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Read Me a Story

Groucho Marx said, "Outside of a dog, a book is man's best friend." On February 10th, students at Glen Cove's Connolly Elementary School scored a twofer, as select students read books of their choice to specially trained therapy dogs. Isabella Sosnowski pictured here reading to therapy dog Josie, and owner Richard Penchuk, was one of the students benefitting from the program to promote reading and social skills. Photo: GCCSD



"Cyberbully" Email
in Huntington

Page 3

Black History
Celebration

Page 6

Raynham Hall's
Val Bal Rouge

Page 9

Northport Shelter
Reopens

Page 3

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“Cyberbully” Email Leads Huntington Official To Resign

Huntington public safety director Peter Sammis resigned last Monday, Feb. 10th, after public report of a vulgar email he sent about a female town employee.

Council members Joan Cergol and Mark Cuthbertson announced Sammis’s resignation at a press conference on Feb. 11th that they called to denounce the email and the way it was handled by the administration.

Sammis sent the email at the end of November. He was initially penalized in the form of a two-week suspension which he began serving at the end of January. Joan Cergol learned of the email from a reporter.

Cergol has questioned how the administration of Town Supervisor Chad Lupinacci has handled the matter. Although not sent to the woman it characterized inappropriately, Sammis’ email was sent to two mail Huntington employees. “The email constituted an aggressive and highly inappropriate act of cyberbully, sexually objectifying and disparaging a female employee that should be unacceptable in anyone’s book,” Cergol said at Tuesday’s press conference. “The employees who received the email from their superior were placed in a highly difficult position not of their choosing, and in addition to the subject female, were, in effect, victimized by the act.”

Cergol asked at the press conference



Council member Joan Cergol learned of the offensive email from a reporter.

why Town Board members weren’t notified of the issue, and why Sammis wasn’t penalized until January.

Sammis’ email was in response to one sent by the town public information officer, Cuthbertson said, about a video of a pilot program to allow leashed dogs in Heckscher Park. His reply was then flagged by the town’s IT software, which identifies crude or inappropriate language.

Councilman Edmund Smyth was the only member of the board who said he knew about the email before last week. He has stated he believed the matter was being addressed by the administration.

Cergol and Cuthbertson both said that the Town Board had authority to hire and fire at-will employees and should have known about the matter and been involved in decisions about the situation. The administration “sought to hide behind words such as ‘confidential’ and ‘personnel’ which enabled bad judgment. This should have been a collaborative decision,” Cuthbertson said.

Town Supervisor Chad Lupinacci said Tuesday afternoon, “We take matters like this very seriously. The employee was dealt with harshly, immediately, and in a manner consistent with the advice of our

Director of Personnel and outside labor counsel, who also advised that the Town Board’s involvement in disciplinary action was not warranted. I would remind my colleagues that outing the alleged subject of the email, and not respecting her privacy, was completely inappropriate and initiated the victimization of this employee, who was not aware of this incident before town officials ran to the press with it, which is exactly the reason why it is our policy not to comment on personnel matters.”

On Feb. 12, State Senator Jim

Gaughran’s (D-Northport) office announced via email he would introduce state legislation “that will strengthen reporting requirements for sexual harassment complaints and violations of the Human Rights Law.”

As of Monday, Feb. 17, the Town of Huntington Website continues to list Peter Sammis as the Director of the Public Safety Department. However, the Department is currently being lead by Joseph Cirigliano, who was appointed Deputy Director at a meeting of the Huntington Town Board on Feb. 11th.

Water Commissioners’ Elects 2020 Board

At a recent meeting held by Nassau Suffolk Water Commissioners’ Association (NSWCA), the Association elected incoming President William Schuckmann of Hicksville Water District, as well as other Board members, for the 2020 term. Among those elected was Patricia Peterson of Locust Valley Water District.



Patricia Peterson of the Locust Valley Water District.

“The commissioners from the 21 districts who make up our organization have been elected by voters to represent their best interests in the supply of our water,” President Schuckmann stated. “Given the great public concern along with the talents and dedication of this new NSWCA Board, I am confident that 2020 will be a successful year meeting the challenges of production and compliance as well as campaigning on behalf of sustainability, conservation and protecting the health of our aquifer, We will continue our efforts to keep the public updated through our

ongoing education, including the latest scientific and environmental information.”

Organized and chartered in 1981, the NSWCA is comprised of water commissioners from 21 Nassau County and Suffolk County water districts. As such, it serves over 625,000 Long Islanders. The NSWCA is dedicated to promoting environmental excellence and best practices as well as maintaining the

highest standards of water quality and supply. It sponsors regular educational meetings on topics that include the environment, security, economics, rules and regulations, among other related issues. Information on NSWCA board or other matters may be obtained by contacting Mr. Jamie Stanco with Progressive Marketing Group, Inc. via phone at 631-756-7160 or email them at, jpstanco@pmgstrategic.com.

