



Updates from Emma S. Clark

Learn about recent innovations and renovations at the library

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Three Village Schools administration optimistic about state funding

BY MALLIE JANE KIM
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

After weeks of advocacy, Three Village Central School District is planning its budget as though proposed drastic cuts in state funding won't happen.

Administration officials expressed optimism during a preliminary budget discussion at a March 6 Board of Education meeting, stating they plan to create the 2024-25 school year budget based roughly on current state aid numbers, as opposed to incorporating the nearly \$9 million in cuts the district would receive under Gov. Kathy Hochul's (D) state budget proposal.

"I'm fairly confident we're going to get [funding] restored," said Superintendent of Schools Kevin Scanlon while sharing that he had just returned from a few days lobbying in Albany. "Whether or not we get an increase, that stands to be seen. Until we receive confirmation of that, I think we should proceed cautiously."

Deputy Superintendent Jeffrey Carlson agreed, adding, "That does not mean we don't plan for that kind of thing going forward, whether it be next year, the year after, the year after that."

Part of Hochul's rationale in presenting the budget was realigning state school funding to reflect declining enrollment in certain districts. Affected districts pointed to extreme inflation in recent years, and also said it would be an overwhelming burden to force school districts to absorb in one year cuts based on a decade's worth of enrollment decline.

Freshmen board members Karen Roughley and David McKinnon, who ran for the board in part to push for more advanced budget planning, both encouraged the district to consider options to fundamentally make district spending more sustainable, such as repurposing a school.

"Infrastructure costs money," McKinnon said, explaining that district costs are rising faster than its income. "It's one of the first things businesses do — we're going to have to cut down on how much infrastructure we're trying to maintain. There's no way around that."

Roughley agreed. "We need to make sure that we are preparing for things to be reduced every single year, because it's going to happen," she said.

Administration officials previously estimated the cost savings of \$1.1 million for repurposing one of the district's five elementary schools, but during the public comment section of the board meeting, resident Carmine Inserra questioned that figure. "I feel it's probably more than that if

you include the benefit of combining programs at less schools, which offers efficiencies at dividing students among teachers, rooms and transportation," said Inserra, who leads the Residents for Responsible Spending group in the district. "It's far more savings than just turning down the heat."

Inserra also called out the district administration and board for "ignoring" declining enrollment for years and for neglecting to give enough information and authority to its Budget Advisory Committee, a group of stakeholders that advises the board on the budget plan.

"The BAC meetings have turned into sales presentations from the district admins on what their departments do and the successes they've had," said Inserra, who served on the BAC a few years ago and said he watches the meetings even though he was not selected this year. "Have you given them any projected expenses and income for the coming years? Have you explained to them how expenses are affected by contractual [teacher] salary and benefit increases?"

For his part, Carlson defended the BAC presentations, saying he felt the committee would be more equipped to make good recommendations if they understand where the money is going, rather than looking at a line item on a page.

Scanlon noted that much of the district's rising costs are out of the administration's control, such as increases in transportation contract costs and unfunded mandates from the state, like the one to switch to electric school buses by 2035. But the district is still watching for ways to be more cost-effective, he said, and pointed to one expected area of savings — teacher retirements. More than half the district's teachers are "very senior" with about 26 years of experience, according to Scanlon, who anticipates 117 teacher retirements over the next four years.

"That is a significant brain drain to our community," he said. "We're going to lose a lot of highly-qualified teachers, but at the same time it's going to be a cost savings."

Carlson, who heads up the budget planning process and presented the preliminary 2024-25 budget, said that the district can make reductions in next year's plan as needed once real state aid numbers come in, to stay within the district's tax cap.

The state's budget is due by April 1, though last year it didn't land until May. That timing makes it hard for school districts, which need to have budgets ready for public review between April 30 and May 7. In Three Village school district's timeline, that means the board needs to adopt its budget at the April 3 meeting.



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TVHS takes teatime on the road, starting with the history of chocolate

BY MALLIE JANE KIM
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Do you scarf chocolate or savor it? According to chocolatier Linda Johnson, tasting chocolate is akin to tasting wine: Take small bites and let the flavor develop in your mouth.

“That started for me 10 years ago when I would see people just pack chocolate into their mouth and swallow it and say, ‘Oh, that was good,’” Johnson told the 30 attendees at a Three Village Historical Society tea on March 11. “I was like, ‘Wait a minute, it took me two days to make that.’”

In the sunlit art-lined Riboli Center, Johnson, who owns Chocology in Stony Brook, shared that her appreciation of chocolate springs from her knowledge of cacao’s rich history, from its position as a sacred tree and a currency among the Mayan and Aztec people through its evolution as a sweetened treat in Europe and to the “bean to bar” movement toward quality ingredients and good, child-labor-free processing today. She punctuated her presentation with delicious tastes of various high-quality chocolates from around the world.

Tea with a Spot of History has traditionally been held in the historical society’s cozy circa 1805 homestead on North Country Road in East Setauket, but according to TVHS community engagement manager Kimberly Phyfe, taking the event on the road allows for more attendees and solidifies partnerships among aligned organizations around the Three Village area.

“Going on the road is a win-win-win,” Phyfe said. “It’s a win for us as the historical society, for our community partners and also for our presenters.”

Phyfe pointed out that several attendees were hearing about Johnson’s shop for the first time, and also that many people were browsing and making purchases from the Riboli Center gift shop.

“Everybody wins, and that’s what we’re about,”

Phyfe said. “We look at the whole community as our living museum.”

For its next on-the-road installment, Tea with a Spot of History will visit The Long Island Museum on April 5 to celebrate the history of quilting with the Smithtown Stitchers, and Phyfe said she is in talks with other area venues to secure two other teas to round out the spring.

