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Vol. 78 No. 20 May 20, 2025

Locust Valley, New York 11560

www.theleaderonline.com

\$1.00

Town of Oyster Bay's Women of Distinction



Photo: Patricia Brexel

May 14th the Town of Oyster Bay honored 12 Women from Bayville, Syosset, Locust Valley, Massapequa, Oyster Bay, Farmingdale, Glen Head, Sea Cliff & Bethpage Communities. Story on page 3.

Happy Memorial Day



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Foundation
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Daniel
Gale

Sotheby's
INTERNATIONAL REALTY



Happy Memorial Day!

Featured Listing | Oyster Bay



Welcome to this rare gem tucked away on 2+ park-like acres with specimen gardens bursting with flowering trees and plants. Classic Colonial entrance foyer leads to gracious entertaining rooms and a chef's kitchen. Bluestone patio, 3-car garage, ice pond, and historic ice house. Beach and mooring rights. MLS# 860829. \$1,950,000.

Just Sold | Upper Brookville



963 Ripley Lane | Upper Brookville | MLS# L3551746. \$3,198,000.



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Town of Oyster Bay Honors Exceptional Residents At 'Women Of Distinction' Ceremony

Oyster Bay Town Supervisor Joseph Saladino and members of the Town Board hosted a special ceremony to recognize exceptional women who have significantly given back to our communities. This year's ceremony recognized 12 'Women of Distinction' who live and work throughout the Town of Oyster Bay.

Supervisor Saladino stated, "These extraordinary women all have outstanding qualities and have truly made our Town a better place. Together with my colleagues on the Town Board, we salute these outstanding residents for giving back to the charities, our hometown and the neighbors they love so much."

Councilwoman Maier, a member of the Women of Distinction Committee, added "All of our honorees have gone above and beyond in their communities. These women have an inspiring story to tell, and while their backgrounds are different they all have one thing in common – they don't do what they do looking for accolades. All our honorees should take pride in their great achievements as they are true role models in their various fields and communities."

2025 HONOREES



Barbara Groff
(Syosset, Oyster Bay)

Barbara selflessly volunteers countless hours to make her community a better place. She helps run the Hope for Long Island Thrift Store, and co-leads the food pantry based at North Shore Community Church, which last year alone helped provide three days of groceries to more than 12,000 people.



Carol Kennedy
(Bayville)

Carol has made a significant impact on the Bayville community through various causes, particularly those that celebrate its rich heritage and historical significance. For more than 20 years, she has sat on and chaired dozens of boards and organizations that help make the community a better place.



Kasturie Roth
(Locust Valley)

Through her work with local community organizations, Kasturie has fostered community engagement and social connections through events and initiatives. She dedicates countless hours to promoting literacy, education, and horticulture, and works to support underprivileged and elderly persons.



Antigone Argyriou, MD
(Glen Head)

As an interventional pain management physician, Dr. Argyriou is dedicated to enhancing the lives of those struggling with chronic pain and improving their

overall quality of life. In addition to her clinical work, she is also actively involved in local and state advocacy and legislative efforts to improve access to healthcare.



Zuleima Trujillo
(N. Massapequa)

Zuleima runs Blessed Cleaning Service Corp, where she's been recognized for tremendous tasks such as cleaning up after the Jones Beach 4th of July Fireworks show. Through a local salon, Zuleima and her cleaning team participate in a program to help clean and disinfect areas of homes for people battling cancer.



Judy Walter
(Bethpage, South Farmingdale)

Judy has demonstrated exceptional leadership and dedication in her role as Business Manager for the South Farmingdale Water District. Her ability to balance high level financial oversight with team leadership has made a significant impact on the water district's success.



Taylor Alletto
(Sea Cliff)

Taylor is the marketing and corporate social responsibility manager at BEDGEAR, where she focuses on fostering a culture that balances people, profits and the planet. She is also the founder of Sea Cliff Shaved Ice, which is dedicated to sustainability and being 100% plastic free.



Lorraine Stanton
(Farmingdale)

Lorraine has spent decades helping others, assisting families in need, increasing historical awareness in her community and promoting women's causes. Lorraine is president of the Farmingdale-Bethpage Historical Society, serves on the Farmingdale Library Board of Trustees and on various village committees and women's clubs.



Dina Ditrano
(Glenwood Landing)

Dina is a 30+ year member of the Glenwood Hook & Ladder Engine & Hose Company, who has dedicated her time serving her community as an EMT, engine Lieutenant, on various committees and on the board of trustees. She has served in several administrative roles within the Fire Company, being the first woman to hold any of those positions.

Nancy Zuch (Hicksville)
Nancy co-founded The Morgan



Center, a preschool program for children diagnosed with cancer. Nancy has helped hundreds of children receive an early childhood learning experience while providing families a safe space to establish an early education foundation while coping with the stresses of battling cancer.



Juliana Terian
(Westbury)

Juliana is the President and CEO of Rallye Motor Company, through which she has supported many charitable organizations.

She has partnered with Island Harvest to collect tons of food items for local families during the holiday season, as well as Donate Life NY, to highlight and encourage local residents to register in the New York State organ and tissue registry.



Valerie Thomas
(Massapequa)

Through volunteering with the Girl Scouts, Valerie organizes countless events while mentoring children she oversees as co-leader. Her efforts have not only enriched the lives of these young leaders, they have also fostered a sense of community and collaboration among troops.

Hearing on "RozeWood" CSH Hotel Re-Zone Draws Hundreds

BY LEADER STAFF

A hearing on a development plan to convert the old Deramore mansion - on Woodbury Road in Cold Spring Harbor - into a commercial Hotel and Day Spa drew hundreds of local residents, mostly opposed to the re-zone of the property into commercial use.

The re-zone proposal filed by Hunebed Holdings LLC would convert the historic mansion house into a 23-room hotel and day spa.

The mansion was originally known as "Deramore" and was built in 1933 for Edgar Farrar Bateson by Mott B. Schmidt in Cold Spring Harbor.