Northport Veterans’ Shelter to Reopen

On Friday, Congressmen Tom Suozzi and Lee Zeldin announced that United Veterans Beacon House (UVBH) has been awarded a 5-year contract to operate the homeless shelter in Building 11 at the Northport VA Medical Center. It is anticipated that the Building 11 shelter will reopen in May.



The Northport VA homeless shelter.

Building 11 was closed in January 2018 due to stress on its heating system. Additional repairs, for further deficiencies and to bring compliance with current housing requirements, extended the period of closure. The VA decision during this period to terminate the on-site contract with Beacon House and require reapplication further complicated attempts to reopen the facility.

“It’s about time that this important housing for homeless veterans will be reopened,” said Congressman Suozzi. “Director Sanchez, in the short time that he’s been at the Northport VA, has managed to push this through the bureaucracy. It is a welcome success to have Beacon House back online.”

Beacon House, the non-profit entity that has been awarded the contract to operate Building 11, also managed the

facility before it closed. At that time, veterans who stayed at the VA’s shelter suffered mainly from traumatic brain injury, post-traumatic stress disorder and substance abuse.

Building 11 at the Northport VA Medical Center is a 50-bed facility that offers veterans in need both housing and comprehensive services to facilitate a return to independent living. According to its Facebook page, it was first opened in May of 2016.

“Building 11 provides a critical service for our local veterans,” said Congressman Zeldin. “After countless meetings, phone calls, visits to Northport and other outreach, this news, while long-overdue, is encouraging for our local veteran’s community, and all who rely on the services provided at Northport when transitioning back into civilian life.”

NY American Water Sues Oyster Bay

New York American Water (NYAW) has filed a new lawsuit against Nassau County, Oyster Bay Town and the North Shore School District, arguing that “illegal” miscalculations led it to overpay property taxes for a half decade. The legal action mirrors suits filed by the company in 2018 and 2019 that took issue with how taxes were calculated in its Sea Cliff service area.

NYAW is seeking unspecified refunds for tax years 2015-16 through 2019-20. The suit claims the taxing districts didn’t properly account for the demolition of a Glenwood Landing power plant in calculating taxes.

In a statement to Long Island’s *Newsday*, NYAW spokeswoman Lee

Mueller said, “This mistake has been carried over each year since that time,” and the company is “simply preserving its right to refunds for each year that the illegally calculated tax rates are used to impose taxes in these jurisdictions.”

NYAW has long argued that disproportionately high taxes are the bulk of the reason for spiking water rates for its roughly 120,000 Nassau customers. NYAW state-approved rate hikes have generated protests at public hearings.

New York American Water’s lawsuit asks for certain sections of Nassau County tax law to be declared unconstitutional, and seeks injunctions barring the county from relying on the erroneous calculations and equal protection under the law.

HONORING GEORGE WASHINGTON

This February 22nd marks the 288th anniversary of the birth of George Washington. He was a surveyor, a military officer, a parliamentarian, a successful businessman and planter, a man of letters - and of action - and he was truly the essential man, without whom the founding of the United States of America would never have happened.

Washington was born into a wealthy plantation family, and lost his father when he was only 11 years old. His upbringing then fell upon his brother, Lawrence Washington, who introduced George to military training and administration. George played heroic roles during Britain's long struggle against France for mastery of North America. He also became extremely wealthy - acquiring thousands of acres and hundreds of slaves - and was repeatedly elected to the Virginia colonial legislature - the House of Burgesses. There he became increasingly critical of Britain's tyranny over the American colonies.

This background became critical when war broke out in 1774 between Britain and increasing numbers of Americans. Washington could have ignored the rebellions. Instead he embraced them, and in so doing was labeled a traitor by the British, and risked losing everything. And what a difference he made:

Washington took the lead in training and equipping the ragtag colonial militias - often at his own personal expense - into the Continental Army - today's US military. In 1775 he commanded the siege of Boston - driving out the occupying British army, in early 1776. The British then bested him in the Battle of Long Island - taking New York - before Washington finished the year by taking his army across the frozen Delaware River on Christmas Day to defeat the British at Trenton.

Five more years of grueling war would follow, with Washington being the great abiding leader at the head of the American forces. When the war was won, Washington resigned, establishing clear civilian control of the military.

When the new American republic faced a crisis of governance, Washington came back to chair the Constitutional Convention, to establish a Republic with strong institutional structures - and separation of powers to prevent tyranny. He then served as America's first President - presiding over the enactment of the Bill of Rights, and resigning after two terms to prevent the creation of a monarchy - or Presidency for life.

Our nearly 250 year old Republic - and the protection of the freedoms we continue to have - can all be credited to the work of George Washington. His accomplishments and legacy are the epitome of greatness. Let us all remember and honor him.