The tea events, in contrast with the more formal lecture series THVS holds at The Setauket Neighborhood House, are a chance for people to sit elbow to elbow, learn a bit of history interactively — and with some tasty treats. Phyfe said the teas used to draw mainly retirees, but have



Linda Johnson, owner of Chocology in Stony Brook. Photo courtesy Three Village Historical Society

started to also attract others looking for “bite-sized infotainment” during a weekday, from stay-at-home parents to remote workers to those who are able to take a long lunch.

One attendee, Bianca Dresch of Stony Brook, volunteers for TVHS with her husband Dan, but can’t usually attend weekday activities due to work. Both found this event irresistible. “I try to attend whenever something grabs our attention — I saw this combination with the chocolate and Riboli, and I thought, ‘Oh, we’ve got to do this,’” she said.

Teagoer Bonnie Dunbar of East Setauket does usually attend the teas and found the new venue refreshing: “It’s a nice way to get to know what’s around the neighborhood.”

Dunbar said the event piqued her interest in the history of chocolate, and she would have preferred to focus even more on that history. As for the tasters? Those left her satisfied.

“I like the idea of putting the chocolate on your tongue and letting it melt, instead of gobbling it down like I usually do when I eat chocolate,” she said.



Photo courtesy Three Village Historical Society

Remembering Michael H. Burner

PREPARED BY THE BURNER FAMILY
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Michael Burner, 80, of Westhampton Beach, passed away on March 6.

Michael was born on Sept. 15, 1943, to Kurt and Anna Burner in the Bronx. At 16 years old, his first job was in a button factory also in the Bronx.

He was a rising star in the retail world and as only Michael could do, he went into an entirely new field: construction. Later in life he became a builder/developer, as the founder and president of Elderco Inc., a creator of fine homes in the Hamptons.

In 1980 with three kids in tow, Brian, Robin and Gabriele, he married Nancy J. Marchesini who already had daughter Tara. Soon Britt, Kyra and Taylor made it an uneven seven.

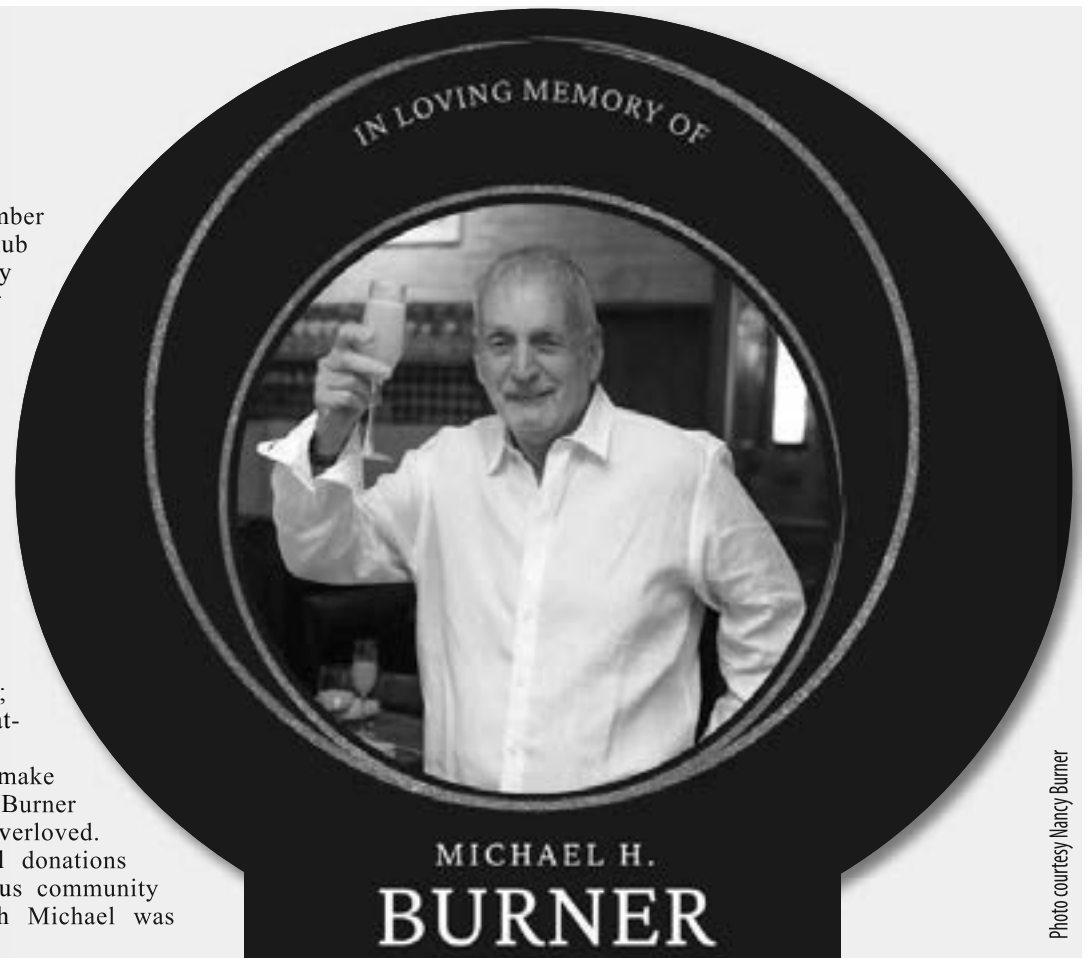
To say Michael was a family man is an understatement. From starting the Safe Homes Program and Friday Night Recreation to coaching sports teams and serving as president of the Port Jefferson School Board of Education, Michael was an impactful part of the local community. Ever dedicated to community service, Michael

was a leader and active member of the Port Jefferson Lions Club and, later, the Moriches Bay Project, Kiwanis of Greater Westhampton and was a charter member of the Westhampton Yacht Squadron.