Jan and Jude Rozenveld, the principals of the property's owner, Hunebed Holdings LLC, have renamed the 24 acre property as "RozeWood Farms" and are seeking to have the property's current residential zoning changed into



Located on on Woodbury Road.

a Historic Building Overlay District for commercial use.

The Huntington Town Board has repeatedly delayed a public hearing on the re-zoning application, which finally proceeded last Tuesday at Huntington Town Hall.

The Rozenveldt's argue that by allowing the re-zoning for commercial hotel use, they can preserve the property's 24 acres as a park-like setting, and maintain the historic mansion house.

Residents are opposed to re-zoning



The Deramore Bateson House

the property for commercial use, which could then result in traffic and loud catered party events on the grounds. The Deramore / RozeWood property lies in an entirely residential neighborhood on the west side of Woodbury Road just north of Pulaski Road.

An example of a commercial "hotel re-zone gone wild" occurred recently at the historic "Mansion" property in Glen Cove.

The Mansion was increasingly being used to cater disreputable wild parties, including a notorious 2022 rap party by Brooklyn Rapper "Fetty Luciano" where three people were shot and armed partygoers ran fleeing into neighbors homes and gardens, to escape the gunfire.

The RozeWood property is currently zoned as two-acre residential, but sits on the edge of bluff, which means that the 24 acre property could be broken-up into 10 or more single family home lots.

The Huntington Town Board has not yet scheduled a vote on the Rozenveldt's proposal.



Built in 1933 for Edgar Farrar Bateson

EDITORIAL

HARVARD HATES AMERICANS - PARTICULARLY WHITES, JEWS AND ASIANS

This newspaper has commented over the years about the blatant anti-American ideology permeating Harvard University - and so many of America's other "elite" universities.

A 1978 book by a young, then-recent Harvard graduate John LeBoutillier called "Harvard Hates America" captured the hard left infiltration and capture of American academia.

When the US Supreme Court finally outlawed racial discrimination - citing Harvard's overt anti-Asian and anti-white policies - Harvard's president sneered and vowed to ignore the law.

A decade later, and Harvard - and its fellow Ivy League schools - continue to openly practice race discrimination. Like some retrograde Bull Connors hunkered in the hills.

Last month a young Roslyn High School senior got a nasty taste of that "progressivism."

With a perfect 4.0 GPA; and a 34 on the ACT, senior Zach Yadegari was rejected by nearly every top US university - including all the Ivy League schools.

What made the "rejection" more absurd is that Yadegari is the founding CEO of a tech start-up - Cal AI - a calorie counting app that helps people to diet. It's already earned him \$30 million.

Why would Harvard - and Yale, Princeton, UPenn, etc - all reject such a bright and already accomplished high school senior ?

Could it be the "race" and "religion" boxes that America's most racist and elite universities check to decide whom to discriminate against ? The answer is obviously "Yes."

There is a profound racist sickness in American academia.

It's time for Harvard to stop hating white and Asian and Jewish Americans - and start obeying basic fairness and decency - and the law.

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.

A LETTER TO OB-EN BOARD OF EDUCATION

RE: Superintendent's Report - May 12, 2025 Special BOE Meeting

To the Editor;

I am writing to urge you to not approve the recommended actions set forth by Superintendent Ianni to abolish the Supervising Groundskeeper and Laborer positions. At stake in this decision is not only the livelihood of two Oyster Bay alumni who have built their lives around service to the district, but also the public's trust in you as a service-oriented Board.

1. Superintendent Ianni's repeated emphasis on the "efficiencies" that these recommendations will supposedly bring to the district is at best a weak business justification and at worst an opaque, unjust dismissal.

Superintendent Ianni stated at the May 6 2025 board meeting that economic savings are not the primary efficiency behind this recommendation. I restate here just how minimal those savings are. The 2024-2025 proposed combined OBEN groundskeeper salaries for 2024-2025 are \$270,095--only 0.4% of Oyster Bay's \$67.7 million proposed budget for 2025-2026 (source). This is actually an increase in the total OBEN groundskeeper salary line from 2024-2025 (\$263,893). Ianni himself is slated to make \$376,397 for 2025-2026, almost a full \$100,000 more than the whole grounds crew combined. This will likely place him again in the top 20 highest paid public school educators in New York State (in 2024, he ranked 11th) (source).

If we believe Ianni that this recommendation is not primarily for economic efficiency, nor for poor performance, what is the reason? "Efficiency" without further context is not a sufficient business justifica-

tion--in order for you to properly do your job as a Board, Ianni should be pressed to provide a specific, evidence-based rationale that is publicly shared before any vote.

2. Superintendent Ianni's communications to the Supervising Groundskeeper and Laborer employees violate their right to due process and undermine your authority as a Board.

What's supposed to happen: As was stated at the May 6, 2025 board meeting, the Superintendent has the authority to make a recommendation to the Board of Education for abolishing a position; the affected employee has the right to know about said recommended action before it is presented to the Board of Education; the Board is then obligated to hear public discussion before a vote.

What actually happened: Superintendent Ianni sent communications to the Supervising Groundskeeper and Laborer positions as if the Board had already discussed and approved the recommended action. He doubled down on this in his latest communication dated May 9, 2025:

"...the Board of Education did not act on the resolution to abolish your position and terminate your employment at its regular meeting on May 6, 2025...this letter is to inform you that the Board of Education will act on a resolution at its regular meeting on May 12, 2025, abolishing your position and terminating your employment effect close of business June 30, 2025...on behalf of the Board of Education, allow me to express the District's appreciation of the service and contributions you have provided during your employment."

Where is the agency of the Board in this statement? Is it not true that the Board is required to hear public comment again on the resolution, discuss publicly, and then take a public vote

to approve/deny this recommendation? Why is the May 12, 2025 special meeting misrepresented as a regular Board meeting? Whether this move is the result of incompetence, intimidation, or both--we cannot accept this from a leader.

3. As we approach a budget vote and trustee election on May 20, 2025, we quite literally cannot afford to lose trust between the BOE and the public.

If the public votes against the \$67.7 million budget proposed by the Board, our district will face financial challenges far greater than the cost of the groundskeeping positions. The outcry over the proposed terminations should serve as a warning that the Board is already on shaky ground. If the Board does not reject Ianni's recommendations, this mistrust is likely to worsen. Ianni might be penny wise and pound foolish, but you as a Board do not need to be.

