treasurer Thomas Bunger, Secretary Angelina Stanco-Stone, Vice President Harold Bollaci and President Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews.

Foundation has new board members

Tribute and Honor Foundation’s Board of Directors were officially sworn into office during the organization’s June board meeting in a ceremony officiated by Glen Cove Mayor Pam Panzenbeck.

The ceremony also marked the appointment of two new members to the board. Janice LaRocca was sworn in as outreach and records officer, while Christina Abbondandolo was

named digital communications officer.

Founded in December 2021, the Tribute and Honor Foundation supports veterans and military families through a variety of initiatives, including the Ben Farnan Scholarship Program, its annual awards program and partnerships designed to honor military service while strengthening communities across Long Island.

—Roksana Amid



Courtesy Glen Cove City School District

Deasy Elementary School second graders Dillan Gonzalez, Isaac Abraham and Malek Mesbah with, Nicole Crumlich, after winning first place at the First In Math Statewide Elementary Mathematics Tournament in Albany.

Another year of wins for Deasy school

Second graders from Deasy Elementary School captured first place in the First In Math Statewide Elementary Mathematics Tournament in Albany. The winning team — Dillan Gonzalez, Isaac Abraham and Malek Mesbah — topped the field of 240 students representing 10 regions across New York after advancing as regional champions last month.

The victory marks another mile-

stone for the Glen Cove City School District, whose students have qualified for the state tournament in each of the competition’s four years. This year, however, Deasy students finished atop the statewide field.

The First In Math tournament challenges students to solve fast-paced math problems under pressure by using numbers on rotating wheels.

—Roksana Amid

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Roksana Amid/Herald photos

The Glen Cove community gathered with blankets and chairs to watch the FIFA world cup.

Next FIFA watch party in Village Square

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

Before the June 27 matchup between Portugal and Colombia, families gathered at Pascucci Field for the Glen Cove Junior Soccer League's annual coaches game, kicking off another evening of FIFA World Cup festivities as part of the league's community watch party series.

The watch parties, organized by the Glen Cove Junior Soccer League in partnership with the city's Department of Parks and Recreation and the Long Island Motion Picture Arts Center and Museum, combine live World Cup broadcasts with food, raffles, music and family activities. One final watch party is scheduled for the World Cup championship match on July 19 in Village Square.

For Brett Newman, the Glen Cove Junior Soccer League's second vice president, the series is about giving back to the community that has supported youth soccer in the city.

"It's really a way to give back to the families in the community as a thank-you for supporting the league and always signing their kids up," Newman said.

The Junior Soccer League serves between 700 and 800 players each season. About 250 to 300 compete on travel teams, while the remainder participate in intramural programs. Children begin playing as young as 3, while travel teams include players through their late teens.

Newman said the World Cup provides a unique opportunity to bring families together around a sport that is deeply rooted in the community.

"The World Cup comes around every four years," he said. "To be a part of it



The game was projected on a 30-foot screen.

in this country, who knows when we'll see that again?"

The June 27 event featured the league's annual coaches game before Portugal took on Colombia in World Cup group-stage action. Families gathered throughout the evening as children played soccer and volunteers prepared for the broadcast.

League President James M. Greenberg said Newman first proposed the idea for the community watch parties.

"I said it was a great idea, and let's figure out how to put it together," Greenberg said.

The partnership also includes the city's Department of Parks and Recreation, which has assisted with promotion, staffing and logistics, and the Long Island Motion Picture Arts Center and Museum, which is providing the projec-

tion screen.

"We're helping advertise it," Parks and Recreation Director Spiro Tsirkas said. "We're providing the labor and helping with whatever junior soccer needs to have successful events."

While the city has hosted outdoor movie nights in the past, Tsirkas said broadcasting a live sporting event is something new.

"A live sporting event is the first time that I can think of that it has been done," he said. "I think it's good camaraderie for the community, getting everyone out and everyone just being together for happy times."

For Newman, the watch parties are about more than soccer.

"This is the biggest sport in the entire world," he said. "We have so many different people from so many dif-



Brett Newman, second vice president of the Glen Cove Junior Soccer League, spent time watching the FIFA World Cup game with his daughter Sariah.

ferent countries in Glen Cove. This is an event where people can really root for their country."

He said the league hopes the series continues to strengthen the sense of community that already exists through youth soccer.

"Anywhere you go in Glen Cove, there's always kids playing soccer," Newman said. "We wanted to do something a little different — bring everyone together and have everyone enjoy it."

The final FIFA World Cup watch party is scheduled for July 19 in Village Square, where the championship match will be shown.

NEWS BRIEF



Herald file photo

The Class of 1976 from Glen Cove High School will celebrate its 50th reunion on Friday, Aug. 1, from 7 p.m. to midnight at The Metropolitan.

Class of 1976 reunion will be held Aug. 1

The Class of 1976 from Glen Cove High School will celebrate its 50th reunion on Friday, Aug. 1, from 7 p.m. to midnight at The Metropolitan.

Organizers said the reunion will offer classmates an opportunity to reconnect with former friends, share memories of their time at Glen Cove High School and celebrate their shared history.

Organizers noted that the reunion is open to classmates and guests, with additional details available through event coordinators.

For more information or to RSVP, alumni may contact organizers at ibeli-

fore@gmail.com or MontauK41@hotmail.com.

The event highlights a longstanding tradition of class reunions that continue to bring together generations of Glen Cove graduates, strengthening community ties and celebrating the school's history.

Built in 1962, the high school sits on 50 acres of land. The district has roughly 3,000 students enrolled in classes. Prior to 1962, the Robert M. Finley Middle School served as the high school.

—Roksana Amid

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The Scourge of Ageism

Your writer was surprised by the findings of ageism expert Becca Levy, in her book “Breaking the Age Code” — that your beliefs about aging determine how long and well you live. Why do the Japanese live longer and enjoy old age so much more than us? They simply treat old age as something to enjoy, and they are respected by others. For similar reasons, the rate of dementia in India is five times less than here. In America, the media and the “youthfulness industry” treat aging as something to be feared and resented, like some sort of dreaded disease. Age beliefs, it turns out, add or steal nearly eight years to your life. Our culture sets up scripts that we subconsciously act out. The prevailing negative age stereotypes in our culture don’t just color how others act towards older adults, it greatly affects how they see themselves and how they act. In other words, your aging beliefs impact your health psychologically, biologically and behaviorally. People with negative age

beliefs suffer from lower self-esteem, take fewer prescribed medications and exercise less, creating a self-fulfilling prophecy.

The medical profession gets called out for its failure to treat many conditions in older adults that they would readily treat in younger persons. When an 85 year old was told by his doctor that his ailing knee was normal for an 85 year old, the patient replied, “But my other knee is 85 years old too, and it doesn’t hurt one bit.”

The concept that life is worth living, that we have purpose and are useful makes a huge difference in longevity — including making us more likely to engage in healthy behaviors — and contributes to a “compression of morbidity” or the number of unhealthy years. Ageism is a dated prejudice that is ripe for elimination. It no longer reflects the reality of aging today. It is important for older adults to “flip the script” since, as Carl Jung observed, “Until you make the unconscious conscious, it will direct your life and you will call it fate.”

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THE GREAT BOOK GURU

Small Kindnesses

Dear Great Book Guru,
While preparing with friends for Sea Cliff’s many celebrations of the country’s 250th birthday, I heard about a new book by a favorite author, Elizabeth Strout. Everyone was singing its praises - your thoughts?

Fan of the Fourth



**ANN
DIPIETRO**

Dear Fan of the Fourth,

“The Things We Never Say” by Elizabeth Strout is indeed a wonderful book and a perfect read for any time of year. Just 208 pages, this beautifully crafted book captures so much of the mysteries of human existence.

Art Dam is a 57-year-old high school history teacher. His best friend has just moved across the country, his adult son seems coldly distant, his wife is preoccupied, and the gatherings he attends are filled with superficial chatter. A

highly esteemed teacher and respected by everyone, he expands the minds of his students, prevents classroom cruelties, and has a kind word for all he meets.

Despite all this, he is extraordinarily lonely and when the book opens, he is in a state of great despair. How can we know so little about one another - even those closest to us, is every man an island - he asks. Throughout the book, we meet, ever so briefly, characters that he impacts and impact him.

Small kindnesses are shown to have tremendous repercussions, so that at the end we realize Strout has given us, in Art, a guide to living a good life. Highly recommended!

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

CRIME WATCH ARRESTS

■ Police Officer O’Neill arrested a 35-year-old Clifton, N.J., man on June 19 and charged him with aggravated unlicensed operation, failure to obey a traffic control device, operating an unregistered vehicle, unsafe lane change, failure to signal and obstructed view on Charles Street.

■ Police Officer Fernandez arrested a 41-year-old Ozone Park man on June 20 and charged him with assault on Bridge Street.

■ Police Officer Phil Grella arrested

a 41-year-old woman on June 25 and charged her with criminal possession of a weapon, unlawful imprisonment, obstructing governmental administration, endangering the welfare of a child and menacing on Putnam Avenue.

■ Police Officer Phil Grella arrested a 46-year-old Glen Cove man on June 26 and charged him with criminal possession of a weapon, unlawful imprisonment, endangering the welfare of a child and menacing on Putnam Avenue.