Michael will be missed by his friends, family, clients, business associates, the Elderco team and all of the other various lives he touched with his sarcasm and quick wit.

Michael is survived by his wife Nancy; son Brian; daughters Robin, Gabriele, Tara, Britt, Kyra and Taylor; 18 grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to The Michael H. Burner Community Service Trust at everloved.com/life-of/michael-burner. All donations will be used to support various community groups and projects in which Michael was involved.



Renovations and innovations at Emma Clark Memorial Library

BY SERENA CARPINO
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Recently, Emma Clark Memorial Library has made many changes. From their new café to their outdoor patio, the library has undergone several renovations in the past few years.

Combined with the creation of new programs, these additions reflect efforts to incorporate modern technology into Emma Clark.

The library originally decided to add the outdoor patio space after the pandemic. The patio, which is fully wheelchair accessible, has added 800 square feet for patrons to sit and enjoy reading books in nice weather. The architect in charge was John Cunniffe, a Stony Brook resident who has done many projects for the Three Village Historical Society, Frank Melville Memorial Park, The Long Island Museums, and various other local organizations.

In addition to the outdoor patio, the library also installed a new café, which is run by Level Up Kitchen. The kitchen is owned and operated by Chelsea Gomez, a local chef. In her cooking, Gomez prioritizes sustainability, using high quality ingredients, and working with Long Island farmers.

According to Lisa DeVerna, a spokesperson from Emma Clark, the café has been successful so far. “We’ve been very pleased with how the café is going so far. We’ve seen people of all ages, from senior citizens to teens, utilizing the café, an extended service of the library.”

Other changes include adding a Main Reading Room, where the café is located. This section is now separated by glass doors to allow more social activities in the front, while the back is reserved for reading and quiet activities.

The library is also planning on adding an environmentally friendly HVAC unit in the near future. It will be energy efficient and not use fossil fuels.

Aside from construction, Emma Clark has also continued to add new programs and projects for visitors. This March, the library is offering Seed Library and Seed Swap Box to celebrate the first day of spring. This addition goes along with the gardening classes, which have been very popular both in-person and online.

The library is also working to expand programming opportunities for teens. “Since the establishment of Teen Services as a new and separate department just last year, programming has more than doubled,” DeVerna said. “We hope to continue to grow this department.”

To do this, the library plans on providing more



Emma S. Clark Memorial Library. Photo courtesy Elyse Sutton

programming opportunities both in and outside of the library. For example, they have been offering more technology classes, including a course on advanced Excel, the first non-beginner course at Emma Clark. Also, they have placed a greater emphasis on the Cricut machine. While it may seem that most of the improvements have been for teens and adults, the children’s library is continuing to see changes as well. “In our Children’s Library, we have added new imaginative play toys, and looking ahead, we’re hoping to continue rearranging the flow and usage of that area to make it a more welcoming space,” DeVerna explained.

The recent years have seen many technological updates for Emma Clark. While some may worry

that such additions can distort the original intent of a library, DeVerna clarified the benefits of these changes. “As the world has evolved, libraries have evolved with it.” She explained that the library offers printed, eBooks, and audiobooks in order to cater to all of their patrons’

needs. In addition, they supply both movies and music and have databases for people to “learn anything from history to finance to genealogy to how to fix your car.”

“We recognize that technology now plays a large part in obtaining information, so we help people learn how to use their computers and mobile devices through computer classes, tech clinics [where adults learn from teen volunteers], and even one-on-one appointments with a tech-savvy librarian,” DeVerna said. “We have classes and events for all ages. The library connects people and is a community and information center, both in our building and beyond its walls.”

Farmingville woman indicted for allegedly stealing \$440K from parents

Used money to gamble at Jake’s 58 Casino in Islandia

Suffolk County District Attorney Raymond A. Tierney today announced on March 13 the indictment of Elizabeth M. Motti, 55, of Farmingville, for allegedly stealing approximately \$440,000 from her vulnerable elderly parents over a one-and-a-half-year period that she used to gamble at Jake’s 58 Casino in Islandia.

“Our elder community is at increased risk for fraud and theft,” said District Attorney Tierney. “We want to place those who choose to exploit our vulnerable populations on notice that if you are caught, you will be held accountable.”

According to the investigation, between April 2017 and November 2018, Motti allegedly stole a total of \$440,063 from her parents’ bank accounts by using debit cards to make withdrawals in the amount of \$355,046 at ATM machines located at Jake’s 58 Casino and by making cash withdrawals from their accounts in the amount of \$85,017. Motti’s parents had moved in with her after her mother had surgery so Motti could be her caretaker.

On March 13, 2024, Motti was arraigned on the indictment before Supreme Court Justice Richard Ambro, for Grand Larceny in the Second Degree, a Class C felony.

Justice Ambro ordered Motti to be released on her own recognizance.

Under current New York State law, the offense for which Motti was indicted is considered non-bail eligible meaning prosecutors cannot ask for bail. Motti is being represented by the Legal Aid Society of Suffolk County. Her next court date is April 18, 2024.

This case is being prosecuted by Assistant District Attorney Donna M. Planty of the Financial Crimes Bureau, and the investigation was conducted by Detective Anthony Mezzapelle from the Suffolk County Police Department currently assigned to the Financial Crimes Bureau of the Suffolk County District Attorney’s Office.