Despite what Ianni is trying to make us believe, this recommendation is not a done deal. When Ianni spoke at the last Board meeting, he used "I" and "my" so many times that if I didn't know better, I might think he was the only one with decision-making power in the district. But for good reason, he is not.

I urge you again to do your duty as a Board. Listen to the 685+ signatories on a petition against the abolition of these positions. Listen to the former BOE President saying this is likely a violation of the NYS Sunshine Law. Listen to your moral compass--that feeling that something is unjust here. I am an alumnus of OBHS (class of 2012) and have seen the Board do this successfully before. I have faith that you can do the right thing for our district again. Emphasis on our district--not his.

Best,
Lauren Burke
OBHS '12 Alumnus

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Locust Valley, NY 11560

The North Shore
Leader

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Op-Ed: Thoughts on Recent Developments

By STEVE LEVY

Nassau IDA Claws Back Tax Breaks

We've been very critical of the Nassau Industrial Development Agency over the years for approving tax breaks for parking lots and storage garages. The purpose of the agency is to provide incentives to create long-term, high-paying jobs that otherwise would not come to the region.

So we were happy to see that the agency clawed back grants given to Dealer Track in North Hills, which failed to meet its obligation to provide those jobs promised. Clawing back tax breaks when the receiving company fails to actually create the jobs it promised is a needed policy that our Center for Cost Effective Government has been advocating for many years. Finally, they're being implemented.

Kudos to Nassau County for New Buffer Law

Throughout the George Floyd riots, we saw numerous cases of hostile agitators getting in the faces of law enforcement personnel who were trying to protect people and property. The vile, spoiled protesters were in the faces of the police, snarling at them, spitting on them, provoking them, and at times even bumping them.

I said to myself, "How could we be allowing this? Why aren't these people forced to move back or get arrested?:"

And the answer was always: they had a First Amendment right to do this.

That's nonsense. They have a First Amendment right to protest, to shout, to march up and down, but not to try to physically intimidate a police officer, firefighter or EMT.

Many of these antifa-type agitators are looking to provoke a fight to get a viral moment and perhaps a settlement from liberal city mayors. Enough is enough! Protect our police, firefighters and EMTs.

Requiring protesters to stand 15 feet away from the police as they protest is not unreasonable. But it is long overdue.

The Politics of Offshore Wind

The Trump administration has put a hold on over 50 offshore wind turbines presently under the construction off Long Beach.

While this column has been quite critical of the lack of transparency related to the cost of these turbines, we question the legitimacy and efficacy of the Trump administration putting the kibosh on a project that is already in progress. The administration certainly does have the right to require more information and safeguards before any new projects are approved.

We continue to lash out at the terrible way our state government has promoted these wind projects. They issued mostly a bunch of press releases and virtue signaled how they were going to save the planet, but never fully told us how much these projects were going to cost.

Offshore wind is very expensive. Our

energy costs are already going through the roof because our state leaders have blocked natural gas pipelines that would supply needed affordable energy.

Gas is cheaper. Gas is cleaner than coal or oil and has been the main factor in our nation's reduction in carbon output over the last two decades. It is a smart transition fuel to the point when we can incorporate more alternatives as they become more affordable and reliable.

Wind is much cheaper if constructed inland as opposed to offshore - but offshore wind is very expensive and often impractical. Its mass use is questionable once passed through a cost benefit analysis.

So good for the Trump administration

in sounding the alarm, but it is very unfair to the business entities who have already gone through the process and relied on approvals to be stopped in the middle of their projects.

We will agree with Trump on one thing: nothing further until we receive a real, honest accounting of the total cost.

Steve Levy is President of Common Sense Strategies, a political consulting firm. He served as Suffolk County Executive, as a NYS Assemblyman, and host of "The Steve Levy Radio Show." He is the author of "Solutions to America's Problems" and "Bias in the Media." www.SteveLevy.info, Twitter @SteveLevyNY, steve@commonsensestrategies.com



Steve Levy

Op-Ed: Huntington Residents Deserve Respect

By COUNCILMAN EUGENE COOK

Over the past year, one of the most troubling aspects of Supervisor Ed Smyth's push to build thousands of high-density urban apartments in Huntington was his treatment of residents during public hearings at Town Board meetings.

Developer aligned interests who stood to make money were praised by the Supervisor and thanked for their "insight."

Residents who respectfully disagreed with the Supervisor, or even had comments contrary to his and the developers' beliefs, were belittled, insulted, or shouted away from the podium by Smyth.

There are countless examples, but one incident that sticks out in my mind was at the November 19, 2024 Town Board Meeting.

The Supervisor proceeded to make fun of a resident's outfit - and then questioned the resident's intelligence - all because the resident disagreed with Supervisor Smyth's push to build thousands of high-density apartments in Huntington - without any impact studies on schools, traffic, or the environment.

"Don't listen to that lawyer with clogs," snarked the Supervisor.

Luckily later in the meeting another Town resident called the Supervisor out on his disgusting remarks, noting that the resident whom Smyth mocked and insulted was a Professional Engineer.

The Supervisor then insinuated that the resident was still an idiot - because they give that engineering degree "out to everyone."

There are a lot of things that are forgivable, but publicly mocking and flogging your constituents in a cruel manner - for the whole Town to see - isn't one of them.

Every resident must ask themselves, is this the kind of government we want representing us?

Residents deserve respect. That is why I am running with Brooke Lupinacci for Town Board for this year.

Councilman Eugene Cook (R) served three terms on the Huntington Town Board. He is a successful local businessman and is currently running again for Huntington Town Board, on the Republican ticket with Councilwoman Brooke Lupinacci.



Councilman Eugene Cook

Op-Ed: Overdevelopment in Huntington - Who is Next ?

By JOHN POSILICO

The Town of Huntington has arrived at a scary crossroads, indeed; it is one that threatens our very quality of life.