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

GLEN COVE

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6 L.I. Choice Awards celebrate local success

July 2, 2026 — GLEN COVE HERALD

By MAUREEN FITZGERALD

Presented once again by PSEG Long Island, the fifth annual Herald Long Island Choice Awards Gala has quickly become one of the region's signature contests and business recognition events. The program brings together hundreds of businesses and organizations across categories spanning dining, healthcare, home services, wellness, professional services, retail, entertainment and more.

Hosted by RichnerLIVE on May 19 at the Crest Hollow Country Club, the evening featured a cocktail reception, networking, dinner and the highly anticipated live winner reveal — with honorees learning their placements in real time throughout the evening. From the moment guests stepped into cocktail hour, the atmosphere carried an unmistakable buzz as finalists mingled and snapped photos in front of the glowing LI Choice Awards LED sign.

The applause erupted repeatedly as winners crossed the stage to accept their awards, with cheers echoing throughout the packed ballroom.

For many attendees, the evening represented more than just an awards gala; it was a celebration of resilience, growth and community recognition after years spent building businesses across Nassau and Suffolk counties.

"This evening is about celebrating the people and businesses that make our communities special," said Stuart Richner, publisher of the Herald and CEO of Richner Communications, during opening remarks. "It is the people in this room that are the economic engines of our communities."

This year's continued partnership with PSEG Long Island also reinforced the utility's longstanding focus on supporting the region's small business community through its Business First advocate programs, which provide guidance, energy efficiency resources and rebate opportunities to help local businesses grow and operate more sustainably. The utility company — ranked No. 1 by J. D. Power in business customer satisfaction — has granted over \$3.5 million to help businesses lower operating costs, improve sustainability, and create jobs.

"Small businesses are the backbone of our communities," said Veronica Isaac, Senior Manager Customer and Community Partnerships, during the evening's program. "Without your hard work, we would not have so many thriving downtown districts and beyond here on Long Island. Investing in and promoting small businesses will power the future of Long Island."

The event also underscored how the LI Choice Awards has evolved beyond recognition. Drawing hundreds of thousands of votes across the region during the months-long public voting campaign, the program has become a platform that strengthens visibility for local businesses while fostering new partnerships and meaningful connections across industries. For many of



Photos by Tim Baker/Melissa Baptiste/Michael Rechter

A beautiful poolside setting provided the perfect backdrop for an evening of networking and celebration.



Proud sponsor PSEG Long Island was represented by Matt Connors, left, Andrew Cacioppo, Jordan Isaac, Veronica Isaac, Krista Kester, Sean Galvis, and Amy Di Leo.

the evening's winners, the recognition has translated into tangible business growth, customer trust and lasting community credibility.

"Winning the Long Island Choice Award five years in a row for Best Auto Repair Shop, has been incredibly rewarding for our business. Because the award is voted on by the public, it means a great deal to know our customers continue to support and believe in us," shared Kevin Killelea,

owner of Rockville Centre Auto Repair.

"The recognition has helped our business grow and flourish, while reinforcing the trust and reputation we've worked hard to build within the community."

Sharing the same five-year milestone win, the Theralympic Speech Therapy team celebrated by extending "A huge thank you to our wonderful clients for believing in us, and to our

dedicated team for the care, passion, and heart you bring every single day. We couldn't do this without you!!"

"Winning the past few years is especially meaningful because it reflects the trust our patients place in us every day," said Dr. Howard Goodman, Long Island Weight Loss Doctor.

This year's winners and finalists can be found in the LI Herald 2026 LI Choice Winners Guide and online at LIChoiceawards.com.



The winning team at Ackerman Law PLLC celebrates their victory.

Photos by Tim Baker/Melissa Baptiste/Michael Rechter



All Island Home Renovation Owners Paul Apostolou and John Psyllos savor their multiple category wins.



Laura D'Amato, second from right, and Apple Bank's team members bring home the win.



The team at Discover Long Island, a proud supporting partner.



PSEG attendees Krista Kester and Sean Galvis enjoy cocktail hour poolside.



Dr. Ryan Sugarman, of Memorial Sloan Kettering, second from left, accepts his award.



All Island Home Renovation owners celebrate their victorious night with their guests.



A winning celebration for LuxeSwap President and Founder Matthew Ruiz, joined by a guest.

8 He's looking for solutions to city's needs

July 2, 2026 — GLEN COVE HERALD

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

force development, housing, transportation and inclusivity while proposing solutions for Glen Cove.

In his essay, Napolitano wrote that local businesses could play a greater role in employing neurodiverse people, particularly those with autism, ADHD and other disabilities. He proposed partnerships between businesses and local government to develop workforce training initiatives for neurodiverse residents while also educating employers on how to create more inclusive workplaces.

"Everyone wants to feel that they are good at something and feel productive," Napolitano, 18, wrote. "That is the same for neurodiverse people, but they don't have the opportunities that neurotypical people have to achieve these goals."

He also noted existing partnerships between businesses and nonprofits serving people with disabilities as models Glen Cove could emulate.

Mayreis said that Napolitano's submission distinguished itself from the other entries. "Benji's essay was insightful and objective, but also came across with heart and soul," she said. "Reading his essay was beautiful. He has his grasp on the issue of neurodiversity."

Napolitano said his decision to pursue kinesiology grew out of opportunities he had at Glen Cove High, and he credited the school's faculty and administrators.



Courtesy Cliff Krauter

Benjamin Napolitano, center left, recipient of the 2026 Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce Dr. Glenn Howard Jr. Scholarship, was joined by Glen Cove High Principal Allen Hudson, on his right, chamber President Dr. Maxine Mayreis, on his left, and family members and chamber officials at the scholarship presentation on June 18.

"I wouldn't have gotten nearly as far without the support of all the administrators and all my teachers and all the love and patience — and certainly patience — they've had with me," he said.

Mayreis highlighted Napolitano's extensive accomplishments, including

ranking seventh in his graduating class, serving as president of the Kiwanis Key Club and vice president of DECA, competing in varsity tennis and wrestling, taking part in multiple honor societies and completing 855 hours of community service. She recalled meeting him when he volunteered at a chamber family fes-

tival at Garvies Point.

"I was impressed with his energy and his initiative in helping to run an event," Mayreis recounted. "He would see, and he would do, automatically jumping in to help with confidence and heart and humor."

Glen Cove High Principal Allen Hudson said that Napolitano has consistently demonstrated leadership and character. "I have nothing but positive things to say about him," Hudson said. "His work ethic, he's super intelligent ... He epitomizes what a G.C. Knight is."

District Superintendent Alexa Doeschner said that Napolitano's commitment to community service distinguished him even among other high-achieving students. "As a high-performing and high-achieving student, you don't have to do that," Doeschner said. "You can just settle for doing a minimum of community hours or community service hours, but he goes above and beyond."

Although selecting a scholarship recipient was difficult, Mayreis said, Napolitano's essay ultimately made the decision clear. "You know, it's not so easy to choose a winner," she told him at the ceremony. "But when we receive a beautiful assortment, [and] when an essay jumps off the screen and into your heart, then the winner is evident. ... I'll tell you, Dr. Howard will be very proud of you."

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All concerts are subject to change.



Photos courtesy Glen Cove City School District

Members of the Glen Cove High School Class of 2026 smile together following the commencement ceremony on June 26.

Class of 2026 looks forward to the future

The Glen Cove City School District celebrated the graduation of the Glen Cove High School Class of 2026 during its commencement ceremony on June 26, honoring students for their academic achievements and accomplishments while marking the beginning of a new chapter in their lives. The ceremony featured musical performances by the Glen Cove High School Band, Concert Choir and Orchestra, remarks from Principal Allen Hudson III, Superintendent Alexa Doeschner and Board of Educa-

tion President Angela Raimo, as well as addresses from valedictorian Saoirse Fiedor, salutatorian Peyton Angalet and honorarian Ella Wohltmann. Senior Class President Ryan Martino also addressed his classmates before graduates received their diplomas and participated in the traditional turning of the tassel, officially celebrating the completion of their high school journey surrounded by family, friends, faculty and the community.

—Roksana Amid



Graduates of the Glen Cove High School Class of 2026 listen to commencement speeches as they await the presentation of diplomas during the June 26 graduation ceremony.



Principal Allen Hudson III and Superintendent Alexa Doeschner smile and applaud as members of the Glen Cove High School Class of 2026 are recognized during commencement ceremonies on June 26.



Members of the Glen Cove High School band perform during the June 26 commencement ceremony, filling the celebration with music as the Class of 2026 marks its graduation.



Students in the Glen Cove High School Class of 2026 applaud during the commencement ceremony on June 26.

LONG ISLAND'S 2026 STAYCATION GUIDE

11

GLEN COVE HERALD – July 2, 2026

Celebrate America's 250th at the Cradle of Aviation Museum!



2026 Summer Bucket List

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AMERICA 250

For America's 250th, looking back on service

By **ANDREW FRANCIS**

afrancis@liherald.com

During the 250 years of its existence, the United States has experienced many domestic and global triumphs in large part due to the sacrifices and contributions of the millions of individuals who served in the military in various capacities.