—SUFFOLK COUNTY D.A.’S OFFICE

POLICE BLOTTER

The following incidents have been reported by Suffolk County Police:

Arrests made for selling nicotine to minors

Suffolk County Police arrested two people on March 10 for allegedly selling nicotine products to minors during compliance checks at businesses in the Sixth Precinct. In response to numerous community complaints, Suffolk County Police Sixth Precinct Crime Section officers conducted an investigation into the sale of E-Liquid Nicotine products to minors during which four businesses were checked for compliance with the law.

During the investigation, two businesses were found to be selling E-Liquid Nicotine products to minors. The following people were charged with alleged Unlawfully Dealing with a Child: Maheshkumar Baldevbhai Patel, 47, of Ronkonkoma, employed at Mount Sinai Smoke Shop, located at 160 Route 25A, Mt. Sinai; and Yasir Cicek, 25, of Woodside, employed at Puff Club Smoke, located at 1879 Route 112 Unit 6, Coram.

Ronkonkoma woman killed in car crash

New York State Police are investigating a single-vehicle crash that killed a Ronkonkoma woman on the Southern State Parkway on March 4. Stephanie T. Malone, 28, was operating a 2013 Nissan Altima on the eastbound Southern State Parkway near exit 40S in Islip when the accident occurred. No other injuries were reported. It was not immediately clear how many vehicles were involved in the crash. The investigation is ongoing.

New York State Police are asking for any witnesses or anyone with information to call 631-756-3300.

Driver killed in fiery crash in Smithtown

Suffolk County Police Fourth Squad Detectives are investigating a single-vehicle crash that killed a man in Smithtown on March 10. A man was driving a 2006 Honda Civic westbound on East Main Street when he lost control of the vehicle, which overturned and caught fire, in front of 280 East Main St. at approximately 3:45 a.m.

The driver was pronounced dead at the scene by a physician assistant from the Office of the Suffolk County Medical Examiner. An autopsy will be performed to confirm the driver’s identity. The Honda was impounded for a safety check.

Anyone with information on this crash is asked to contact the Fourth Squad at 631-854-8451.

CAUGHT ON CAMERA



Do you recognize this man? Photo from SCPD

Wanted for petit larceny

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Sixth Precinct Crime Section officers are seeking the public’s help to identify and locate the man pictured above who allegedly stole medication and personal products from Target, located at 2975 Horseblock Road in Medford, along with a female accomplice, at 1:56 p.m. on Feb. 11.



Do you recognize this man? Photo from SCPD

Wanted for petit larceny

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers and Suffolk County Police Fourth Precinct Crime Section officers are seeking the public’s help to identify and locate the man who allegedly stole sneakers from Dicks Sporting Goods, located at the Smith Haven Mall in Lake Grove, on March 1 at 4:50 p.m.

— COMPILED BY HEIDI SUTTON

Suffolk County Crime Stoppers offers a **cash reward** for information that leads to an arrest. Anyone with information about these incidents can contact Suffolk County Crime Stoppers to submit an anonymous tip by calling 1-800-220-TIPS.

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**EXCELLENCE. WE MAKE AN ISSUE
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SBU couple scores \$1.2M to study ways to provide anti-pathogen coating

BY DANIEL DUNAIEF
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

Hoping to take a page out of nature's playbook, a married couple in the Department of Materials Science and Chemical Engineering is studying a structure that could prevent the spread of pathogens on the surface.

Before the pandemic started, Research Professor Maya Endoh and Associate Professor Tadanori Koga were exploring how anti microbial coatings controlled pathogens on the molecular scale. With the pandemic, they became more focused on ways to prevent pathogens from causing infections after people came into contact with contaminated surfaces.

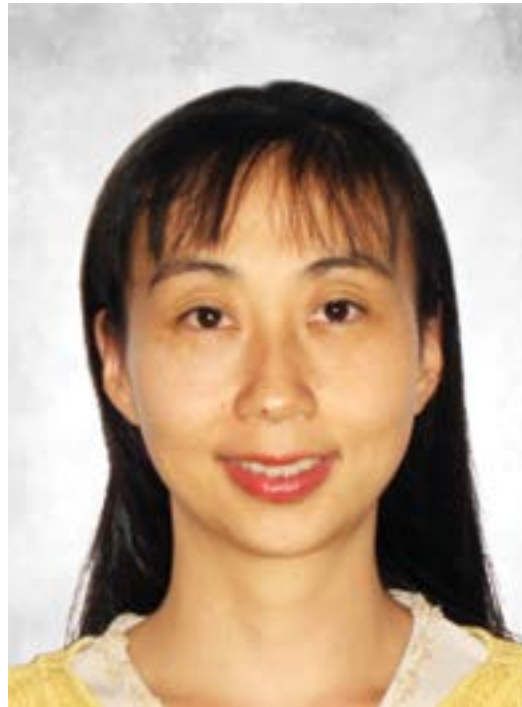
Working with researchers from Oak Ridge National Laboratory, North Carolina Agricultural and Technical State University and the University of Tennessee Health Science Center, the team received \$12 million over three years as a part of the Department of Energy's Biopreparedness Research Virtual Experiment initiative, which supports multidisciplinary research efforts designed to strengthen precautionary measures against infectious disease outbreaks. Koga and Endoh received a subcontract of \$1.2 million from the Oak Ridge National Laboratory which runs until December 2026.

This kind of study, along with other funded research on the spread of pathogens, could be "important to prevent the next pandemic," said Endoh. She added that this kind of work could not only help reduce the danger from another potential pandemic, but could also help cut down infections from other common health threats.

The research plans to explore the physical and chemical interactions that occur when bacteria come in contact with a material surface.

To develop surface coatings that might resist the spread of disease-carrying pathogens, Koga and Endoh are turning to an insect that will be even more abundant than usual this year. For the first time since 1803, the 13-year and 17-year cicadas will emerge at the same time.