The Publisher

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR: We encourage our readers to express their view regardless of opinion, through the Letters to the Editor column. Letters published represent the viewpoint of our readers. *They do not necessarily reflect the opinions of The Leader* and, in fact, may be of opposite viewpoint. Letters should be typed and mailed or emailed to the editor's attention. Letters will be edited for length, clarity and accuracy. All letters should be signed and contain author's address and telephone number for verification. Although it is discouraged, we will withhold an author's name if the subject matter is sensitive or the writer may be subject to intimidation or harassment. Letters that contain accusations or important "facts" must demonstrate knowledge in the area described or show evidence for their writing. *The Leader* will not return letters and reserves the right to publish them at a later time or not at all, due to lack of space or editor's discretion.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

The Leader has received several unsigned letters to the editor. We will respect an author's request for anonymity, but must have your name, address, and phone number. We want to hear from you and publish your opinions, so in the future, kindly include the above requested information.

DREDGING QUESTION

To the Editor:

The letter printed in last week's *Leader* by commercial clammer Al Samek about Friends of the Bay's refusal to take a stand on the contentious issue of hydraulic dredging in Oyster Bay by Frank M. Flower & Sons did not accurately reflect the organization's position. We welcome the opportunity to clarify that.

Our only concern is the health of the bay. The Friends board and staff have spent a great deal of time studying the dredging issue. We have attended presentations by both Flower and the North Oyster Bay Baymen's Association on the effects of hydraulic dredging. Our leadership met again recently with the leaders of NOBBA. We have collected piles of scientific reports presented by both sides.

Unfortunately, all of the scientific evidence presented by both sides provides compelling but totally conflicting arguments about the impact of hydraulic dredging on the Oyster Bay ecos ecosystem.

tem. And adding to the confusion is the fact that none of the studies have actually looked at Oyster Bay.

Because of the conflicting evidence, Friends of the Bay's board has never been comfortable taking a position on hydraulic dredging. We have explained our reasoning repeatedly to Flower, NOBBA, government leaders and others.

A \$75,000 study arranged by State Senator James Gaughran that will look at siltation caused by hydraulic dredging in Oyster Bay may provide enough scientific evidence for Friends of the Bay and other stakeholders and interested parties to get a clearer picture of what's going on in the bay. We have urged the senator to arrange for the Department of Environmental Conservation to convene as soon as possible a scoping meeting of all the stakeholders to make sure the study parameters are acceptable to all the players so that the end results will have more credibility. If the study makes a compelling case that hydraulic dredging is harmful to the bay's ecosystem, that might allow Friends of the Bay to finally take a position on the issue.

But it's also possible that the limited funding and scope of the project will result in its findings being only a partial response to the larger question that still needs to be answered. Ultimately, the overall effects of shellfish aquaculture and the overall health of the harbor need to be studied, with the findings encompassed in a bay management plan.

But, in the meantime, without more scientific evidence about whether hydraulic dredging damages the Oyster Bay ecosystem, it's irresponsible for us to take a stand.

Bill Bleyer,
President, Friends of the Bay

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The North Shore
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Gribbin Elementary donates 207 Pounds of Food



Students collected more than 200 pounds of food for the Souper Bowl of Caring. Photos courtesy of the GCCSD

For the 10th consecutive year, Gribbin Elementary School in Glen Cove took part in the Souper Bowl of Caring food drive. Students, faculty and staff collected 207 pounds of non-perishable food items over a two-week period.

The Souper Bowl of Caring is a youth-led movement that works with schools,

churches, local businesses, individuals, and NFL teams in the weeks leading up to the Super Bowl to help generate food and resources at time of year when charities are reporting a decrease in donations. The Gribbin School donated 100% of the collected food items to the food pantry at the Church of St. Rocco.

Town Board Funds Huntington's Projects

At its February 11 meeting, the Huntington Town Board approved funding for a spray park at Manor Field Park, moved to designate Bread and Cheese Hollow Road as an Historic Landmark, and scheduled public hearings for the March 10 and May 20 Town Board meetings.

The Town Board approved various infrastructure funding, including up to \$750,000 to build a spray park at Manor Field Park, part of Supervisor Chad A. Lupinacci's plans for the revitalization of Huntington Station. A spray park is one in which children can cool off and play in jets and streams of water.

The Town Board approved numerous other infrastructure expenditures. These included \$6,200,000 in funding for road and traffic safety rehabilitation measures for 2020; \$1,500,000 in funding for improvements at the Flanagan Center, which houses the Town's Senior Center, Adult Day Care and Youth Bureau including \$1,000,000 for the construc-

tion of pedestrian, vehicle safety and accessibility improvements to and for the replacement of a portion of the roof at the Flanagan Center.

The Town Board also voted to approve funding for Highway Department equipment, information technology upgrades and equipment, vehicles past their useful lifespan, and improvements at Manor Field Park and Heckscher Park.

Other Board actions at the meeting included amending the Traffic Code to omit the option of a payment plan and requiring full payment of all outstanding penalties, fines, fees, and charges related to all parking violations, and appointing Joshua C. Price, Esq. as Director of the new Bureau of Administrative Adjudication. Mr. Price who is a 19-year Huntington resident, and founder of the Price Law Firm in Manhattan, will be the first Chief Administrative Law Judge in the Town's history.