In recognition of the ongoing service active-duty military members and veterans have offered this nation, several Long Island veterans shared their reflections on their service and what the celebration of the country's 250th anniversary signifies to them.

Bill Morris, North Bellmore

Morris served in U.S. Army from 1962 to 1965, and was stationed in Arlington, Virginia, as a part of the Old Guard that watches over the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier in Arlington National Cemetery. The memorial serves as a symbolic resting place for the many soldiers who died and whose remains were unidentifiable due to the state of the body, poor record keeping or technological limitations of the time.

He expressed that it was an honor to be a part of the Old Guard and serving the country in a unique way. In addition to guarding the tomb, he was a part of different ceremonies at the White House and parades at the Washington Monument.

Morris also was a part of former U.S. President John F. Kennedy's funeral in 1963 when JFK was assassinated in Dallas. When asked about what America 250 signifies to him, he reflected on how much history he had been a part of.

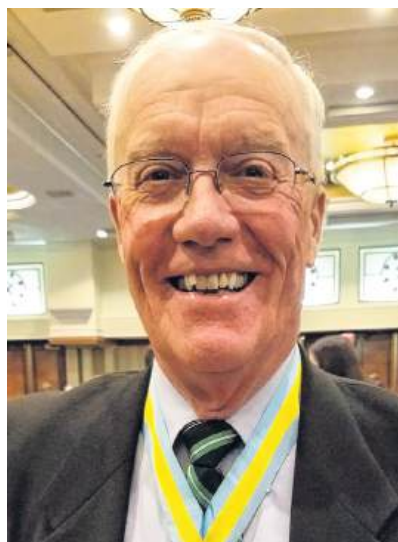
— **BILL MORRIS**

"It signifies that I'm getting old, because I remember the 200th anniversary," he joked. "(The 250th) anniversary just shows that the country, despite all of our differences, goes on and we celebrate our heritage and we celebrate our victories."



Photos courtesy Bill Morris

Bill Morris said he's been "honored" to have participated in several emotional ceremonies, including the funeral of President John F. Kennedy.



Bill Morris has received several recognitions and awards for his service in the Old Guard.

Morris added that he hopes to see the U.S. government provide additional support for the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs and encourages the country to care more for veterans.

"There's way too many veterans on the street," he said. "Too many on drugs. They need more care, they need more mental health (resources), they need more benefits. And I know the Veterans Affairs are trying to do that."

Lomonaco Angelo, Lynbrook

Angelo, a U.S. Navy veteran who served from 1951 to 1955, also worked as a New York City police



Courtesy Marie Carmel Houanche

Marie Carmel Houanche worked as a nurse in the U.S. Army for 20 years before serving as an American Legion chaplain.



Deliah Roberts/Herald

Herald reporter Andrew Francis with U.S. veteran Marie Carmel Houanche at the 2026 Freeport Memorial Day Ceremony at Freeport High School.

officer for 20 years. He said that the nation's 250th birthday is "meaningful" and he also hopes to see the legacy of veterans honored better.

"People, don't forget the veterans," he asks, mentioning "the different eras to World War II, Korean War, Vietnam War, until the present."

Angelo does his part to try to honor fellow veterans by volunteering at the New York State Veterans Home in St. Albans.

Marie Carmel Houanche, Freeport

Houanche was a nurse in the U.S. Army for 20 years being sta-

tioned in Houston, Texas and other areas of the country. Despite retiring from the military in 2011, she has remained tied to it by serving as chaplain at the American Legion's William Clinton Story Post No. 342 in Freeport.

Despite having not been a typical soldier, Houanche said that her experiences were transformative since she was required to still meet the same physical fitness requirements that regular soldiers met. She also learned how to speak French, Korean, French, Creole, Spanish, English and a bit of Russian throughout her life of service. Houanche said that America's 250th anniversary is both a celebration of progress and independence.

"The reason that we celebrate the 250th anniversary is because we have our freedom and independence, and if it wasn't for the military, all the different branches working together, we wouldn't be free today."

Stephen Nicolino, Freeport

Nicolino, who recently celebrated his 94th birthday, was a U.S. Air Force traffic controller from 1952 to 1956. After graduating from high school, the same day as the Korean War started, he reported to basic training at the now closed Sampson Air Force Base in Seneca Lake, New York, and went on to be stationed at bases in Massachusetts and England. Following his service, he went on to graduate from Hofstra University with a degree in business administration. When asked about America 250, he said that he and his family have loved the U.S. for over a century.

"My parents came from Italy in 1921 and never looked back," Nicolino said. "He became a citizen within five years of being here in the United States."

Nicolino's family ties to service and patriotism extends to his brother Benedetto Nicolino, who was a Suffolk County police officer in the 1950s and 1960s who would become the first Long Island police officer with a K-9 dog.

There's way too many veterans on the street. They need more care, more mental health resources and more benefits.

— **BILL MORRIS**

AMERICA 250

Inspirational drawings from our youngest readers



Nathalie M. 4th G California Ave. School



Anjali B. 5th G James Verron Elementary



Izan M. 4th G California Ave. School



Ryan L. 7th G West Babylon Jr. High



Noelia A. 4th G California Ave. School



Zarah V. 7th G West Babylon Jr. High



Jackson R. 6th G West Babylon Jr. High



Jake M. 4th G California Ave. School



Jeisel C. 4th G California Ave. School



Joanna C. 4th G California Ave. School



Lilly L. 6th G West Babylon Jr. High



Elif V. 6th G West Babylon Jr. High



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AMERICA 250

Veterans reflect on service, role in American history

By HUNTER FENOLLLOL

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Joe Gaeta remembers spotting mines off Normandy

When Joe Gaeta looks at the American flag today, the feeling is simple.

"I'm proud of myself," he said.

The Wantagh resident turned 99 on March 9, making him one of the last surviving members of the generation that fought and served during World War II. More than eight decades after helping support the Allied invasion of Normandy, Gaeta still carries memories of the war — and of the unlikely journey that took him there.

Gaeta grew up in the Ravenswood section of Long Island City during the Great Depression. Life was difficult. His family of five lived in a one-bedroom apartment, and there was no refrigerator, only an icebox, filled with blocks of ice delivered to the neighborhood.

"We didn't have heat," he recalled. "We had kerosene, and all our clothes stunk of kerosene."

His parents worked at a local cigar company, as did many of their neighbors. Gaeta attended P.S. 83 but never went to high school. Instead, he entered the workforce and later became a laborer in construction.

At 17, with many of his older friends already serving, Gaeta decided he wanted to enlist.

"All my friends were gone," he said. "I told my father I wanted to go."

His parents were not thrilled by the decision, but they signed the paperwork, allowing him to join the U.S. Navy.

Gaeta served aboard a ship that transported troops to Normandy during the D-Day campaign. While thousands of soldiers stormed the beaches, he spent much of his time below deck in the engine room, making sure gauges and equipment were functioning properly.

"I didn't see nothing," he said with a laugh. "I was in the engine room."

But he certainly heard the battle. During breaks, the sounds of gunfire and explosions echoed around the ship. After the invasion, his vessel helped recover American soldiers from the water.

"We picked up a lot of dead bodies," he recalled quietly. "I was 17-years-old."

Gaeta was among the youngest men aboard his ship. While many of the sailors around him worried about wives and children back home, the teenager's concerns were much different.



Courtesy Joe Gaeta

World War II veteran Joe Gaeta remembers his military service with pride.

"A lot of guys had families," he recalled. "Me, I'm 17-years-old. I'm talking about the Yankees and the Giants."

Decades later, he still remembers viewing the war through the eyes of a teenager.

"To me, it was a great adventure," he said. "It really didn't dawn on me until I was about 21 what I did."

To me, it was a great adventure. It really didn't dawn on me until I was about 21 what I did.

— JOE GAETA

One of Gaeta's most important contributions came because of his exceptional eyesight. Navy officials recognized his ability to see long distances and frequently assigned him to the crow's nest whenever the ship entered dangerous waters.

Twice, he spotted enemy mines.

The discoveries allowed naval crews to destroy the mines and alter the routes of ships following behind, helping protect countless service members.

"They made all the ships behind us take a different route," Gaeta said proudly.

For his efforts, he received a reward that still makes him smile more than 80 years later: a day off and a steak dinner with the ship's chef.

"They made a big deal out of me," he said.

After the war, Gaeta returned home to a difficult job market as thousands of veterans searched for work. He found a path into the bricklayer's union and built a career in the trades.

Today, he remains active with veter-

an's organizations, including AMVETS and the Veterans of Foreign Wars. During local parades, he often rides at the front.

"I'm the only World War II veteran," he said. "When I walk in there, they make a big deal out of me."

For Gaeta, service was never about recognition. But he hopes younger generations appreciate the sacrifices made by those who wore the uniform.

"You're giving your life for your country," he said. "It's not something everybody does."

Seaford Legion leader on service, sacrifice after 9/11 return to duty

For David VanderWerf, military service wasn't a single chapter in his life — it was something he returned to when the country called again.

VanderWerf, adjutant of Edwin Welsh Jr. American Legion Post 1132 in Seaford and first division commander in the Nassau County American Legion, first enlisted at 17 in the National Guard and Reserve. But after the Sept. 11 attacks, he found himself drawn back to active duty.