Koga and Endoh, however, are less focused on their prevalence or their loud noises than they are on their wings, which resist bacteria and may also provide protection against viruses and fungi, as something about their nanostructure disables these pathogens.



Maya Endoh and Tadanori Koga. Photo courtesy Stony Brook University



"We want to learn from nature," said Endoh. "As material scientists, we want to mimic this structure."

Their method of killing bacteria is to facilitate bacterial attachment to nanopattern surfaces. They are targeting surfaces that are constantly and directly exposed to pathogens, such as medical devices, tools and sensors.

Their computational results suggest that a nanopatterned surface can puncture a bacterial outer membrane. These scientists can not specify the time range clearly, which is something they are pursuing with the awarded project.

"We are targeting the surfaces which are constantly and directly exposed to pathogens, such as medical devices, tools and sensors," Koga and Endoh explained in an email.

Structural defense

The structure of the cicada wings have nanopillars that are about 100 nanometers tall and that are separated by about 100 nanometers from each other. The nanopillars they plan to use have a height of 10 nanometers, a diameter of 50 nanometers and a space between adjacent cylinders of 70 nanometers.

By creating a similar structure with polymers, the Stony Brook scientists will attempt to manufacture materials that

provide the same resistance.

They will optimize the geometric parameters of the nanostructure, especially its height and interpillar spacing, to create different nano topographies, including nanopillars, nanowalls, nanospikes and nanodomains.

They are starting their work with the bacteria E. coli and will use computational approaches to optimize surface geometric parameters, bacteria-substrate interactions and bacterial wall stiffness to create a robust structure-guided antimicrobial surface.

They will use polystyrene block polymers and are planning to use different ingredients such as biopolymers. They believe the ingredients can be varied.

According to their recent molecular dynamics simulations mimicking experimental conditions, attractive interactions promote additional membrane attachment, pulling the membrane taut against the pillars and creating tension that ruptures the cell wall. The rupture occurs at the high curvature regions near the edge of the pillars.

Surfaces coated by polymers would likely require periodic coating applications. The scientists treat those polymers with a three-dimensional link to improve the mechanical property. They also apply atomic-thin scale metal layers to make the surface more durable.

In collaboration with Brookhaven National Laboratory, they are trying to determine how to make this kind of pattern with different substances.

"We don't know what shape is the best [for various pathogens], what size is the best and what spacing is the best," said Koga.

Benefits of collaboration

Koga and Endoh appreciate the opportunity to collaborate with a range of talented scientists at other institutions.

"Luckily, we have a lot of collaborators," Endoh said.

Koga and Endoh became a part of a bigger collaboration when they worked with Jan-Michael Carrillo and Bobby Sumpter at Oak Ridge National Laboratory, who started this project.

"This is a nice step, but it's not the end," said Koga. The next step is to "create a real material."

Lifelong collaboration

Koga and Endoh met in their native Japan. Koga is from Kyushu, while Endoh grew up in Sendai, which was the epicenter of the Tōhoku earthquake in 2011, which created the tsunami at the Fukushima nuclear power plant.

They came to the United States when Koga wanted to become a postdoctoral researcher for a two year assignment at Stony Brook. Over 27 years, and four children later, they are still at Stony Brook.

Over the years, Endoh juggled motherhood and a postponed PhD, which she eventually received from Kyoto University.

Koga enjoys watching Japanese players in Major League Baseball and is a fan of Dodgers superstar Shohei Ohtani. A "soccer mom," Endoh enjoys cooking and playing the violin. The couple hikes in the summer and skis in the winter.

As for their own protective measures during the pandemic, Koga and Endoh regularly washed their hands, although they didn't use Purell or other special wipes to clean any surfaces.

Opinion

Preserving what works in 3V school district

BY ANTHONY DATTERO
DESK@TBRNEWSMEDIA.COM

As a school guidance counselor at Paul J. Gelinas Junior High School — for three decades now — and a parent whose children have thrived within our outstanding district, I feel compelled to share my concerns regarding the proposed reconfiguration orchestrated by our superintendent and voted upon by our board of education.

There are many reasons to doubt the motivation and the lack of details starting with why this move is necessary and why this monumental move is in our students' best interests. The challenge to the district should be to prove "the why" in comparison to our current

proven educational model. Our current model has served our students well, offering significant academic and social-emotional advantages that have stood the test of time.

The notion of transitioning to a common middle school model is, frankly, mind-boggling and irresponsible. Three Village school district has distinguished itself by providing top-notch opportunities for our students across diverse areas, while also fostering nurturing environments during pivotal transitional years — sixth grade at the elementary level and ninth grade at the junior high school level.

Having actively participated in the superintendent's public forums and committee sessions, I remain unable to find any compelling reason or explicit need to dismantle a system that has proven its effectiveness over the years. Why fix what isn't broken?

Our district has maintained its uniqueness for over 40 years, resisting the trend toward common middle school models adopted by other districts.

Despite the district's efforts to gauge community sentiment through surveys, many — including myself — find these surveys incomplete and misleading.

The supposed cost-saving benefits of reconfiguration have also been debunked, with recent revelations indicating potential excessive costs for retrofitting the high school to accommodate an entire grade level.

More is not better if space is valued. Think about what happens if we were to add more people to a dance floor — creativity would likely decline and apologetic exchanges of "I'm sorry" or "Excuse me" or unpleasant looks would likely increase.

In an era where student vulnerability is heightened by social media and external influences, cramming more students into the high school environment seems counterintuitive to their well-being. It is imperative that we prioritize the best interests of our students above all else.