The current administration, under a controversial Supervisor Ed Smyth, has spearheaded an effort to cram Huntington with thousands of high density apartment complexes. It is unstudied, ill-advised, unprecedented, environmentally dangerous, and unlawful.

Look no further than Melville for the latest lapse of sanity.

The Half Hollow Hills School District, the largest educational body in Huntington, sent a letter to Smyth adamantly opposing his scheme to build thousands of high-density apartments. The letter from the HHH Superintendent and Board of Education stated their concerns that Smyth's rezoning will require the district to pierce the tax cap and result in a reduction in educational opportunities for students.

Incredibly, the district projects the

annual additional cost of \$20.5 million dollars on beleaguered Huntington taxpayers.

But instead of pausing to contemplate reasonable assessments, and moving to protect our schools and children, the Supervisor rammed it through over widespread, overwhelming objections.

If you don't like it, too bad, seems to be Smyth's motto.

If the largest school district in the Town gets ignored when it tries to reason with the Supervisor's disturbed approach to zoning, what chance do any of us have when open season comes to the rest of our neighborhoods.

Elwood, Greenlawn, East Northport, Cold Spring Harbor, Halesite, Huntington Village... Who will be next in his sights?

John Posilico is the former Chairman of the Town of Huntington's Board of Zoning Appeals. He is the CTO of Arizona Beverages Company (Arizona Iced Tea) and is a current Republican candidate for Huntington Town Board.



John Posilico

WaterFront Center Celebrates 25TH Anniversary



The WaterFront Center

Join us for a ceremonial ribbon cutting celebrating the 25th anniversary of the WaterFront Center, May 22, at 6:00 PM - 7:00 PM. Remarks from WFC leadership, local officials, and community partners, and a meet-and-greet with our staff and volunteers. Enjoy light refreshments featuring local oysters and clams, courtesy of Schultz's Restaurant.

The WaterFront Center is located at 1 West End Ave, Oyster Bay, NY 11771 Free and open to the public - no registration required!

Locust Valley's Memorial Day Parade

On Monday, May 26, the Howard A. Van Wagner Post 962 of the American Legion will host the Memorial Day Parade. The parade honors those men and women of the armed forces who have made the supreme sacrifice in times of war.

The parade starts at the corner of 9th Street and Forest Avenue at 9 A.M. The parade includes American Legion veterans and various civic organizations including Girl Scouts, Locust Valley Fire Department, Locust Valley sixth grade and middle school band, Chamber of Commerce, Rotary, Boys and Girls Club, Library, and Garden Club.

The Grand Marshal of this year's parade is former Marine Corps fighter pilot Doug Gamble, who has been a resident of Locust Valley for 45 years. He has served in many roles at Post 962 including as Commander for five years.

During the parade, wreaths are laid at four stops, and the Legion's rifle team fires a volley of shots saluting our fallen heroes. The first stop of is at the American Legion Plaza at the corner of Weir Lane and Forest Avenue. Four

The Glen Cove Anglers Club



Grand Marshal
Doug Gamble

monuments honor those who served during World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War; and one dedicated to the 21 Fallen Heroes from Locust Valley. The second stop is at the Locust Valley Library. Below the captured German field cannon are the names of the 136 men who served during the World War I. Stars indicate that three of those men made the supreme sacrifice. The third stop on the route is

next to the Locust Valley Fire Department where a monument honors those who served during World War II. Fourteen local men perished during that war.

The parade concludes at the field adjacent to the Locust Valley Primary School with a wreath placement ceremony, a rifle volley, and the playing of taps. In addition, the names of the Locust Valley Fallen Heroes, honoring the 21 servicemen who perished in service to their country will be read.

Members of the community are encouraged to attend the parade and ceremony to honor those who gave their lives serving our country.

Merchant Marine Academy: Jesus Painting Up From the Basement

By **CHRIS O'NEILL**

A recent visit to the United States Merchant Marine Academy by US Secretary of Transportation Sean Duffy saw a dramatic reversal of an anti-religious and anti-Christian policy by the prior administration – and the restoration of a historic work of art to its longtime place at the Academy.

This newspaper covered the removal of a large painting captioned “Christ on the Water” from a student hall on the Academy campus.

The Leader news article entitled “Ban on Historic Painting Roils US Merchant Marine Academy” described how the then radical superintendent of the academy, Joanna Nunan, put a blanket over the iconic painting, which depicts a Jesus like figure extending his helping hands to merchant seamen on a lifeboat lost at sea.

The painting was done by Hunter Wood, a serviceman in the US Merchant Marine who fought in WWII. The painting hung at the Academy for nearly 80 years, and was a source of inspiration and comfort for generations of students and merchant mariners.

But having a depiction of Jesus was a problem for Nunan - and for the entire Biden administration. One more example of how a small radical fraction in American politics forced its ideology upon unwilling Americans. Any depiction of traditional religious faith – even truthful depictions of religious Americans



Secretary Duffy at US Merchant Marine Academy
(courtesy USMMA)

facing imminent death – was now taboo.

Not only did Nunan and her boss - then-US Transportation Secretary Pete Buttigieg - order that the painting be covered up by a blanket, but the painting was then taped over in wrapping, removed from the wall, and put in the basement. To be buried forever.

During his April visit to the Merchant Marine Academy, Secretary Duffy turned that policy upside down - and the world back right side up.

After speaking to the assembled cadets, at the very end of his speech, Duffy paused, smiled and added: “Let’s bring Him up!”

The cadets roared, and the cheers went on full a full 30 seconds.

Duffy tried to continue, but he was drowned out. The cadets wouldn’t stop. The world was becoming normal again. And the painting was restored to its historic place on the wall.

David From La Bussola Needs a Kidney Fundraiser

By **VICTORIA CROSBY**

On May 29 from 6pm to 9pm there is sold out fundraiser at the Glen Cove Anglers Club at 70 Garvies Point Road for David Geliashvili, who many residents know from La Bussola restaurant in Glen Cove, and works at the Glen Cove Senior Center too. The Glen Cove Rotary Club is sponsoring the event to raise funds for David’s treatment until he finds a kidney donor.