"The impetus behind joining the regular Army was 9/11," he said.

Raised in Glen Rock, N.J., VanderWerf said his interest in the military began early through a love of history and military simulation games with his father. Family members also served, including an uncle who flew bombing missions in World War II and another who spent decades in the Army Reserve.

After reentering service in 2003, VanderWerf deployed to South Korea.

where he spent nearly three years stationed near the Demilitarized Zone. There, he worked in combat arms on M1 Abrams tanks, serving as a driver, loader, gunner and briefly a tank commander.

A typical day, he said, began with physical training before long hours maintaining and repairing tanks in the motor pool. But the job also came with moments of high tension. He recalled monthly alerts simulating a potential North Korean attack, including one during the period when North Korea conducted its first nuclear test.

"We didn't know why we were on alert at the time," he said. "We were just ready."

He also remembers the heavy responsibility of training soldiers who were later deployed to Iraq, some of whom were injured or killed in combat.

Despite those experiences, VanderWerf said morale among troops remained strong, grounded in camaraderie and shared purpose.

Today, VanderWerf has continued that sense of service through the American Legion, where he helps veterans navigate benefits, assists with community programs and participates in military funeral honors.

"Veterans and their families sacrificed a lot," he said. "Freedom's not free."

For VanderWerf, the transition back to civilian life led him into leadership roles in restaurants and, later, continued community service on Long Island. But he said the core lesson of his military experience remains the same: service does not end when the uniform comes off.

Wantagh honors Revolutionary War patriot Thomas Jackson

As Wantagh residents gathered to honor veterans this Memorial Day, one of the community's earliest patriots was remembered once again: Thomas Jackson, a Revolutionary War soldier whose roots run deep in the history of the hamlet.

Born on Dec. 24, 1754, in a house that once stood near present-day Jones Avenue, Jackson became an active supporter of the American cause during the fight for independence. Historical records show that he signed Queens County's "Petition of Association" on Jan. 19, 1776 — a local declaration of support for the colonies' break from British rule.

Jackson served as a private in the 4th Regiment of New York troops and helped defend local interests during the Revolutionary War. On Aug. 13, 1776, he received bounty funds for men assigned to protect livestock in Queens County before the Battle of Long Island, preventing supplies from falling into Brit-

Continued on page 17

AMERICA 250

For generations of heroes, anniversary offers time to reflect

Continued from page 00

ish hands. He also participated in the capture of Fort St. George in 1780.

Following the war, Jackson remained a prominent local resident. In 1803, he built a large home in what is now Wantagh.

Jackson died on Nov. 29, 1842, and is buried in the Jackson Cemetery on Wantagh Avenue. More than 180 years later, his grave continues to serve as a reminder of Wantagh's connection to the nation's founding and the sacrifices made by its earliest patriots.

Reflecting on service during 'forgotten war'

For Anthony Heckl, memories of military service stretch back more than seven decades, but some moments remain as clear as ever.

Heckl, a longtime Seaford resident and member of the Edwin Welsh Jr. American Legion Post 1132, served in the U.S. Army from 1951 to 1953 during the Korean War. Though he was only 19 when he enlisted, the experience left a lasting impression.

"I was 19 when I went in and 22 when I came out," Heckl said.

A native of Manhattan, Heckl said his path into military service began almost by accident. During a New Year's Eve gathering in 1950, a friend in the National Guard challenged him to enlist. Two days later, Heckl and another friend signed up.

His service took him from California to Korea and later Japan. Assigned to a construction engineer unit, he worked in supply, helping ensure soldiers had the equipment and clothing they needed.

The memory that stayed with him most was not the military work itself, but the devastation he witnessed in Korea.

"When I got there, it was the poverty and the devastation," Heckl recalled. "It made me wonder what it's all about. Why war?"

Korea's harsh winters presented another challenge. Heckl remembered shortages of winter clothing and boots, making it difficult to keep troops supplied during the bitter cold.

One of his proudest accomplishments was helping make sure soldiers in his company had the gear they needed.

"We were trying to keep the troops in clothing," he said.

Not every memory was difficult. Heckl fondly recalled helping build a 250-bed hospital in the city of Taegu. When the project was completed, he and his fellow soldiers were thanked by the nurses.

"At the end of it, all the nurses kissed us," he said with a laugh.

Returning home after the war was not always easy. Unlike veterans of other conflicts, many Korean War veterans felt their service received little public recognition.

"At least the Vietnam veterans got cursed at," Heckl joked. "They didn't even know I was gone."

Today, after more than 60 years on Long Island, Heckl remains active with the Seaford American Legion, where he continues to honor the friendships, service and sacrifices that defined his generation.

Grand marshals honor their Revolutionary War ancestors

By ANDREW FRANCIS

afrancis@liherald.com

Laura Smith and Stacey Rose, whose ancestors have served in the U.S. military since the Revolutionary War, were named the co-grand marshals of the Village of Freeport's Memorial Day Parade. Despite the parade being cancelled due to rain, the pair were honored during an indoor ceremony.

I'm just proud to know that I'm part of these courageous people's bloodline, and it informs me.

STACEY ROSE
Co-grand marshal,
Freeport Memorial
Day Parade

Adam Smith joined patriotic brigades along the Long Island's North Shore at 44 years-old, while Raynor was only 20 when he joined the fight for American independence.

Laura Smith said that she was tremendously honored by the invitation to be one of the grand marshals, and hoped that the values her family, and so many others, have fought for are maintained today.

"These guys kind of bucked a trend, since it was very loyalist around here on the South Shore," she said, referring to

Smith is an attorney who lives in Seaford and has many ties to Freeport, including owning a home in the village. She is a descendant of Revolutionary era figures Adam Smith and Benjamin Raynor, the latter the namesake of Raynortown, which eventually became Freeport.

Adam Smith joined patriotic brigades along



Deliah Roberts/Herald

Stacey Rose, left, and Laura Smith, right, the two grand marshals for the parade, with Marie Carmel Houanche, chaplain of American Legion William Clinton Story Post 342.



Andrew Francis/Herald

Despite the rain, Phillip Matragas, Mayor Robert Kennedy and Laura Smith were still able to briefly enjoy riding in a Mustang convertible after the Memorial Day ceremony.

Smith and Raynor. "It was kind of a dangerous thing to do, and certainly unpopular that they did go against the tide."

Smith also added that the legacies of

her ancestors inspire her to want to see the values of independence and fair representation upheld in today's America.

"The government should be behold-

en to the people and should adhere to what it is that the people want, and not to forget that it's for the people of the country," she said. "Some people, they seem to be forgetting that."

Rose, who has lived in Freeport for 40 years, is a substitute teacher at John W. Dodd Middle School, also in the village. She is a descendant of Benjamin Lattimore Sr., an enslaved Black man who was freed and later served in continental armies in New York during the Revolutionary War.

Lattimore's descendants leading up to Rose have been very involved military service, abolitionist movements and civil rights. She speaks highly of the inspiration that her relatives provide and boldly works with her family to honor their legacy through publicly discussing the harsh treatments that Black U.S. service members and citizens often faced during the past 250 years.

"There's a lot of Black American's who have served in various capacities," Rose said. "(President George) Washington didn't want us in the military, but we were losing."

Despite the wounds of persistent racism, Rose added she is honored to "give voice to my ancestors and give voice to everyone who served and continues to serve."

"I'm just proud to know that I'm part of these courageous people's bloodline, and it informs me," Rose said during the Freeport ceremony. "It informs me the work is not over. Democracy is always a work in progress, a fragile idea. Today's patriots are those who give military service for our country. ... Our 250th anniversary is a time to reflect and think about the sacrifice of those who are no longer with us."



AMERICA 250

Look into the future

Name Hannah N.

Writing About America's Future

Complete the author/illustrator page to explain what you think America will be like on its 300th birthday!



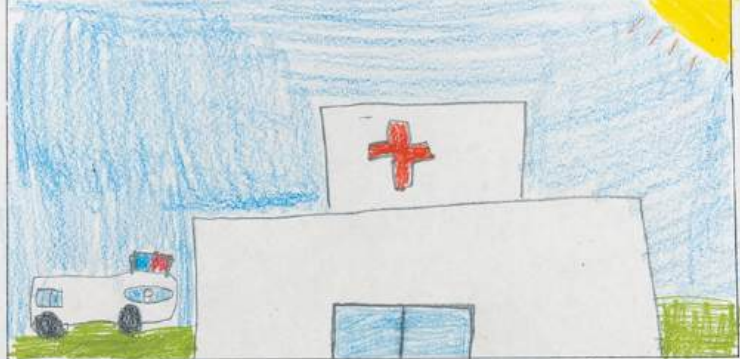
On the America's 300th birthday
I hope there will be
flying cars, and robots that
will help you with everything.

Hannah N. Birch Elementary School

Name Maddy Kahn Birch School Grade 4

Writing About America's Future

Complete the author/illustrator page to explain what you think America will be like on its 300th birthday!



We Will find
A Cure to Cancer so
no one gets it again.

Maddy K. Birch Elementary School

Name Julianna Marsicano Grade 4 Birch School

Writing About America's Future

Complete the author/illustrator page to explain what you think America will be like on its 300th birthday!