Frank M. Flower & Sons

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DATE	LOW	HIGH	LOW	HIGH
Wed, February 19	2:02 am	8:11 am	2:45 pm	8:46 pm
Thurs, February 20	2:58 am	9:06 pm	3:36 pm	9:36 pm
Fri, February 21	3:49 am	9:54 pm	4:21 pm	10:20 pm
Sat, February 22	4:34 am	10:37 am	5:02 pm	11:00 pm
Sun, February 23	5:15 am	11:16 am	5:39 pm	11:36 pm
Mon, February 24	5:53 am	11:52 pm	6:14 pm	
	HIGH	LOW	HIGH	LOW
Tues, February 25	12:11 am	6:30 am	12:28 pm	6:48 pm

Wedding Vows Renewed at TOB



On Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Joseph Saladino and Town Clerk Rich LaMarca hosted over 100 residents at a Town Hall special ceremony to renew the wedding vows of long-time couples. Supervisor Saladino and Town Clerk LaMarca commended the loving couples in attendance for their enduring unions, some of which exceeded 70 years!

LV Athletic Administrator Recognized for Excellence

Paula Dragone, senior account clerk in the Locust Valley Central School District athletic office, has been awarded the Bondene Westring Award by the Nassau County Chapter of the New York State Athletic Administrators Association. This award is given to the administrative assistant who displays devotion to duty, commitment to excellence and a love of children.



Paula Dragone

Danielle Turner, LVCSD Director of Health, Physical Education and Athletics. "I am thrilled that she is being recognized at the county level for the hard work she does in Locust Valley. Her efforts are often recognized by coaches and players, and now a wider audience will understand her value

to our program."

Ms. Dragone will be given her award and recognized at a luncheon given by the Nassau Chapter of the NYSAAA on June 12.

"We all know that Paula is the backbone of the athletic department," said Dr.

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Glen Cove United Celebrates Black History Month

By OLIVIA EVERETT

The fourth annual Black History Scholarship Celebration was held during Black History Month, by Glen Cove United, at the Knights of Columbus Hall, and hosted by Rod Watson and Damary Mercardo. The honorees were the Rev. Dr. Craig Wright, Harriet Downer, Downes Garner and Sherene Collins. The diversity of Glen Cove was evident in the support from the local community and surrounding neighborhoods.

Rod Watson welcomed the guests, and told how he decided to start an event which honored the contributions of Black people of the community, while

also raising scholarship funds for Black High School students. He mentioned the late James Davis, who had marched with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and had stated the symbolic march and program that has continued every year in Glen Cove for thirty six years, now under the guidance of Davis' daughter, Sheryl Goodine.

Among the guests were Glen Cove City Council members Dr Eve Lupenko-Ferrante, Marsha Silverman, John Perrone, Danielle Fugazy-Scagliola, Rocco Totino and Gaitley Stevenson-Matthews, and Nassau County Legislator Delia DeRiggi-Whitton.

St John's of Lattingtown, Episcopal Church in Locust Valley, was represented by the Rector, Rev. Mark Fitzhugh and his wife Cherri Smith, Christopher Brayne, Director of Music Ministry and his wife Jennifer Brayne, Director of Outreach and the Children's Ministry, Courtney Callahan, parishioner Frank Powers and former Vestry member Victoria Crosby who is also Glen Cove's Poet Laureate. The Pledge of Allegiance was followed by Nikki Nicole singing the National Anthem, then everybody joined in to sing "Lift Every Voice and Sing."

Rev. Dr. Craig Wright, pastor at the Glen Cove AME Church (African Methodist Episcopal) offered the blessing. Victoria Crosby read her poem which paid tribute to the contributions of many African-Americans, from the past



A sign commemorating the event.

and present, including the honorees of the event.

There was a dance performance by the Glen Dance studio, and more musical performance by Nikki Nicole. Raffle prizes lined the tables on each side of the room. Dinner was a buffet, offering a delicious selection of soul food and yummy desserts. After dinner, dancing to music from the DJ got everybody moving.

Black History Month

By Victoria R. Crosby

If I were to name every Black person who had made a contribution to the world, and to our community, for the greater good of our society, we would be here all night and into next week, so without further ado I will speak.

America is a country of immigrants, a melting pot, except of course for the people whose ancestors were brought here by force. From slavery to freedom great strides have been made, yet for this progress, a great price has been paid. And history seems to have forsaken the indigenuous people from whom this land was taken.

Tonight we celebrate and honor the accomplishments of the great African Americans who are artists and activists, doctors and scientists, dancers, inventors and politicians, astronauts, athletes and mathematicians. Mae Jamison was the first Black female astronaut who flew in The Endeavor in 1992.