Sponsors are needed for the event, so if you would like to help, please contact Trish McCauley at 917-209-0488 or email trishmccauley36@gmail.com or Rose Ann Teles at 516 582-3117 or email ratlbass5662@gmail.com.

Any donation is appreciated, but

there are levels of donation that will include a sign at the event and recognition in marketing and communications. Gold sponsorship at \$1000 will receive

a Tee Sign and four event tickets, silver sponsors at \$500 receive signage and two event tickets, bronze sponsors at \$350 receive signage and one ticket, and Friends at \$100 receive signage.

Checks may be made out and mailed to the Glen Cove Rotary, 3, Hickory Lane, Glen Cove, NY 11542. Please note that the donation is for David Geliashvili. Donations of gift cards or merchandise are also

welcome.

For information on kidney donation for David please contact Libby at Northwell Health Department of Transplantation at 516 666-0899 or email Binkiewicz@northwell.edu.



David Geliashvili

COMPASS

MONTAUK, NY 11954
236 Edgemere St, Unit 223 2 Bed | 2 Bath

Perched high above Montauk, this stunning unit at Montauk Manor delivers breathtaking panoramic views from every room—a true masterpiece of coastal living.

Step inside and be captivated by sweeping ocean vistas, sun-drenched skies, and rolling greenery that frame your every moment. Whether it's the expansive balcony, the sunlit dining area, or even the cozy entryway, every inch of this home is designed to showcase Montauk's unparalleled beauty. Indoor or outdoor, the views never stop. Imagine waking up to the golden hues of sunrise streaming through your bedroom window, enjoying your morning coffee with the gentle sea breeze on the balcony, or dining against the backdrop of an endless horizon.

No matter where you are in the home, Montauk's natural beauty surrounds you. Montauk Manor blends historic elegance with awe-inspiring views that redefine luxury living. Whether you're seeking a weekend retreat or a perfect summer getaway, this unit offers an experience like no other—because here, **every room comes with a view.**



Pricing: July \$20k | August \$20k | Call for weekly rates.

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Hive Market & Gallery's "Colors of Freedom" Exhibit



(Centered) Oyster Bay Chamber President Ravin Chetram helps Hive owner Laura Escobar cut the ribbon to open the Hive Market & Gallery

Hive Market & Gallery hosted an artists' reception at the new exhibit of "Colors of Freedom" Friday, May 9th. The artists' reception also celebrated Hive's Fourth Anniversary, and showcased their new addition Hive Market & Gallery with a ribbon cutting. The new gallery is free and open to the public.

The exhibit features 24 artworks by a wide variety of artists. Michaela Agyemang, Steve Caputo, Loretta Cerame, Michaelene Cooper, Caitlin Darbee, Karen Davis, Olivia Franks, Michael Galatro, Aimee Girard, Emily Grace, Susan Herbst, Sabine Jean-Bart, Kash, Annette Kasle, Kathryn Laible,

Chuck Lembo, Kassidy McGahan, Magali Modoux, Drigo Morin, Robert Nock, Mary O'Brien, Ornella Pepe, Lila Slattery, and Joan Stevens.

Part of the proceeds of the exhibit will benefit Blue Star Mothers, Nassau County, NY 14, a not-for-profit made up of mothers, stepmothers, grandmothers, foster mothers and female legal guardians who have children serving in the military, guard or reserves, or children who are veterans. The organization focuses on our troops, veterans, and families of our Fallen Heroes.

"My journey as a Military Mom has inspired me to bring this exhibit to The Hive," Laura Escobar, owner of the Hive, explains. "My daughter Arianna is an active-duty Marine, and I'm so proud of her! I am extremely excited to see what the creative community will share!"

"With Armed Forces Day on May 17, and Memorial Day on May 26, we

thought this would be the perfect timing for this exhibit," said Susan Herbst, Hive's Gallery Coordinator. The artwork will be on display thru May 31st. Besides artwork, the Hive Market is full of great gifts, hand made crafts, jewelry, souvenirs of Oyster Bay, and so much more. If you are looking for an end of the year teacher gifts this is the place!

Hive Market & Gallery is located at 100-102 Audrey Ave., Oyster Bay, NY 11771. You can follow them on Instagram and Facebook: [hivemarketob](https://www.instagram.com/hivemarketob) or visit their website: [hivemarketob.com](https://www.hivemarketob.com). For more information on Blue Star Moms, visit <https://www.bluestarmothersny14.org/>.



Artists Michaela Agyemang with her husband Oppong in front of her piece "Stars and Stripes"



Andrea Nordquist, President of Blue Star Mother's



"Sagamore Hill" by Aimee Girard



"For all the Rescue Dogs" by Susan Herbst



"The General" by Karen Davis



The reception at the new gallery was well attended.

Photos: Patricia Mavros Brexel

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North Shore Students Named as “US Presidential Scholars” Semifinalists



Jeremy Ratner of Portledge (courtesy Portledge School)

BY LEADER STAFF

Over a dozen Long Island high school students – including nine from local north shore high schools - have been named as 2025 semifinalists in the prestigious U.S. Presidential Scholars Program.

The Program is run by the U.S. Department of Education. This honor recognizes some of the nation's most distinguished high school seniors for their academic excellence, leadership, and community involvement.

Some of the area students named as Semifinalists are:

- Jeremy Ratner**, Portledge School
- Johnathan Ahdout**, Great Neck – Great Neck North High School
- Vishrut S. Goyal**, Jericho - Jericho High School
- Milan Lustig**, Cold Spring Harbor - Cold Spring Harbor High School
- Agastya Mittal**, Jericho - Jericho High School
- Grace Punzalan**, Manhasset - Manhasset High School
- Sarah Sun**, New Hyde Park - Great

Neck South High School
Erin Wong, Great Neck - Great Neck South High School
Yujin Wu, Great Neck - Great Neck South High School
 “Jeremy’s achievement places him among an elite group of students,” stated a press release from the Portledge School about their student Jeremy Ratner.

The US Presidential Scholars Program uses a Student’s SAT or ACT college admission test scores to first determine the original group called “Candidates.” They are further evaluated to be named as “Semifinalists.”