I predict that there
would be robot teachers,
Principal/Assistant principal,
and Gym teachers.

Julianna M. Birch Elementary School

Name Samuel Gabai

Writing About America's Future

Complete the author/illustrator page to explain what you think America will be like on its 300th birthday!



I think we will
learn how to get
to Mars.

Samuel G. Birch Elementary School

STEPPING OUT



Photos courtesy LICM

Imagination takes shape in foam and color as children build within the Long Island Children's Museum's "Red, White & Blue Blocks" exhibit.

Block party

The nation's story comes to life at L.I. Children's Museum

By Abbey Salvemini

Excitement is building as we head into Fourth of July weekend. All ages can find meaning and inspiration in this milestone 250th anniversary: even play takes on a patriotic twist. Long Island Children's Museum provides young visitors a hands-on way to connect with America's story as only kids can — by building and imagining. Through creativity and play, children can explore the country's landscapes, wildlife and enduring symbols that are found in the museum's "Red, White & Blue Blocks" exhibition.

At its core, the exhibit, which runs through Sept. 6, is built around a concept children readily understand. For Aimee Terzulli, the museum's vice president of program and visitor experience, the best way to introduce young visitors to the 250th anniversary was to frame it as a birthday celebration — one on a truly grand scale.

"Birthdays are such a big part of what kids love," Terzulli says. "We wanted to recognize and really lean into the celebration."

The exhibit features large blue foam building blocks paired with red, white and blue accessories that encourage open-ended creativity. Inspired by the stars and stripes of the American flag, block building lets kids imagine what futures they will build together.

Throughout the first floor gallery space, prompts invite families to build birthday cakes, create monuments and design perches for bald eagles, our national bird.

The museum also incorporated an environmental and geographic component by highlighting animals native to the United States.

Large murals showcase species including buffalo, elk, mountain goats, beavers and alligators, while children can use animal puppets and blocks to create habitats inspired by each creature's natural environment.

"This country is just so beautiful," Terzulli says. "There are so many environmental aesthetics and animals that are indigenous just to America."

Everyone is encouraged to study the murals for inspiration and think critically about the environments different animals call home. Some may build rugged mountain landscapes for goats, while others design swampy habitats for alligators complete with rivers

and marshes. What begins as a building exercise often opens the door to deeper discussions about ecosystems and the natural world.

"It's really beautiful to see families looking at the murals and saying, 'I don't know if I've spent enough time traveling America,'" Terzulli continues. "Our landscape is so unique."

The exhibit's open-ended design encourages children to chart their own creative paths. While some build patriotic displays or towering birthday cakes, others tackle ambitious engineering projects, from roller coasters to replicas of famous landmarks. No two building sessions look quite the same.

Terzulli recalls one child attempting to recreate Mount Rushmore with the oversized foam blocks. Other visitors have become fascinated with beavers, constructing dams after discovering the important

role the animals play in shaping ecosystems.

"The beautiful thing is they're organic, and they allow the learning to spring up for whatever the family's interest is," she adds.

One particularly popular challenge involves designing perches for bald eagles.

"I'm loving seeing these perches for the eagle, because they get really competitive," Terzulli says.

A cozy reading area stocked with books on geography, wildlife and state symbols extends the learning beyond the block-building space. The educational approach, according to Terzulli, reflects the museum's broader vision for its America 250 programming — one that emphasizes exploration and celebration rather than history lessons. Her team intentionally took a different approach from many America 250 initiatives, focusing less on historical interpretation and more on helping children celebrate and connect with the country in age-appropriate ways.

"We're not really doing the historical element," she explains. "We felt like we'd leave that to historical homes and foundations. Ours is more about our country's birthday."

Beyond play, the exhibit and its companion programs are intended to foster shared family memories that can last a lifetime. Terzulli vividly remembers celebrating America's Bicentennial in 1976 as a child and relates that today's young visitors may someday reflect on the nation's 250th birthday with similar fondness.

"I remember wearing a little bonnet and making a poster that said 1776 and marching with my siblings and cousins in [this] parade," she recalls. "I want kids to remember where they were; so that when they're my age, they'll have a reflective moment."

At its heart the exhibit is designed to foster the kinds of shared experiences that families carry with them long after the blocks have been put away. Amid the excitement surrounding America's 250th, Terzulli sees the celebration as an opportunity to pause, connect and find joy together.

As Terzulli puts it: "Coming together and celebrating what makes life full of joy is important."



- Saturday and Sunday, 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.; Tuesday through Friday, 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.
- View the events calendar at licm.org for additional information or call (516) 224-5800
- Long Island Children's Museum, 11 Davis Ave., Garden City



Sky-high salute to America's 250th

Jones Beach is ready to celebrate America's 250th anniversary with a spectacular three-day holiday weekend extravaganza. This year's edition of the FourLeaf Air Show combines beachfront fireworks spectacle with one of the nation's premier air shows, always an anticipated summer tradition. Festivities begin Saturday fireworks. The 25-minute display, presented by Garden State Fireworks, starts at 9:30 p.m. and will be synchronized to patriotic music. Sunday and Monday bring more excitement with the FourLeaf Air Show, headlined by the returning U.S. Navy Blue Angels. In a historic international tribute, the lineup also features the Royal Air Force Red Arrows making their first New York appearance, the Canadian Forces Snowbirds returning to Long Island for the first time since 2018, and the British Army Parachute Display Team Red Devils, among the exciting lineup. Together this is surely a signature semiquincentennial celebration that brings everyone together for a weekend honoring the nation's history military service for a once-in-a-generation celebration.

Saturday through Monday, July 4-6. Jones Beach, Wantagh. More details available at fourleafairshow.com.



America's birthday 19th century-style

Fourth of July is so much more than pyrotechnics. Step back in time into the 1800s at Old Bethpage Village Restoration for a more laid back type of holiday. The historic village transforms into a fully immersive living-history experience. Events include a patriotic parade through the village streets, military drills, and historical reenactments that bring the era to life. Guests can watch craft demonstrations showcasing traditional trades, enjoy storytelling sessions, and take in performances by a brass band echoing the music of the period. A reading of the Declaration of Independence offers a powerful reminder of the holiday's origins, while old-time baseball — played by vintage rules — adds a spirited, hands-on touch of recreation. Visitors are encouraged to bring a picnic lunch and settle in with family and friends.

Sunday, July 5, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. 1303 Round Swamp Road, Old Bethpage. Visit oldbethpagevillagerestoration.org or call (516) 572-8409 for more.

YOUR NEIGHBORHOOD CALENDAR

JUL 2 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 or (516) 484-9337

JUL 3 First Fridays: Inside Coe's America

Planting Fields Arboretum invites all on a tour led by Director of Collections and Research Marie Penny exploring William Coe's passion for American history and identity. The program is in honor of the United States' semi-quincentennial anniversary. Led by Director of Collections and Research Marie Penny, this tour explores W.R.'s enduring passion for American history and identity, from his collecting practices to his philanthropic work in Wyoming and the founding of the American Studies at Yale program, shaping a legacy rooted in the spirit of the nation. Inside the Main House, encounter striking interpretations of the American West, including the Breakfast Room, home to the famed "Buffalo" Mural by Robert Winthrop Chanler (depicting American bison), along with a brief interpretive presentation. \$25 per person. Registration required.

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



JUL 12 The Bronx Wanderers

The Bronx Wanderers visit the Paramount stage for a night of classic pop, rock, oldies and their signature brand of comedy. What do you get when a father, his two sons, and two high school classmates come together to create a show? A wildly entertaining mix of hilarious personal stories, a powerhouse playlist spanning every genre and decade, and one unforgettable family's journey through life and music. Meet The Bronx Wanderers — a high-energy musical experience that's been bringing audiences to their feet for over 20 years. With a unique blend of rock 'n' roll nostalgia, modern hits, and dynamic storytelling, this band has mastered the art of connecting with fans of all ages in one sweeping, musical tour de force. The Bronx Wanderers have spent seven years as a Top 5 show in Las Vegas out of 223 productions. They've earned 12 "Best of Las Vegas" awards, were named Best Tribute Show by Las Vegas Weekly in 2022, hold a prestigious residency at the South Point Hotel and Casino, and were inducted into the East Coast Music Hall of Fame. Their on-stage chemistry and infectious energy they bring night after night prove they're still having the time of their lives — and by the end of the show, you will be too.

- **Where:** The Paramount, 370 New York Ave., Huntington
- **Time:** 7:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** ticketmaster.com or paramountny.com

JUL 4 Bike Parade

Celebrate Independence Day during the annual community bike parade featuring decorated bicycles and patriotic festivities.

- **Where:** Finley Middle School, 1 Forest Ave., Glen Cove
- **Time:** 9:30 a.m.
- **Contact:** (516) 676-2000

JUL 5 Tunes in the park

The Morgan Park Summer Music Festival returns. Enjoy an evening of classic Billy Joel hits performed by Richie Cannata and The Lords of 52nd Street. Glen Cove High School Select Choir also performs.

- **Where:** Morgan Park, Germaine St.
- **Time:** 7:30 p.m.