Rosa Parks, MLK, Maya Angelou, and Sidney Poitier. Poets and writers, and the Harlem Hell Fighters. Television actors and movie stars, with Hollywood mansions and exotic cars. Celebrities like Oprah and Denzel, who make us feel that we know them well. Madame Walker, and Annie Malone, were both Black women who made fortunes of their own

Arthur Ashe, Malcolm X, and Queen Latifa, Ashanti, Wendy Williams, Venus and Serena. Tuskegee Airmen and players of sports on football fields and basketball courts. Ballerina Misty Copeland, who in 2015 was one of the 100 Most Influential People in Time Magazine. Opera singers, Jessye Norman, Kathleen Battle and Leotyne Price, Jordan Greenway, who plays hockey on ice, the first Black player on the US Olympic team. This young man is living his dream.

Scott Joplin, Billy Holiday, Nina Simone, Wynton Marsalis, Miles Davis and Quincy Jones. President Obama, Andre Watts, Beyonce and Ben E King, and so many more Black celebrities whose praises I could sing. So if the name of your favorite I did not mention, please don't be offended, as that was not my intention.

We pay tribute to all of these people, and to all the honorees, past and present, and especially tonight we honor the Rev. Dr. Craig Wright, Sherene Collins, Damon Garner and Harriet Downer, and to Rod Watson who initiated this celebration with Damary Mercardo, we thank them all for their dedication

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Rev. Mark Fitzhugh and his wife Cherri Smith



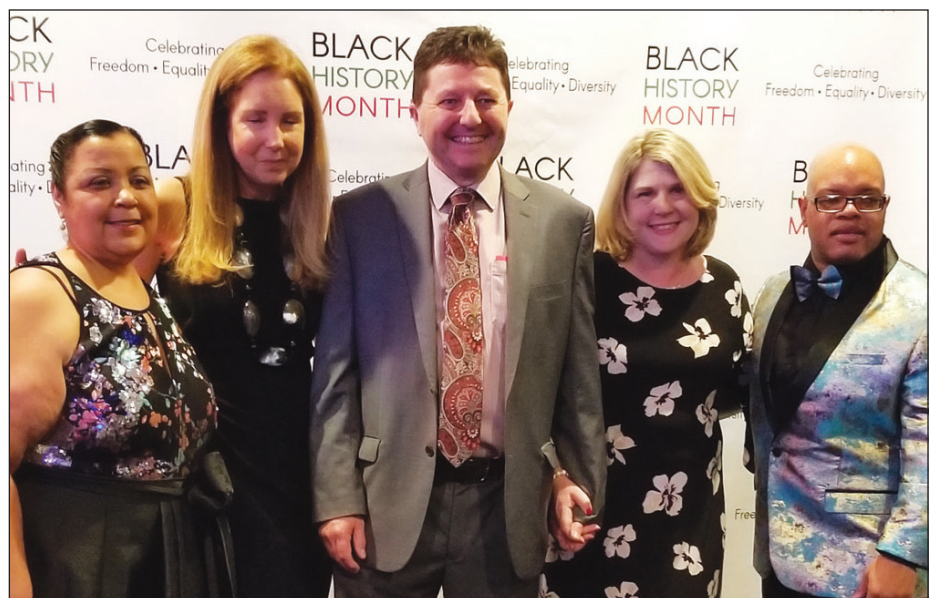
Rod Watson.



Wonderful raffles were donated by many generous business and people.



Victoria Crosby with Glen Cove city Councilwoman Dr. Eve Lupenko-Ferrante.



DeMary Mercardo, Courtney Callahan, Christopher Brayne, Jennifer Brayne, and Rod Watson. Photos: Olivia Everett

LOCUST VALLEY'S TOP *Stars!*



Signature 2019 Locust Valley Office Awards

CELEBRATING SUCCESS.

Congratulations to all of our associates from the Locust Valley Office on their outstanding achievements in 2019!



Heather Hotine

#1 GCI | #2 Units Sold | #2 Volume



Michele Gottlieb

#1 Volume | #2 GCI | #3 Units Sold
Spirit Award



Alana Lucidi

#1 Units Sold | #3 Volume | #3 GCI



Trish Magner

Rising Star Award

Bronze Circle

Alana Lucidi
Devin Sullivan
Barbara Brundige

Laura Gay
Susan Olsen

Silver Circle

Heather Hotine
Michele Gottlieb



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It is not our intention to solicit the listings of other brokerages



Raynham Hall Museum

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CATHY BARRY & JEAN DALY, VALLEY ATTIC

Raynham Hall's Valentine Bal Rouge

BY VICTORIA CROSBY

Raynham Hall Valentine's Day "Bal Rouge" was held this year at the Muttontown Country Club honoring Assemblyman Charles (Chuck) Lavine and Senator Carl Marcellino. Guests were greeted at the front door of the mansion by Michael Goudket, a volunteer at Raynham Hall, in striking colonial costume. There were tables filled with silent auction prizes, from items of clothing, handbags jewelry and many other luxury items. Guests enjoyed cocktails and hors d'oeuvres while perusing and bidding on the many auction items. Guests could add their names, with a donation to Raynham Hall, to the guest list for dinner, lunch or after-



Harriet Gerard Clark, Executive Director

noon tea, with hosts who had graciously offered their homes and hospitality.