The district has failed to provide all stakeholders with clearly defined and transparent comparisons representing the pros, cons, trade-offs and other options that could enhance our current configuration.

Let us stand united in advocating for the preservation of what works, ensuring that our students continue to receive the exceptional education and support they deserve. Our students deserve our best so they can realize the best version of themselves.

Obituaries

Elisabeth 'Betsy' Palmedo

Elisabeth Palmedo led a long, adventurous and charmed life, and experienced a very peaceful death on Feb. 20.

Her mother, Maria Williams Sheerin, was from a Richmond family which preceded the Founding Fathers of Virginia. Betsy was proud to be a "direct



descendent of George Washington's sister." Betsy's father, the Rev. Charles Sheerin, was an Episcopal minister born in Pittsburgh to an Irish family that had recently immigrated from Scotland. Her father was loved by everyone and known for joyously playing Irish songs on the piano's black keys.

Betsy was the youngest child of three, born Feb. 25, 1935. Her brother Charles came first, then her sister Maria. Betsy arrived six years later. When Betsy was only 13 years old, her father's life was cut short by a heart attack at age 50.

She began cultivating her talent in singing, especially classical operatic music. She graduated from the New England Conservatory of Music in Boston in 1960 and met her future husband, Phil Palmedo, during her time there. They married in 1961 and would live in Paris, then on Long Island with sons Chris and Lawrence, in Shoreham, later Setauket and finally Head of the Harbor.

In 1976 Elisabeth dazzled a Carnegie Recital Hall audience with her New York debut. She

performed a challenging program by Purcell, Schubert, Duparc and others. The New York Times called out the "clear, pure top" of her voice and noted that "the more a song asked of her the more she brought to it."

Thanks to her husband, Betsy was able to travel the world, which she embraced with enthusiasm. This included adventures in Indonesia, Peru, South Africa and Kenya, where the family found itself in the middle of a military coup in Nairobi. Her harrowing account was later published in an interview with the Three Village Herald.

In the early 1980s, she and a group of talented classically trained musicians launched the North Shore Pro Musica. As her close friend and collaborator Olga Zilboorg commented in a newspaper profile: "People used to think that just because artists were local they had to be something less than first-class professionals." But the Pro Musica dispelled that misconception by putting on world-class concerts throughout its 40-year run. Along with being the co-founder, Betsy served as president, treasurer and whatever else needed done. As she said to The New York Times (1985) before one concert, "Performing chamber music is like an addiction. You need it to keep going." Of the Pro Musica, she told a reporter, "In unity there is strength."

She performed in many other ensembles, such as the Galatia Trio, which staged a landmark concert at the Saint-Gaudens National Historical Park in New Hampshire. More recently, Elisabeth enjoyed working with the Lark Trio, with her dear friends Bonnie Thivierge and Ann Jupp.

Elisabeth was dedicated to promoting modern and contemporary composers, especially her friends Jack Lessard and Willard Roosevelt. These works were challenging, but she successfully dedicated herself to interpreting and performing serious classical music with eagerness and enthusiasm. To a reporter, she once said of Willard

Roosevelt: "He wrote 'Sparkling and Bright' for me, and as far as I know, it's the only drinking song ever written for a soprano."

Her multitude of students have included young talents on their way to conservatory, gray-haired professionals seeking to master show tunes and all personalities in between. Her recitals featured a range of artistic expression and were always joyous occasions.

Betsy spent great effort ensuring that the musicians she worked with were well paid. She also would not hesitate to offer visiting artists dinner and a room to sleep overnight. She certainly enjoyed planning and hosting parties, including summer jazz soirees that featured her grandson Tree on trumpet.

Married into the Palmedo family, she braved difficult ski mountains but remained a lifelong beginner, despite photographic evidence to the contrary creatively conjured up by her father-in-law Roland Palmedo. She was, however, able to hold her ground in fierce doubles tennis matches with her boys and friends.

Politically, she was a liberal Democrat from the inside out. A lifelong supporter of Planned Parenthood, she and Phil received a Leadership of the Year award in 2019. Along with her dedication to musician well-being, her many charitable causes included serving as board member of Pazapa Center for Children with Disabilities, a school for the handicapped in Haiti, following the devastating earthquake in 2010.

She was blessed with bountiful friends, some of her closest being her niece Maria and "sister cousins" Penelope and Mary Page. Also, her Liberal Ladies Luncheon group, the Nissequogue Beach Club community, friends from the North Suffolk Garden Club, her chums from Boston and over the decades a steady stream of wild and crazy musicians who helped underscore the undeniable fact that Elisabeth was an artist at her heart and

soul. Her last years were spent enjoying her beautiful home where she was regularly visited by her sons, daughters-in-law and grandchildren aged 6 months to 30 years.

Her final days were spent in the company of Phil, her beloved husband of 63 years, her infinitely loyal hound dog Brogan and her invaluable caretaker Sol Starcic.

A memorial service and celebration of life will be held on Sunday, April 7, at 4 p.m. at St. James Episcopal Church, 490 N. Country Road, St. James. Reception to follow.

Family members request nothing more than to reflect on her enthusiasm for life and the arts, but she would most certainly have approved a donation in her memory to the Hudson Peconic chapter of Planned Parenthood Inc. at www.plannedparenthood.org/planned-parenthood-hudson-peconic.

Dr. Alfred E. Ekstrom

Dr. Alfred Ekstrom of Woodstock, Georgia, and formerly of Port Jefferson passed away on Feb. 15 at Wellstar North Fulton Medical Center. At the time of his passing, Alfred was surrounded by his loving family. He was 89 years old.