JUL 8 Harmonize with Long Island Harmonizers

Love to sing? So do the Long Island Harmonizers. The chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society is a

chorus of more than 20 singers, now welcoming new members. The ensemble performs four-part a cappella harmony in the barbershop style, entertaining audiences at libraries, assisted living facilities, hospitals, and local events. All are welcome to visit one of their weekly rehearsals. Come listen, meet the chorus, and — if you'd like — join in and sing. No musical experience is necessary, just a love of singing and a desire to have fun making music together.

- **Where:** Faith Lutheran Church, 231 Jackson Ave, Syosset
- **Time:** Tuesdays, 7:30-9:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** Call: Rich, (516) 521-4779, or Dennis, (516) 680-8036, or visit longislandharmonizers.org

Knitting/Crocheting Club

Meet up with other knitters or crocheters at Glen Cove Public Library on Fridays. Whether you're new to knitting or you've been doing it for years, it's always more fun with friends! Start a new project or bring a current one. Participants should bring their own needles and yarn.

- **Where:** 4 Glen Cove Ave., Glen Cove
- **Time:** 10 a.m.
- **Contact:** glencovelibrary.org or (516) 676-2130

JUL 9 Dancing in the Street 2026

The Oyster Bay Main Street Association welcomes all to its annual 'Dancing in the Street' series. Each week features live music and group dance instruction with DJ and dance instructor Louis Del Prete. All ages and skill levels are welcome.

- **Where:** 74 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay
- **Time:** 6:30 p.m.
- **Contact:** oysterbaymainstreet.org or call (516) 922-6982

JUL 11 Gold Coast Business Association Health & Wellness Expo

The Gold Coast Business Association hosts its first Health & Wellness Expo, bringing together health and wellness exhibitors, live demonstrations, workshops and community resources. The family-friendly event will also feature interactive booths, giveaways and networking opportunities.

- **Where:** Glenwood Landing American Legion, 190 Glen

- Head Road, Glen Head
- **Time:** 11 a.m.-5 p.m.
- **Contact:** goldcoastbusinessassociationli@gmail.com

JUL 29 Lights, Camera, Hempstead House

A castle, a campus, a hotel, a Turkish spa — when it comes to movies and television, Sands Point Preserve's Hempstead House has played them all. While it began as the Gold Coast home to Daniel and Florence Guggenheim, this architectural marvel has become one of the most versatile media locations of the modern era. Join us for a unique look at the mansion through the lens of Hollywood. See clips from "The Gilded Age," "Boardwalk Empire," "The Americans," and many more — all that inextricably feature Hempstead House — and then tour the very rooms where the cameras rolled. Discover the secrets of how one house can play a hundred different roles and always steal the show!

- **Where:** 127 Middle Neck Road, Sands Point
- **Time:** 11 a.m. and 6 p.m.; also July 30
- **Contact:** sandspointpreserveconservancy.org or call (516) 571-7901

AUG 1 Glen Cove High School Class of 1976 50-Year Reunion

Members of Glen Cove High School's Class of 1976 are invited to reconnect and celebrate 50 years since graduation at a reunion gathering featuring an evening of memories, conversation and camaraderie.

- **Where:** The Metropolitan, Pratt Blvd., Glen Cove
- **Time:** 7 p.m.-12 a.m.
- **Contact:** ibelitore@gmail.com or Montauk41@hotmail.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.



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Suozzi Joins Dems in 'Promise to America'

By ROKSANA AMID

ramid@liherald.com

Rep. Tom Suozzi and a coalition of centrist Democrats unveiled an expanded bipartisan-style political initiative Thursday aimed at defining what they describe as the Democratic Party's mainstream wing, emphasizing capitalism, fiscal responsibility, public safety and patriotism while distancing themselves from both the party's progressive flank and the political far right.

During a Zoom news conference, organizers of the "Promise to America" campaign announced that 10 Democratic members of Congress and five congressional candidates have signed the pledge, which outlines six guiding principles centered on economic growth, secure communities, responsible government and national unity.

Suozzi, whose 3rd Congressional District includes parts of Nassau County and Queens, said the effort is intended to organize Democrats who share what he called the party's "traditional values."

"We're Democrats. We're proud Democrats. We'll always be Democrats," Suozzi said. "We just want to try and start organizing folks that think the way that we do in the Democratic Party."

The announcement came days after Democratic Socialists of America-backed candidates posted high-profile victories in New York City primaries, intensifying debate over the party's ideological direction heading into the 2026 midterm elections. Organizers said the initiative seeks to offer what they view as an alternative to both the far left and the far right.

According to organizers, the pledge's principles include support for capitalism over socialism, secure borders and safe communities, fiscal responsibility, effective government, political moderation and patriotism. The campaign also calls for an economy that rewards work, lowers costs and expands opportunity.

Felix Frisch, director of Promise to America, said the organization was created by a group of young Democrats from colleges across the country who became frustrated with the party's direction but inspired by lawmakers advocating a more centrist message.

Frisch said the group has been working with Suozzi and Rep. Adam Gray of California since launching the initiative on June 3 and has since recruited members of Congress, congressional candidates, state lawmakers, mayors, county executives and grassroots supporters.

"Our politics gives false choices between extremes on the left and on the right," Frisch said. "Each of these signers reject that."

Gray said voters are increasingly frustrated with political polarization and are more focused on everyday concerns than ideological battles.



Herald file photo

Rep. Tom Suozzi is among a dozen Democrats for the Promise to America.

"Most people that I represent don't spend their day thinking and talking about politics," Gray said. "They spend their day paying their bills, raising their kids, finding a good job, buying a home, building a better future." He said the initiative rejects "false choices" between economic growth and working families, public safety and individual liberty, and investment and fiscal responsibility.

Rep. Josh Gottheimer of New Jersey said recent election results in New York and political rhetoric elsewhere underscore the need for Democrats to distinguish themselves from democratic socialism.

"I believe deeply in capitalism," Gottheimer said. "I'm a democratic capitalist." He said Democrats should focus on lowering the costs of electricity, child care, health care and food rather than engaging in ideological divisions.

Suozzi argued that both the political left and right have successfully tapped into voters' economic anxieties but said the Promise to America coalition disagrees with their proposed solutions.

"People are not happy with the status quo," he said, adding that many Americans working full time still struggle to afford housing, health insurance and retirement. "We've laid out these principles to just make very clear what our values are, and we'll continue to build more meat on the bone with policy ideas."

Asked whether this week's New York primary results could hurt Democrats in the general election, Suozzi said the newly nominated candidates represent safely Democratic districts but argued that members representing competitive districts face different political realities.

"That type of campaign and that type of ideology is not going to play with the people in our districts," Suozzi said. He added that the organization plans to spend the coming months recruiting additional members of Congress, state and local officials and community leaders who identify with its platform.



Will Sheeline/Herald photos

Jaime Teich, founder of Love Your Neighbor Project, outlined her time growing up as the child of two women with the sense of belonging she feels living in Sea Cliff.

Celebrating love in the heart of Sea Cliff

Sea Cliff's Love Your Neighbor Project brought the community out into the streets with its third annual Pride Stride, marching from Prospect to Clifton Park to celebrate and show support for members of the LGBTQ+ community. Following the march, local elected officials, teachers and Jaime Teich, founder and chief neighbor of Love Your Neighbor Project, highlighting the tremendous strides made in protecting and accepting LGBTQ+ people around the world while acknowledging the work still left to accomplish.

—Will Sheeline

Unicorns Ella DeSane, left, and Dan Roth helped spread the Pride spirit during the parade.



HERALD LGLE1 0702 PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE
NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT.
NASSAU COUNTY.
LOAN FINDER LLC,
SERIES 32475, Pltf vs.
CAMVA EQUITIES LLC,
et al, Defts. Index
#612742/2023.

Pursuant to judgment of foreclosure and sale entered May 29, 2026, I will sell at public auction on the North Side steps of the Nassau Supreme Court, 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY on July 20, 2026 at 2:00 p.m. premises k/a 63 Dosoris Way, Glen Cove, NY a/k/a Section 23, Block 3, Lot 423. Approximate amount of judgment is \$843,834.35 plus costs and interest. Sold subject to terms and conditions of filed judgment and terms of

sale. JAMES EZRATTY, Referee. DEUTSCH & SCHNEIDER, LLP, Attys. for Pltf., 79-37 Myrtle Avenue, Glendale, NY 11385. File No. LF-435 - #10302 160772

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NOTICE OF SALE
SUPREME COURT
NASSAU COUNTY
JPMORGAN CHASE BANK, N.A., Plaintiff against DAVID O. THOMPSON A/K/A DAVID THOMPSON, et al Defendant(s) Attorney for Plaintiff(s) Stern & Eisenberg, P.C., 20 Commerce Drive, Suite 230, Cranford, NJ 07016 and 1131 Route 55, Suite 1, Lagrangeville, NY 12540. Pursuant to a Judgment of Foreclosure and Sale

entered May 19, 2026, I will sell at public auction to the highest bidder at North Side Steps of the Nassau County Supreme Court at 100 Supreme Court Drive, Mineola, NY 11501 on August 5, 2026 at 2:00PM. Premises known as 24 Jackson Street, Glen Cove, NY 11542-1734. Sec 31 Block 42 Lot 20. All that certain plot, piece or parcel of land, with the buildings and improvements thereon erected, situate, lying and being in the City of Glen Cove, County of Nassau and State of New York. Approximate Amount of Judgment is \$415,676.38 plus interest, fees, and costs. Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed

Judgment Index No 600620/2024. The foreclosure sale will be conducted in accordance with 10th Judicial District's Covid-19 Policies and foreclosure auction rules. The Referee shall enforce any rules in place regarding facial coverings and social distancing. If proper social distancing cannot be maintained or there are other health or safety concerns, then the Court Appointed Referee shall cancel the foreclosure auction. Foreclosure Auctions will be held "Rain or Shine." Matthew Vishnick, Esq., Referee File # NY202200000294-1 161009 Place A Notice Call 516-569-4000 x232

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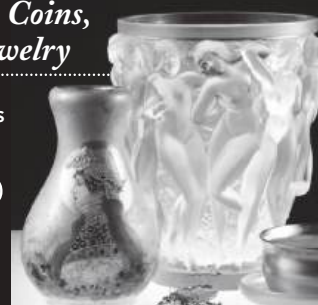
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OPINIONS

Our first 250 years are worth celebrating

Every Fourth of July is cause for parades, hot dogs and backyard barbecues. But this year's commemoration is special. It marks the unprecedented success of the greatest experiment in history: 250 years of representative government, which has provided more people with more freedom and opportunity, attained more international power and done more for justice and peace around the world than any nation in history.



PETER KING

I say this not as a super patriotic or chauvinistic extremist, but as someone who has studied history and experienced 28 years as a member of Congress. I know that even among too many of its own citizens, America is not held in universally high regard. Indeed, recent polling shows that only 29 percent of the members of one of our major political parties are proud to be Americans. Among many countries, including some we have liberated or defended, support for America is considerably less. This disdain, especially among our own citizens, is regretful and shameful — and

without foundation.

Unlike the overwhelming majority of countries that have been ruled by dictators and, in many cases, tyrants, the United States has always been a representative democracy, with the people having the final word in choosing our leaders. Having traveled to many countries during my time in Congress, including emerging democracies and countries liberated from Soviet domination, I've seen firsthand how much their people cherish the right to vote and being able to take part in the political process.

Similarly, they admire and attempt to emulate our freedoms of speech, religion and assembly and a free press. Before the naysayers go apoplectic, I acknowledge the imperfections in our history. Women's suffrage wasn't achieved until the second decade of the 20th century. The evil of slavery, though ended by the bloody Civil War, will forever stain our history, as will the injustice of Jim Crow. The beauty of our system, though, is that our founding fathers saw America as an evolving experiment, as expressed in the words of the Constitution, "to form a more perfect union."

Most uniquely, the U.S. is a nation of

immigrants from countless countries, many of whom were warring with one another before arriving on our shores. It hasn't always been easy, but so many peoples from disparate cultures have

come together to form a common union while maintaining their own traditions, resulting in a beautiful mosaic, a stained-glass window. Waves of immigrants give our nation new and needed lifeblood.

All my grandparents were immigrants who came here with no money and little formal education. Nothing was handed to them when they got here, yet they worked hard to achieve the American Dream, and each generation has done better than the one before it. At various times, of course, there have been intense debates over what our immigration policy should be.

At times those debates were shameful, such as when exclusion laws were adopted against Chinese immigration, and when the State Department refused to admit Jews attempting to escape Hitler's Germany. There were also the dangerous excesses of the Biden years, when at least 10 million immigrants entered the country illegally, without examination for criminal or terrorist activity. I believe that while immigration brings needed

energy and vitality, it must follow laws that are strictly enforced. A nation without borders isn't a nation. And to the naysayers, I would note that more legal immigrants enter our country each year than any other nation.

In foreign policy, America tried to avoid foreign wars into the 20th century. Attempts at isolationism and Fortress America were shattered by two world wars and the Cold War, when we realized we could no longer rely on two huge oceans to shield us from "foreign wars." After World War II, when we had a monopoly on nuclear weapons and the world's strongest economy, we adopted the Marshall Plan and established defensive alliances such as NATO to rebuild Europe and prevent Soviet expansion. In the ensuing eight decades, Europe has been rebuilt, the Iron Curtain has come down and, for the first time in centuries, there was no invasion of one European country by another until Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022.

None of this stability would have been possible without American leadership. We have every reason to be proud of what our nation has achieved at home and throughout the world. Happy birthday, America!

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

Sometimes real life rhymes with the times

It is America's 250th anniversary, and our 58th. This year, both events will be glorious, and also somewhat troubled.

When we were planning our wedding for the summer of 1968, we decided on July 3, so that the next day would always be a holiday, the opposite of a declaration of independence and a celebration of our personal union.



RANDI KREISS

We married at 21 and then grew up together. At times we grew apart, just like this country, but we always found our way back. At every stage we were different people from the kids who got married on July 3, 1968.

In the spring of '68, we joined the voices raging against the war in Vietnam. My future husband was drafted and then deferred just weeks before the wedding; otherwise, he might have been on his way overseas. Just one of the many what-ifs in a lifelong marriage.

We had two kids who are now oh my god in their 50s. We suffered a miscarriage first, so we carry a memory of

that heartbreaking what-if.

We celebrated many of our anniversaries on the road. Bitten by the adventure bug early on, we took our coddled kids to Montana for July summers, trips that changed everyone's life view and path forward. Our families on both sides grew up in Brooklyn. No one had ever heard of fly fishing, rock climbing and wilderness hiking. It all started when I read an ad in Outdoor Life magazine, an offer to rent "Curley's Cabin" on the West Fork of the Bitterroot River in Darby, Mont. We did it, and then traveled Montana every summer for 10 years. Those were the best anniversaries.

By 2019 my husband was ready to retire his LIRR monthly pass, close his business and play golf forever. But nothing is forever, and anniversaries take on the mood and tenor of the moment you're in.

On our 56th anniversary, we had dinner with our kids — four days before my husband had surgery for pancreatic cancer. Every anniversary since has been a gold star for a heroic man who survives a devastating disease that shows no mercy. And here we are in 2026, with

Donnie fighting every day to stay strong and find good time.

July 3 won't be just another anniversary. These last years have tested him and me and us. You wouldn't think that after all these decades, I could find something new in the old dude to admire. But I have. He has summoned grace in this unfair fight and has never missed a chance to reach out to someone else who is struggling.

Our marriage is no more perfect than it was 58 years ago, but the union remains strong as we fight to keep finding good-enough days and weeks and months ahead.

In many ways, our small personal life, our anniversary history, rhymes with the great anniversary of America unfolding this week. Despite the rockets' red glare, our country is struggling to find a way back to its core values of individual freedom for all and respect for a Constitution that protects that freedom.

After 250 years, our democracy is threatened by a perfect storm: Damaging political winds, rising waves of racism and antisemitism are crushing the life out of our America. Authoritarianism is having its day even as we struggle

to reaffirm our democratic values and all the "truths we hold self-evident." The Trump administration is dismantling the agencies and programs that guarantee our freedoms, our safe travel, our clean food and water. Trumpism has been spawned by a leader whose vision is limited to self-aggrandizement. The poorest and neediest in our country are suffering the most from impulsive policy changes and international policy failures.

In place of fair, thoughtful policy, our shrinking newspapers report favoritism and cronyism, no-bid government contracts and alleged slush funds meant to reward extremist elements of the MAGA movement. Instead of the best and brightest, the corrupt and incompetent rise to power.

On this 250th anniversary, the moment feels more challenging than celebratory.

In my own life, as I watch the fireworks and feel their reverberations in my heart, Don and I will celebrate another anniversary, hoping for more good time ahead.

In our shared American life, as I watch the fireworks, I will remember that democracy is everything — the lifeblood of the American story.

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Number 250 will be number 58 for Donny and I, at a challenging moment.

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In Congress, July 4, 1776

The Declaration of Independence was first published on July 6, 1776, in a newspaper, the Pennsylvania Evening Post. We are proud to commemorate that high point in American journalism by reprinting that historic document.

When in the Course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth, the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation.

We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness. That to secure these rights, Governments are instituted among Men, deriving their just powers from the consent of the governed. That whenever any Form of Government becomes destructive of these ends, it is the Right of the People to alter or to abolish it, and to institute new Government, laying its foundation on such principles and organizing its powers in such form, as to them shall seem most likely to effect their Safety and Happiness. Prudence, indeed, will dictate that governments long established should not be changed for light and transient causes; and accordingly all experience hath shown, that mankind are more disposed to suffer, while evils are sufferable, than to right themselves by abolishing the forms to which they are accustomed. But when a long train of abuses and usurpations, pursuing invariably the same Object evinces a design to reduce them under absolute Despotism, it is their right, it is their duty, to throw off such Government, and to provide new Guards for their future security. Such has been the patient sufferance of these Colonies; and such is now the necessity which constrains them to alter their former Systems of Government. The history of the present King of Great Britain is a history of repeated injuries and usurpations, all having in direct object the establishment of an absolute Tyranny over these States. To prove this, let Facts be submitted to a candid world.

He has refused his Assent to Laws, the most wholesome and necessary for the public good.