Although the invitation requested festive attire in shades of red, many ladies were wearing black, some were in cocktail dresses and some in gowns, but all looked stunning.

In the dining room the tables had all been decorated by designers, each one spectacular, and each one different. Beautiful music was performed on the grand piano by Oyster Bay resident John Schwartzberg.

Following a delicious dinner, Harriet Gerard Clark presented the honorees with their awards. Assemblyman Chuck Lavine, who attended with his wife Ronni, spoke of the years that he and Senator Marcellino had worked together, and that although they didn't always agree, as they represent different political parties, but they remain good friends. When Senator Marcellino spoke, he said he agreed with everything Chuck Lavine had said!

Then the live auction took place with Mike Taglich acting as auctioneer. There were nine items, including a one week stay for twenty-four people in Eleuthera. A five hour cruise for ten people on a forty-four foot power boat, golf outings at the Country Clubs, Piping Rock, Old

Westbury, and the Creek. Also a Yoshino cherry tree, to be planted on the winner's property, four tickets to see *Sleeping Beauty* at the Met, with dinner at the Grand Tier restaurant, and two tickets to *Plaza Suite* with dinner at the Harvard Club.

Dancing in the Oak Room followed. Each guests was given a jar of La Selva honey as they left. The journal which also doubled as a paddle for the auction, was filled with beautiful ads, photographs and portraits of a bygone era.

The Georgian style mansion which serves as The Muttontown Club's distinctive clubhouse was originally constructed by Howard Crosby Brokaw in 1919 and took five years to complete. It became known as "The Chimneys" because of the twenty six fireplaces and thirteen chimneys which are spread through the forty four room mansion. The club was purchased in 1960. Frances Ford Seymour married George Brokaw in 1931, after his death she married actor Henry Fonda, and they lived there with their children Jane and Peter.

Raynham Hall Museum, on 20 West Main Street in Oyster Bay, is the former home of George Washington's intelli-



Evan and Harold Bolloci



Chuck and Ronni Lavine

gence operative, Robert Townsend, a time capsule of the 18th and 19 century, as the house was expanded and has elements of the Colonial and Victorian style.

For further information call 516 922-6808 or visit raynhamhallmuseum.org



John Schwartzberg on the grand piano.



Beautiful table settings. Photos: Victoria Crosby

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Obituaries

D'AMBROSIO, Filippo Antonio was born on October 1, 1945 in Sturno, Italy to Mariano and Carmella D'Ambrosio. He moved to Gesualdo where he lived with his siblings; Rosa, Pasquale, and Giusepina. One of his proudest moments was serving in the Italian army.

He married his love Nina, in 1969 and they immigrated to the United States where they settled in Glen Cove, New York. He established his own successful painting contracting company on Long Island, which resulted in many lifelong friendships.

Together they had three children; Danny, Jerry and Diane. Filippo loved his family and was always there to support them in everything they did. He was so proud of his children's accomplishments and loved his daughter-in-laws and son-in-law, Kelly, Cynthia, and Dylan like they were his own children. What brought him the most joy was the birth of his seven grandchildren; Isabelle, Philip, Sara, Philip, Michael, Nina, and Andrew. He loved to make them laugh and tell them stories about his childhood in Italy.

Anyone who knew him knew how much he loved people. His ability to connect and create meaningful relationships was his gift. He never said goodbye, whether in person or on the phone, without telling you how much he loved you. In the last few years, he began texting. Daily he texted family and friends wishing them a great day and telling them he loved them.

He also loved and served the Lord faithfully. He instilled that love for God in his children and his faith never wavered.

Visitation on Tuesday 7-9pm and Wednesday 3-5 and 7-9pm. Funeral Service on Thursday at Evangelical Christian Church, 2 Ann Street, Glen Cove, at 10:30am. Interment to follow at East Hillside Cemetery. www.dodgethomas.com

PISZCZATOWSKI, Joseph K. of Glen Head, NY on Feb. 14, 2020. Beloved father of Joseph (Suzanne) and Janice. Cherished grandfather of Joseph, III and John. He is also survived by many nieces and nephews. Funeral Mass Wednesday 10 am at St. Hyacinth R.C. Church, Glen Head, NY. Interment Holy Rood Cemetery, Westbury. www.whitting.com

VALENSISI, Joseph of Glen Cove, NY on February 13, at Age 88. Beloved husband of Connie Zangari. Loving father of Michael, Joe (Josephine). Dear brother of Angela, Rose, Mike, Sal and Rita. Cherished grandfather of Stephen and Jessica. Also survived by many nieces and nephews. Mr. Valensisi was an avid gardener and he also enjoyed hunting and fishing. Entombment to follow at Holy Rood Cemetery. www.dodgethomas.com

Fresh Energy for the Oyster Bay Rotary Club



(l-r) President Carl Marcellino, Gina Weinberg, with Judy Wasilchuk, Rotary Treasurer

BY DAGMAR FORS KARPPI

Just talking to Gina Weinberg leaves you invigorated. A newly installed Rotary member, she is looking forward to working on the Oyster Festival. She has come with enthusiasm, new ideas and a willingness to work.