Candidates are notified of eligibility, and - if interested in being considered for the scholarship - must submit an essay, self-assessments, high school reports, and transcripts. The candidates are then evaluated on their academic achievement, personal characteristics, leadership and service activities, and an analysis of their essay.

The 2025 Semifinalists were selected from over 6,000 Candidates.

Being named a Semifinalist is one of the highest honors bestowed upon graduating high school seniors. Scholars are selected based on their accomplishments in many areas—academic and artistic success, accomplishment in career and technical fields, leadership, strong character and involvement in school and the community.

The US Presidential Scholars Program was established in 1964 by President Lyndon Johnson through an Executive Order of President Lyndon Johnson.

From the Semifinalists, there are 161 students chosen to become US Presidential Scholars. The White House Commission on Presidential Scholars makes the final selection, with the names of the 161 Presidential Scholars to be announced by US Secretary of Education Linda McMahon.

LV Ann Monsees Nominated for 2026 NY Teacher of the Year

Being called to the principal’s office is not usually a prelude to good news, but it was a wonderful surprise for Locust Valley Middle School teacher Ann Monsees. On that winter day, Monsees learned that she be nominated for New York State’s Teacher of the Year award for 2026.

Monsees has spent her entire 23-year teaching career in the Locust Valley Central School District and the last 13 years in the middle school, and in that time, she has become known for her excellent rapport with students and her willingness to try new ways to make them comfortable in the classroom.

As one of three teachers in her immediate family, Monsees often discusses new methods of getting the most out of students. Part of that has been her inclusion of flexible seating options, including standing tables, floor seating, bouncy-ball chairs and regular desks since 2018. Encouraged by her sister Mary, who was also nominated for Teacher of the Year in Florida, Monsees read up on how flexible seating can enhance teacher-student interactions, foster peer learning and accommodate different learning styles.

“I love the challenges that you face in sixth grade,” Monsees said. “The students are coming to a new building with new lockers and making friends from both sides of town. I find all of that so exciting, and helping them along that journey – the academic and social – is unique to the middle school.”

Monsees has also become well-known for her exciting hands-on activities that connect to the course material and teach students life lessons. Over the last few years, she has held a day where students design their own kites and fly them through the air during their weather unit in science class. This past year, she



Locust Valley Middle School sixth-grade teacher Ann Monsees (center) with her children and Superintendent of Schools Dr. Kristen Turnow (left) and principal Michael Cestaro (right). Photo: LVCS

and the rest of the sixth-grade teachers held a camp-themed day where students caught up on their reading of “The Adventures of Ulysses,” in tents, wrote stories after fishing for parts of speech prompts and used teamwork to create shelters out of connecting rods and cones. She credits her peers – teachers and administrators – for collaborating with her and helping exciting ideas make it to the classroom. Her efforts extend to extracurriculars, as she started the civics-minded “The Fifty Nifty Club” focused on improving knowledge of American geography and regional facts. Monsees has invited middle school students in Half Hollow Hills and Jericho to collaborate with the club’s members.

“Ms. Monsees believes that learning should be engaging, relevant and personalized, and designs innovative lessons that seamlessly integrate real-world problem solving,” Locust Valley Middle School Principal Michael Cestaro said. “Her commitment to her students, their parents and her colleagues is nothing short of inspirational. Her care, compassion and positivity have allowed her to become an invaluable asset to our school community.”

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Obituaries



CANAVAN, Mary Jane of Glen Cove, NY and formerly of Sea Cliff, NY on May 14th, 2025 at age 88. Beloved wife of Thomas. Loving mother of Thomas, Jeanne (Matt Hanes), Stephen (Leigh), Teresa (John Sullivan) and the late Robert. Dear sister of Robert Strahley (Ann) and the late Charles Strahley Jr. (Maureen). Proud grandmother of 10. Also survived by loving nieces and nephews. Mary Jane was a lifelong Chorister, recently of North Shore Community Chorus and the St. Boniface Choir. She was also a Eucharistic Minister as well as a member of the Consolation Group at St. Boniface. Mary Jane was very active in community affairs in Sea Cliff. Interment at Calverton National Cemetery. www.DodgeThomas.com

Interment Locust Valley Cemetery. www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com

GRIMALDI, Elisa of Glen Cove, NY on May 8th, 2025 at age 80. With heavy hearts, we announce the passing of Elisa Grimaldi, a beloved mother, grandmother and the heart of her family. Elisa was the kind of woman whose love held generations together- strong, warm and endlessly giving. She leaves behind a legacy of love, resilience, and cherished memories that will live on forever in the hearts of her family and loved ones. Beloved wife of the late Vito Grimaldi. Loving mother of Angela Cammarano (Joseph), Margherita Anobile (Joseph) and Joseph Grimaldi (Lucia). Adored grandmother of Joseph, Jeannette, Vito, Elisa A, Elisa G, Patricia, Camilla, Angela and Angelo. She was deeply loved - and will always be. www.DodgeThomas.com

SARNOFF, Ruth of Glen Cove, NY on May 17, 2025 at Age 94. Beloved wife of the late Norman. Loving mother of Deborah (Robert Gotkin) and Andrew (Jorge Mendieta). Dear sister of the late Lynn Zatz (Marvin). Proud grandmother of William Gotkin (Chana). Cherished great-grandmother of Zackary. Services and interment are Private. www.DodgeThomas.com

URTUBIA MUNOZ, Sonia M., on May 12, 2025, age 79, of Oyster Bay NY. Beloved mother of Ruben Zuniga, Antonio Zuniga, Alejandro Zuniga, and Romina Maturana. Loving grandmother of Joseph Zuniga, Gerhard Zuniga, Aylin Zuniga, Samantha Zuniga, Jerson Zuniga, Francisca Zuniga, Thomas Zuniga, Jovan Noboa, and Laura Zuniga. Proud great grandmother of Lee, Jaxx, and Luna. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, relatives and friends. Interment is private. www.oysterbayfuneralhome.com

CAVISE, MaryAnn of Glen Cove, NY on May 5, 2025 at Age 62. Loving mother of Skye (Michael). Dear sister of Carl and the late John. MaryAnn was family oriented, she was an avid Met fan and loved to crochet. Arrangements entrusted to Dodge-Thomas Funeral Home, Glen Cove. Mass at the Church Of St. Rocco, Saturday June 7, 2025 at 2:00pm. Interment is Private. www.DodgeThomas.com

GALLO, Concetta C. - on May 8, 2025, age 87, of Woodbury. Beloved wife of the late Dominick Anthony. Loving mother of Donna Alizzi (Anthony), and Lori Sullivan (Peter). Cherished grandmother of Mark Alizzi (Kate), Beth Pipala (Christopher), Rebecca Tamayo (Joel), Brendan Sullivan, Caitlyn Sullivan, and Connor Sullivan (Molly). Proud great grandmother of Nora, Ivy, Avery, Olivia and Scottie. Also survived by many loving nieces, nephews, relatives, and friends.