Alfred was born in Guatemala in 1934 to Oliver and Bessie Ekstrom. He came to the United States after the death of his parents at the age of 11. After attending Washington & Jefferson College, he went on to graduate from the University of Pennsylvania School of Medicine. Alfred was a general practitioner, serving Port Jefferson and surrounding towns for over 45 years. He retired in 2006.

Alfred is survived by his son Geoffrey and daughter-in-law Donna, daughter Amy and son-in-law Keith; grandchildren Jamieson and wife Sophie, Karissa, Kelsey and Aubrey; and great-grandchildren Josephine and Oliver.

Services were private.

LEGALS

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Notice of formation of Toast Coffee Seven LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 19th, 2024. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 46 East Main Street, Patchogue, NY 11772. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

189490 2/8 6x vth

Notice of formation of Splendid Hospitality Group LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 19th, 2024. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 46 East Main Street, Patchogue, NY 11772. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

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Notice of formation of The Study by Toast LLC. Arts of Org. filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on January 25th, 2024. Office location: Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated as agent of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 46 East Main Street, Patchogue, NY 11772. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

189510 2/8 6x vth

Notice of formation of Intentional Living Collective LLC. Filed with Secretary of State of New York (SSNY) on 10/1/2023. Office: Suffolk County. United States Corporation Agents Inc is designated as registered agent

of the LLC upon whom process against it may be served. SSNY shall mail a copy of the process to the LLC: 2 Mount Grey Road, Stony Brook, New York, 11790. Purpose: Any lawful purpose.

190240 2/8 6x vth

Notice of formation of Stony Brook Handyman Services, LLC. Articles of Organization filed with the Secretary of State of New York SSNY on 01/24/2024. Office located in Suffolk County. SSNY has been designated for service of process. SSNY shall mail copy of any process served against the LLC to Christopher J. Mehrman 1 Acorn Lane Stony Brook, NY 11790. Purpose: any lawful purpose.

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SUPREME COURT OF THE STATE OF NEW YORK - COUNTY OF NASSAU

U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION, AS TRUSTEE, FOR RESIDENTIAL ASSET SECURITIES CORPORATION, HOME EQUITY MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-EMX7,

V.

JEAN JACQUES SENECHAL A/K/A JEAN-JACQUES SENECHAL A/K/A JEAN-JACQUES SENECHAL, JR. A/K/A JOHN SENECHAL A/K/A JEAN SENECHAL, ET AL.

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to a Final Judgment of Foreclosure dated January 29, 2019, and entered in the Office of the Clerk of the County of Nassau, wherein U.S. BANK NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,

AS TRUSTEE, FOR RESIDENTIAL ASSET SECURITIES CORPORATION, HOME EQUITY MORTGAGE ASSET-BACKED PASS-THROUGH CERTIFICATES, SERIES 2006-EMX7 is the Plaintiff and JEAN JACQUES SENECHAL A/K/A JEAN-JACQUES SENECHAL A/K/A JEAN-JACQUES SENECHAL, JR. A/K/A JOHN SENECHAL A/K/A JEAN SENECHAL, ET AL. are the Defendant(s). I, the undersigned Referee will sell at public auction RAIN OR SHINE at the NASSAU COUNTY SUPREME COURT, NORTH SIDE STEPS, 100 SUPREME COURT DRIVE, MINEOLA, NY 11501, on April 9, 2024 at 2:00PM, premises known as 55 WEST EUCLID ST, VALLEY STREAM, NY 11580: Section 37, Block 509, Lot 346 & 347:

ALL THAT CERTAIN PLOT, PIECE OR PARCEL OF LAND, WITH THE BUILDINGS AND IMPROVEMENTS THEREON ERECTED, SITUATE, LYING AND BEING IN THE INCORPORATED VILLAGE OF VALLEY STREAM, COUNTY OF NASSAU AND STATE OF NEW YORK

Premises will be sold subject to provisions of filed Judgment Index # 006742/2014. Malachy Patrick Lyons, Jr., Esq. - Referee. Robertson, Anschutz, Schneid, Crane & Partners, PLLC 900 Merchants Concourse, Suite 310, Westbury, New York 11590, Attorneys for Plaintiff. **All foreclosure sales will be conducted in accordance with Covid-19 guidelines including, but not limited to, social distancing and mask wearing. *LOCATION OF SALE SUBJECT TO CHANGE DAY OF IN ACCORDANCE WITH COURT/CLERK DIRECTIVES.**

194180 3/7 4x vth



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Saturday, March 23, 2024

5:00pm Palm Sunday, Holy Eucharist

Sunday, March 24, 2024

8:00am Palm Sunday, Holy Eucharist

9:30am Palm Sunday, Holy Eucharist

Monday, March 25, 2024

7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Tuesday, March 26, 2024

7:00pm Stations of the Cross

Wednesday, March 27, 2024

7:00pm Tenebrae: A Service of Darkness

Maundy Thursday, March 28, 2024

7:00pm Foot Washing & Stripping of the Altar, Holy Eucharist

Good Friday, March 29, 2024

12:15pm Veneration of the Cross

7:00pm Veneration of the Cross

Holy Saturday, March 30, 2024

11:00am Family Easter Egg Hunt

7:00pm Great Vigil of Easter, H.E.

Easter Sunday, March 31, 2024

6:45am Sunrise at Frank Melville Park

9:00am Holy Eucharist

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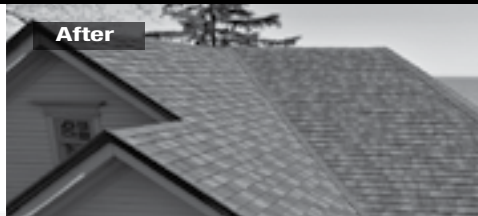
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Editorial

Importance of civic associations and resident-run conversations

In the heart of every thriving community lies a network of voices, opinions and ideas that form the very essence of its identity. These voices, when united through platforms such as civic associations and other civic groups, become a powerful force for positive change and progress. As we navigate the complexities of modern life, it is essential to recognize and emphasize the invaluable role that community forums play in representing the unified voice of residents.