Weinberg explained her decision to join Rotary, as she was inducted on Feb. 5. "Last year our local parents group, on Facebook was made aware that the Oyster Festival was in danger of being cancelled. It was upsetting to many of us who know the importance of this event to our schools. Since Rotary club runs the event, I decided to attend a meeting and see what they were about. I was pleasantly surprised at all the amazing things the Oyster Bay Rotary club does in our area. I decided to join so I could give back and help the community."

She comes with great credentials. "As a past treasurer of both the OBEN elementary and High school PTA, I know the importance of this one event and what it means to our schools and nonprofits in the area. I think it is a great thing to be able to give some of my time, effort and resources to help others and hopefully make a difference in our community."

Walter Imperatore, who is co-chairing the festival again, said, "Gina is a breath of fresh air and energy." Her first meeting as a member was just what she was interested in as the members were discussing how to improve and maintain the festival. Ideas flowed and suggestions were made. Weinberg is taking a studied interest in the event, already attending the festival committee meetings and said she is looking forward to helping Beverly Zembko, food court chair, in any way she can.

Three days after Weinberg was inducted, Rotary President Senator Carl Marcellino was honored along with Assemblyman Chuck Levine by the Friends of Raynham Hall at their Bal Rouge held at the Muttontown Club. "They were instrumental in getting grants for our education annex. When completed, it will be a visitor's center where children can begin their field trips here," said Theresa Skvarla, RHM assistant director.

"It was a bi-partisan thank you," commented Patricia Marcellino.



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4 LVHS Seniors Named National Merit Finalists



National Merit Finalists (l-r): Locust Valley High School seniors Michelle Hsu, Nina Cialone, Nitha Paulas and Michael DiSpirito were named National Merit finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program.

Photos courtesy of LVCS

Four Locust Valley High School seniors have been named National Merit finalists in the National Merit Scholarship Program, sponsored by the National Merit Scholarship Corporation. It is exceptional that the high school has four finalists, as the College Board bestows this honor upon less than 1% of high school seniors nationwide each year.

Nina Cialone, Michael DiSpirito, Michelle Hsu and Nitha Paulas were recognized as semifinalists in September for achieving exceptional scores on the Preliminary Scholastic Aptitude Test. Out of the 1.5 million seniors that took the PSAT, the four Locust Valley students are among only 15,000 nationwide to be named finalists. Each semifinalist had to prove that they had high academic achievements throughout high school and had to earn a score on the Scholastic Aptitude Test that was consistent with their high PSAT scores.

Locust Valley High School Principal

Patrick DiClemente said the school's finalists are exceptional individuals. "These four students are bright, articulate and outstanding students who have had a positive impact at our high school, and each is certain to have a successful future," he said. "Their families and our entire school community should be proud of their successes and the accomplishment of having four finalists in one year at a school the size of Locust Valley High School."

The College Board shares the names of finalists with colleges and universities, and they now become eligible to receive scholarships of \$10,000 toward their college educations. These scholarships can come from the National Merit Scholarship Corporation, corporate sponsors or the universities the finalists attend. Scholarship winners will be announced in June.

Congratulations to Nina, Michael, Michelle and Nitha on this outstanding achievement!

25 Years Ago...

By LC Scully

The Concerned Citizens for 25A were continuing their fight for a practical approach to the proposed widening of Route 25A at the border of Nassau and Suffolk counties.

A Bayville youth was arrested and charged with criminal trespassing, two counts of second-degree burglary and one count of first-degree burglary.

Edwin Rahilly, ex-chief of the Oyster Bay Fire Company was elected the new president of the North Shore Firemen's Holy Name Society. James Soviero of the Bayville Fire Company was to be a vice president along with Jeff Barrington of Glenwood Fire Company, Leonard Lang of Williston Park Fire Department and James Salvemini of Manhasset-Lakeville Fire Department.

George W. Meyer of Locust Valley was appointed director of development for the Mill Neck Foundation of Mill Neck Manor School for deaf children.

Beverly Bell Winslow was ordained as a minister of the Reformed Church of

America. Dr. Randall Bosch led the celebration.

Frank A. Miglionico of Oyster Bay graduated from SUNY Oneonta.

Jerry Kennell of Brookville won a prize for the longest drive in the Leukemia Society of Long Island Indoor Golf Tournament.

Helen Woodbridge, Sally Shea and Jacqueline Copp were the 1994 top three producers at Douglas-Elliman Jane Hayes Real Estate. All three were longtime residents of the community.