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Gaitley Citizen of the Year



(R-L front row) Jim Stevenson-Mathews, Lydia Wen Rodgers; Glen Cove Mayor Pam Panzenbeck, Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews, Chris Petrella, Evelyn Kandel, Wayne Cohen.
(R-L back row) Dr. Maxine Mayreis, Angelina Stanco Stone, Howard Stillwagon, Merle Richards, Claudette Bryan, Joe Gallo.
Photo courtesy New Hyde Park-North Shore Elks Lodge

BY VICTORIA CROSBY

The New Hyde Park-North Shore Elks Lodge No. 2107 honored Glen Cove resident Gaitley Stevenson-Mathews as 2025 Citizen of the Year, at the Installation of officers for his commitment to veterans and community service.

Stevenson-Mathews is the President and Founder of the Tribute and Honor Foundation, which launched in December 2021. Under his leadership and with strong community support, the Foundation raised nearly \$50,000 to help rebuild the Glen Cove VFW following a devastating fire. The organization supports numerous initiatives across Long Island benefiting veterans and their families, and last year established a scholarship in memory of Korean War veteran Ben Farman. Through its Annual Awards Ceremony, held each year on the first Saturday in February, the Foundation, to date, has honored nearly 40 veterans and

veteran supporters from across Long Island. Attendees also included Glen Cove Mayor Pam Panzenbeck, Dr Maxine Mayreis, president of Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce, Gaitley's husband Jim Stevenson-Mathews, members of Glen Cove AME Church, and many others.

Stevenson-Mathews serves as Community Engagement Officer for the Holocaust Memorial and Tolerance Center of Nassau County. Some of his other honors include the Glen Cove Chamber of Commerce's Community Service Award, the North Shore Hispanic Chamber of Commerce's Leadership Award, and VFW Post 347's Meritorious and Distinguished Service Award.

Also honored were Anthony Vitale, named Officer of the Year, and Robert Giglio, posthumously named Elk of the Year. Giglio's award was accepted by his widow, Kathleen Lang, who serves as Lodge secretary.

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Take Your Child to Court Day



Children Learn to Take Fingerprints (courtesy SCNC)

BY LEADER STAFF

Nearly 100 local children descended on the Supreme Court in Mineola, as the Court hosted "Take Your Child to Work Day" for Judges, Lawyers and Court employees.

On April 25th the Supreme Court celebrated its annual Bring Your Child to Work Day, hosting nearly 100 children, ranging in age from 5 to 17.

The event, which was held at 100 Supreme Court Drive in Mineola, was sponsored by Chief Clerk's Office, with the support of Office of Justice Initiatives and the Nassau County Bar Association.

The day began with the children being greeted by District Administrative Judge Vito M. DeStefano and



Justice Jeffrey Goodstein and Justice Vito DeStefano

Supervising Judge Jeffrey A. Goodstein.

The Judges and Court staff worked hard to portray the varied important work that is performed in the Supreme Court.

The visiting children had the opportunity to hear from various employees, such as a court reporter and a Court Officer-Sergeant, as to what their duties and responsibilities were.

The children then took part in various law enforcement and Court security activities, such as fingerprinting, magnetometer screening, O.C. spray and baton training, and riding in the Court's MSP car.



The Court arranged for an ice cream truck for the children

All participants were treated to a pizza lunch, after which the children participated in mock trials, where they played the roles of judges, prosecutors, defense attorneys, and the parties. The fun-filled and educational day ended with the children being treated to an ice cream truck.

Beloved Bunny to Retire from the Bayville Pharmacy

Bunny, as she is known by her friends, Marie Vissichelli is retiring from the Bayville Pharmacy. It's an end of an era, she has worked there since 2002.

Bunny was a huge asset to the Bayville Pharmacy. Her smile cheered up many people shopping in the pharmacy. She was also very compassionate to those who were sick while picking up their medications. She worked fearlessly during the pandemic. Even Billy Joel, and his family are so appreciative of her service, they sent her flowers on numerous occasions.

Bunny will be spending her retirement enjoying her grandchildren, and the beautiful beaches in Bayville. Her last day is May 23rd, so stop in and wish her well. She will be missed!



Marie "Bunny" Vissichelli Photo: Patricia Brexel

CSH High School Student Earns Gold Medal

Cold Spring Harbor High School proudly congratulates senior Ryan Smith on earning the Congressional Award Gold Medal, the highest honor bestowed upon civilian youth by the United States Congress. This esteemed recognition celebrates Ryan's exceptional commitment to community service, personal development and civic engagement. In addition, Ryan received special distinction as a STEM Star, highlighting his outstanding contributions in science, technology, engineering and mathematics.



Ryan Smith Photo: CSHCSD

Established by Congress in 1979, the Congressional Award is a nonpartisan, voluntary program designed to recognize initiative, achievement and service in America's youth. Gold Medal recipients must complete a rigorous set of requirements, including a minimum of 400 hours of voluntary public service, 200 hours of personal development, 200 hours of physical fitness and a five-day, four-night expedition or exploration to foster cultural awareness and growth.

Ryan dedicated over three years to meeting these requirements. His

accomplishments include work at Northwell Health's 3D Design and Innovation Lab, where he developed an application to monitor oxygen levels in portable tanks used for patient transport—enhancing both safety and efficiency. To further his knowledge, Ryan pursued advanced studies in computer science, artificial intelligence, and mathematics through summer coursework.