He has forbidden his Governors to pass Laws of immediate and pressing importance, unless suspended in their operation till his Assent should be obtained; and when so suspended, he has utterly neglected to attend to them.

He has refused to pass other Laws for the accommodation of large districts of people, unless those people would relinquish the right of Representation in the Legislature, a right inestimable to them and formidable to tyrants only.

He has called together legislative bodies at

places unusual, uncomfortable, and distant from the depository of their Public Records, for the sole purpose of fatiguing them into compliance with his measures.

He has dissolved Representative Houses repeatedly, for opposing with manly firmness of his invasions on the rights of the people.

He has refused for a long time, after such dissolutions, to cause others to be elected, whereby the Legislative Powers, incapable of Annihilation, have returned to the People at large for their exercise; the State remaining in the mean time exposed to all the dangers of invasion from without, and convulsions within.

He has endeavoured to prevent the population of these States; for that purpose obstructing the Laws of Naturalization of Foreigners; refusing to pass others to encourage their migrations hither, and raising the conditions of new Appropriations of Lands.

He has obstructed the Administration of Justice by refusing his Assent to Laws for establishing Judiciary Powers.

He has made Judges dependent on his Will alone, for the tenure of their offices, and the amount and payment of their salaries.

He has erected a multitude of New Offices, and sent hither swarms of Officers to harass our people, and eat out their substance.

He has kept among us, in times of peace, Standing Armies without the Consent of our legislature.

He has affected to render the Military independent of and superior to the Civil Power.

He has combined with others to subject us to a jurisdiction foreign to our constitution, and unacknowledged by our laws; giving his Assent to their acts of pretended legislation:

For quartering large bodies of armed troops among us:

For protecting them, by a mock Trial, from Punishment for any Murders which they should commit on the Inhabitants of these States:

For cutting off our Trade with all parts of the world:

For imposing taxes on us without our consent:

For depriving us in many cases, of the benefits of Trial by Jury:

For transporting us beyond Seas to be tried for pretended offences:

For abolishing the free System of English Laws in a neighbouring Province, establishing therein an Arbitrary government, and enlarging its Boundaries so as to render it at once an example and fit instrument for introducing the same absolute rule into these Colonies:

For taking away our Charters, abolishing our most valuable Laws, and altering fundamentally the forms of our Government:

For suspending our own legislature, and declaring themselves invested with Power to legislate for us in all cases whatsoever.

He has abdicated Government here, by declaring us out of his Protection and waging War against us.

He has plundered our seas, ravaged our Coasts, burnt our towns, and destroyed the lives of our people.

He is at this time transporting large armies of foreign mercenaries to compleat the works of death, desolation and tyranny, already begun with circumstances of Cruelty & perfidy scarcely paralleled in the most barbarous ages, and totally unworthy of the Head of a civilized nation.

He has constrained our fellow Citizens taken Captive on the high Seas to bear Arms against their Country, to become the executioners of their friends and Brethren, or to fall themselves by their Hands.

He has excited domestic insurrections amongst us, and has endeavoured to bring on the inhabitants of our frontiers, the merciless Indian Savages, whose known rule of warfare, is an undistinguished destruction of all ages, sexes and conditions.

In every stage of these Oppressions We have Petitioned for Redress in the most humble terms: Our repeated Petitions have been answered only by repeated injury. A prince, whose character is thus marked by every act which may define a Tyrant, is unfit to be the ruler of a free People.

Nor have We been wanting in attention to our British brethren. We have warned them from time to time of attempts by their legislature to extend an unwarrantable jurisdiction over us. We have reminded them of the circumstances of our emigration and settlement here. We have appealed to their native justice and magnanimity, and we have con-jured them by the ties of our common kindred to disavow these usurpations, which would inevitably interrupt our connections and correspondence. They too have been deaf to the voice of justice and of consanguinity. We must, therefore, acquiesce in the necessity, which denounces our Separation, and hold them, as we hold the rest of mankind, Enemies in War, in Peace Friends.

We, therefore, the representatives of the United States of America, in General Congress, Assembled, appealing to the Supreme Judge of the world for the rectitude of our intentions, do, in the Name, and by Authority of the good People of these Colonies, solemnly publish and declare, That these United Colonies are, and of Right ought to be Free and Independent States; that they are absolved from all Allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the state of Great Britain, is and ought to be totally dissolved; and that as Free and Independent States, they have full Power to levy War, conclude Peace, contract Alliances, establish Commerce, and to do all other Acts and Things which Independent States may of right do. And for the support of this Declaration, with a firm reliance on the Protection of Divine Providence, we mutually pledge to each other our Lives, our Fortunes and our Sacred Honor.

The Declaration was signed first by John Hancock, president of the Continental Congress, and then by 55 others representing the 13 original states.

OPINIONS

The Peace Corps language lesson 35 years in the making

My plane lifted off from Long Island MacArthur Airport in June 1991. The night before, Jupiter, Mars and Venus had aligned in the night sky above my family's home in Yaphank, in Suffolk County — an auspicious moment that foretold a journey I'm still on today.



**SCOTT
BRINTON**

That propeller plane — so loud it rattled inside my brain — was headed to Washington, D.C., where I attended a three-day Peace Corps orientation before traveling to Bulgaria for two years of volunteer service as an English teacher. I had joined the corps at 24, in part out of a longing to see the world beyond my hometown. I never imagined how Peace Corps service would reshape my worldview — an experience that resonates today in my teaching as a Hofstra University journalism professor.

I was among the first two dozen Peace Corps volunteers sent to Bulgaria, only 18 months after the fall of communism there. At first I felt excited to be living 4,800 miles from home in a society

that moved more slowly, more deliberately, with a deep appreciation for food and wine, art and music. Living in Veliko Tarnovo, a thousand-year-old city perched atop steep hills overlooking the Yantra River, I was happy.

I couldn't escape the feeling, though, that I was a foreigner, an outsider, despite the many kindnesses that Bulgarians showed on me. Language, in particular, set me apart. Learning Bulgarian — really learning it — might rid me of my sense of otherness, I thought.

Then, amid my Peace Corps service, I married Katerina, a Bulgarian who taught — and still teaches — English. I wanted — needed — to feel more connected to her family, who became my family.

Katerina and I have spoken Bulgarian together, on and off, for nearly 35 years. Last summer I measured my listening, speaking, reading and writing skills with multiple A.I.-designed tests. After days of evaluation, A.I. delivered its verdict: My Bulgarian fell within the "lower intermediate" range.

I had long known that it was riddled with grammar errors, and I often struggled to pronounce many of the sounds unique to the language — but lower

intermediate? Nothing like A.I. to offer a harsh dose of reality.

I resolved to improve, and I've practiced and studied the language daily since. I talk with Katerina on walks

through our Merrick neighborhood; read the Bulgarian-American community newspaper *Sega*; watch Bulgarian news-casts, TV series and movies; listen constantly to the Bulgarian alternative rock band Ostava; translate children's books and Facebook posts; and drill with flash-cards and grammar guides.

Slowly, steadily, I've moved up to upper intermediate. Progress has been hard-fought, though, full of minor wins rather than big breakthroughs — recalling an infrequently used word and dropping it into a sentence, pronouncing a tongue-twisting noun, deciphering word order to interpret a text.

I'm often frustrated and always humbled. I can understand 75 percent or so of spoken Bulgarian, but being able to speak it and write it quickly and eloquently is another matter entirely. As a writer and journalism professor, it's maddening when I fumble over Bulgarian words, as I often do. Words are my currency, my livelihood. They need to flow. Based on my current progress, I'll

likely need another three to six years of daily study to reach the advanced level of fluency.

Pushing myself to learn Bulgarian at a higher level has made me think of the Latino and Haitian communities that I've covered and researched in Hempstead and Uniondale in recent years. I think of the immigrants who must navigate schools, workplaces, doctors' offices and government agencies in a language they are often still learning, while negotiating an increasingly complicated and precarious immigration system.

Imagine moving through the world understanding only 75 percent of the critical information you need for daily survival — or 50 percent, or less — and dealing with the anxiety that must come with that lack of knowledge. The fear. Possibly depression.

I set out last year to improve my Bulgarian because I want to understand my wife's culture on a deeper level, and language is central to culture. I do not, however, need Bulgarian to survive. English, on the other hand, is vital to immigrants' daily existence in the U.S.

It's a lifeline in an increasingly hostile sea.

Scott Brinton, a former executive editor of the Herald, directs Hofstra University's Graduate Journalism Program and coordinates its new Peace Corps Prep Program.

My Bulgarian fell within the 'lower intermediate' range.

FRAMEWORK by Tim Baker



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Happy Summer!

To my clients, neighbors, and the community I'm so grateful to be part of — thank you.

There's something truly special about life on the North Shore. Maybe it's the early mornings by the water, the summer nights spent boating with family and friends, the quiet beauty of our beaches, or the feeling of coming home to a place that feels grounded and timeless.

Helping people find their place here is more than my job — it's a privilege. Thank you for trusting me to be part of your stories, your moves, and your milestones. I'm endlessly grateful to live, work, and raise my family in a community that values connection, tradition, and the beauty around us.

Here's to another season of sunsets, salt air, and calling the North Shore home.



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