Several local residents died including: John W. McCabe of Lattingtown; Rose Vulpis of Bayville, age 93; Alvaro G. Lopez of Bayville, age 83; William D. Leonard of Locust Valley, age 63; James C. MacKenzie, Jr., of Oyster Bay, age 51; Dominick Ranaldo of Oyster Bay, age 60; and Howard D. MacDougall of Oyster Bay Cove, age 87.

A historic Oyster Bay Cove Colonial, featuring a long driveway, picturesque pool and 2+ landscaped acres was listed for \$749,000.

50 Years Ago...By LC Scully



The Prudential Savings Bank was planning to open a branch in the soon-to-be-built shopping center on Birch Hill Road in Locust Valley.

Ann Marie Gurney of Locust Valley, age 9, was the winner of the Bay Community Girl Scouts' bakeoff. Ceilia Varga of Bayville, age 11, took second place, and the third prize was given to Kelly White of Oyster Bay, age 11.

The Locust Valley Garden Club hosted a luncheon and fashion show. Among those who modeled were Mrs. Alan Botsford, Mrs. Leslie Cheshire, Marilyn

DeLalie, Mrs. Thomas Curtin, Mrs. Colin Hammond, Mrs. Paul Novy, Mrs. Peter Weiler and Mrs. Shell Youngwall.

The Only Game in Town, featuring Elizabeth Taylor and Warren Beatty was playing at the Cove Theatre.

Several local residents died including Robert Paul Jonas of Centre Island, age 74 and Thomas Bancroft of Old Brookville.

All names are spelled as they were when these articles were first written, back in the day. If there was a typo then there is, with regret, still at typo.

View Grill Hosts Fundraiser for Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital



A poster for the event.

Chef Jeanine and the View Grill will be hosting a fundraiser to benefit the Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital.

The fundraiser will take place on Saturday, February 29, 2020 at the View Grill located at 111 Lattingtown Road in Glen Cove beginning at 7:00pm

Your donation of \$50.00 will include a buffet dinner with cash bar, DJ and dancing to your favorite music from the

60's, 70's and 80's and most of all a fun evening with friends while doing a great deed.

The Australia Zoo Wildlife Hospital is located on the property of the Australia Zoo. The zoo was founded by the late Steve Irwin and his wife Terri in 2002. Its mission is to rescue and rehabilitate wildlife. Over the last couple of months, the hospital has been overcome with patients due to the wild bush fires ravaging Australia. According to ecologists at the University of Sydney over a billion animals have perished. For injured animals the hospital is working around the clock to give Australia's animals the best chance of survival. "It is heartbreaking to read about the wildfires day after day and its devastating impact on Australia's wildlife, I feel the need to be proactive and by hosting a fundraiser I know it will give me and others the opportunity to help," said Chef Jeanine.

To make reservations or if you have any questions please call 516-200-9603

Theft At Saks Fifth Avenue In South Huntington

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help in finding two women who police believe engaged in theft from a South Huntington store in January. The pair entered Saks Fifth Avenue at 230 Walt Whitman Road around noon on Jan. 28 and stole Louis Vuitton shoes and a scarf, police said. The items were valued around \$2,000. If located, the perpetrators may be charged with grand larceny.

Anyone with information may contact Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and leave an anonymous tip via phone call at 1-800-220-TIPS, texting "SCPD" and



The two suspects.

your message to "CRIMES" (274637) or by email at www.tipsubmit.com. A cash reward of up to \$5,000 is offered for information that leads to an arrest.

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most famous flight in the nation's history. Much has changed over time in Nassau County--farms have vanished, new highways have been built, historic buildings and sites have been obliterated, and housing developments and shopping centers of all types and sizes have sprung up. Enjoy a lecture and book signing with author Richard Panchyk and learn about what is in our own backyards! Refreshments served. \$5 non members/\$10 members

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Wednesdays 1:00-5:00 PM and Saturdays 11:00-3:00 PM in February.
For the month of February, the North Shore Historical Museum of Glen Cove has waived admission so all may visit to see the a curated edition of our Fall 2018 exhibit on the World War I 369th Infantry Regiment, popularly known as the "Harlem Hellfighters."

The Harlem Hellfighters were an African-American army unit in World War I which spent more time in combat than any other American unit. 31 of these brave men were from the Glen Cove area. 3 of these men were awarded the Croix de Guerre, the French medal for valor. Visits are welcome during our regular hours.

LECTURE AND BOOK SIGNING
Sunday, March 22 at 3:00 PM
Sports fan John Yoniak has been in the game since he was 6 years old. He turned a love of playing sports into a hobby of collecting memorabilia from all professional sports including baseball, football, hockey and boxing. John will share not only his photos, signatures and treasures but also his memories of the players, games and friendships he collected along the way. Pre Game Memorabilia & Tailgate 2:30. Kickoff 3:00, \$5.00 members; \$10.00 non members

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Lattingtown, NY

2.2 beautiful flat acres with specimen trees and structure in Lattingtown Harbor. Private beach, clubhouse, mooring rights and homeowner's association with fees. Property backs renowned golf club. SD #3. MLS# 3181455. \$885,000.

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