As part of his recognition, Ryan has been invited to attend the 2025 Congressional Award Gold Medal Summit in Washington, D.C., from June 11–13. During the summit, he will engage with Members of Congress, national leaders in business and public service, and fellow Gold Medalists from across the country. His itinerary will include meetings with New York legislators and a formal reception with the Vice President of the United States.

Ryan exemplifies the values of leadership, service and intellectual curiosity. The Cold Spring Harbor Central School District commends him on this remarkable achievement and looks forward to his continued success.

Friends of the Bay Host Free Terrapin Talk

Join the Friends of the Bay on Wednesday, June 11, from 6 - 7 p.m. at the WaterFront Center in Oyster Bay, for a special presentation with John Turner, Sr. Conservation Policy Advocate at Seatuck Environmental Association.

Learn about the life history of diamondback terrapins and get the chance to meet a live terrapin from the Wildlife Center of Long Island.

Find out what Friends of the Bay is



Diamondback Terrapin Turtle

doing to monitor diamondback terrapins in our area and how you can get involved. Please register: www.friendsofthebay.org/events

LLC

Angel Ping LLC, Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 09/24/2024, . Office: Suffolk County SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, at 1 Seven Springs Court, Lloyd Harbor, NY 11743. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

PLLC

G. Kugler, MD, PLLC Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 03/24/25. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent of PLLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the PLLC, 123 South St., Oyster Bay, NY 11771. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LLC

M.R. Immigration Services LLC. Art. of Org. filed with the SSNY on 02/05/25. Office: Nassau County. SSNY designated as agent of LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail copy of process to the LLC, at ZEN BUSSINESS INC., 41 STATE Albany Suite 112, NY 12207. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

LLC

Legal Notice # 122194 Notice of formation of Dircks Design, LLC. Articles of Organization filed w/ Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 4/30/25. Office located in Suffolk. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC 4 Parkridge Ct, Huntington NY 11743. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

Daniel Gale Foundation Launches Annual Clothing Drive to Support Dress for Success



Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty office located at 1 Buckram Road, Locust Valley

The Daniel Gale Foundation, the philanthropic division of Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty, a leader in luxury real estate, is proud to announce the launch of its 25th annual clothing drive in support of Dress for Success, an initiative that reflects the organization's enduring commitment to community service and empowerment.

From now through the end of May, all 29 Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty offices from Brooklyn and Queens to the Hamptons will be collecting new or gently used professional clothing and accessories to help local women dress for success—lit-

erally. Items being accepted include dress and pant suits and separates, blouses, shoes, coats, handbags, and other business-appropriate attire. All donations will benefit Dress for Success, which supports unemployed and underemployed women by providing professional attire and tools to help them succeed in their job

search and career development.

"Whether it's the first impression a property or a person makes, no one understands the power of presentation like a real estate agent," said Deirdre O'Connell, Chief Executive Officer of Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty. "But this drive is about so much more than clothes—it's about helping women feel seen, valued, and equipped to take the next step in their careers and lives."

Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty's partnership with Dress for Success began in 2000, when agents and

employees were first invited to participate in a company-wide clothing collection. Since then, the initiative has become a cherished annual tradition, with the company donating truckloads of high-quality business attire that has supported countless women on their journeys to economic independence and personal empowerment.

This year's drive continues the legacy of service that is a hallmark of Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty's culture—supporting not only the communities in which its agents work but also those striving to build better futures for themselves and their families.

Community members are invited to join the effort by dropping off donations at a Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty office. To find the nearest location, visit www.danielgale.com/locations.

About the Daniel Gale Foundation

The Daniel Gale Foundation was established in 2022 to mark the centennial celebration of Daniel Gale Sotheby's International Realty. While charitable donations and community service have long been part of the organization's core values, the Foundation was created to unify and amplify these

efforts across its expanding footprint.

Over the years, Daniel Gale Sotheby's international Realty has contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars and dedicated countless volunteer hours to causes across the region. With the formation of the Foundation, these philanthropic initiatives—driven by the commitment of the organization's management, staff and real estate advisors to make an even greater impact.

In just three years, the Foundation has donated the equivalent of 150,000 meals to Island Harvest and City Harvest food banks during Hunger Action Month®, supported Pink Aid in its fight against breast cancer, and raised more than \$300,000 for local charitable organizations from Brooklyn to the North Fork and the Hamptons.



(l-r) Real Estate advisors Lowell Ackerman, Veranika Johnston and Jessica Crowley.

"Dark Side of" The Moon at The Cathedral



The Pink Floyd Tribute band Us and Floyd.

By VICTORIA CROSBY

An art installation of the moon was at the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City from April 11th until the final event on May 4th. The work by British artist Luke Jerram, is a twenty-foot 3D representation of the



The moon was at the Episcopal Cathedral of the Incarnation in Garden City.

moon with detailed imagery from NASA. This artwork has traveled to many places in the world, including the Liverpool Cathedral in England in 2018, but the huge moon hung in this cathedral is the first for any house of worship in the USA.

Many events took place at the museum of the moon including yoga classes and a special May the Fourth be with you, on May 4th, a "Star Wars" themed afternoon for children of all ages. Costumes and light sabers were encouraged as they explored the galaxy and celebrated the force.

Docent led tours for school children and adults were available to view the moon as it hung in the nave of the Gothic style cathedral. There was a cocktail party and a sold-out "Moondance," dinner dance benefit, and a "Croon Under the Moon" sing along.

Easter services this year took place under the moon.

While visiting Long Island in April I attended the sold-out event of the Pink Floyd Tribute band Us and Floyd, who performed selections of music by Pink Floyd, including "Dark Side of the Moon," complete with a laser light show. Beer was served by six participating Long Island breweries.

There are copies of this moon art, and a permanent piece is in St. Petersburg, Florida at the Mahaffy Theater, according to the website www.my-moon.org.

The moon will be in Atlanta (where I now live) in October.

For further information on events at the Garden City Episcopal Cathedral visit www.incarnationgc.org.



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