Civic associations and similar groups serve as the lifeblood of local democracy, providing a platform where residents can come together to discuss issues that matter most to them. These forums offer a space for open dialogue, collaboration and problem-solving, allowing community members to actively engage in shaping the future of their neighborhoods and cities.

One of the primary benefits of community forums is their ability to amplify the collective voice of residents. In a world where individual voices can often feel drowned out by larger forces, these forums empower individuals to come together and advocate for common goals and interests.

It is necessary for these groups to facilitate ongoing and productive dialogue rather than drown one another out with differences of opinions. The goal of such associations is to gather together and advocate together. Whether it's for improved public services, addressing community concerns or promoting initiatives for positive change, the unified voice of residents carries significant weight in decision-making processes.

Community forums foster a sense of belonging and solidarity among residents. By bringing people together from diverse backgrounds and perspectives, these forums bridge gaps and foster understanding, strengthening the social fabric of our communities. They provide opportunities for residents to connect, build relationships and work toward common objectives, creating a sense of shared ownership and responsibility for the well-being of their community.

Civic groups can serve as a vital link between residents and local government authorities. By acting as a platform for dialogue and collaboration, these forums enable residents to communicate their needs and priorities to decision-makers. This direct engagement not only ensures that the voices of residents are heard but also facilitates more informed and inclusive decision-making processes that reflect the genuine needs and aspirations of the community.

In today's rapidly changing world, the importance of community forums cannot be overstated. As we face various challenges, ranging from urban development and environmental sustainability to affordability and changing public school landscapes, it is crucial to harness the collective wisdom and energy of our communities.

By actively participating in civic associations and other civic groups, residents can contribute to the creation of vibrant, resilient and inclusive communities that reflect their values and aspirations.

Letters to the Editor

In celebration of Long Island

Thank you for your wonderful editorial celebrating Long Island and highlighting the benefits of Long Island's history, culture, institutions and natural beauty ["Uniqueness of where we live," TBR News Media, March 7].

We should all be very proud of being Long Islanders — one of the most beautiful places in the world.

My wife reminds me that since we met 16 years ago, we have traveled to more than 39 countries, but I still love Long Island, NY, USA, the best!

Yes, it's expensive, traffic is bad, mass transit is substandard, taxes are excessive, regulations burdensome, many rules are prudish and Victorian. But Long Island has some of the best beaches, fishing, parks, wildlife and water sports in the world.

Our spring and fall seasons are beautiful and most of our people are diverse, friendly and caring. But most of all we have the NY Islanders, the NY Yankees, the NY Mets, NY Knicks, NY Nets, NY Giants and NY Jets and some of the best sports fans in the universe.

I have been a Smithtown Rotarian for over 40 years and we are dedicated to local and international charities. Long Islanders are extremely generous to Rotary helping our veterans, children, seniors, handicapped and those less fortunate. Celebrate Long Island and let's work to make it the paradise it can be.

*Alan H. Cohn
Nesconset*

Women are not cattle

Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor wrote, "The ability of women to participate equally in the economic and social life of the nation has been facilitated by their ability to control their reproductive lives."

Ironically, anti-choice Assemblyman Ed Flood [R-Port Jefferson] sponsors program CWA332 at our local Comsewogue Public Library titled, "Financial Literacy for

Women," which includes the descriptor, "Learn the basics to make informed financial decisions, regarding goals."

We know how to make informed decisions because we are not cattle. Unfortunately we must constantly organize against anti-choice legislators who consider us as such. How big to grow our families is key to our informed financial decisions, goals, investments and budgets. Is lesson No. 1, "Try not to be born with a uterus"?

*Joan Nickeson
Terryville parent*

Electric buses save money in the long run

Your article on the necessary and state-mandated transition to electric school buses makes a number of valid points, but then pivots to a recitation by state Assemblyman Ed Flood [R-Port Jefferson] of the supposed disadvantages of electric buses [TBR News Media, Feb. 29].

Before echoing the disinformation of the fossil fuel industry perhaps Flood should visit Chile, which has the world's second largest fleet of electric buses after China. Santiago alone has several thousand electric buses used for public transit in a city known for its hills. This is a far tougher job than carrying perhaps 60 students on a limited route on the flat island we live on.

Cost is another phony issue Flood raises. At the moment, the upfront cost to purchase an electric bus is higher than that of a diesel bus — that will come down in a few years as production ramps up. But even now, the electric "fuel" and maintenance required by an electric bus cost far less than those of their diesel counterparts.

And we are all paying the hidden health and medical cost of the asthma and other respiratory ailments caused or worsened by the toxic diesel bus fumes breathed by our children who ride those buses every school day.

Those few school districts that own their buses should start by buying some

electric buses as soon as possible to gain experience with them. Gov. Hochul's [D] administration needs to give them the tools they need to navigate the acquisition and installation of charging stations.

The districts that bid out their transportation contracts should modify their bid packages to reduce risk to the companies bidding by offering longer contracts for bus companies that provide an increasing portion of electric buses in their fleet during the contract.

Mass charging of school bus fleets will require upgrades to our electric grid, but these upgrades can be implemented gradually as the number of buses increases over the years. The buses can be charged at night, when off-peak rates are lower. And during the summer, when bus usage is low, their batteries can be used for grid backup and to support electric demand at peak times in the late afternoon, just as PSEGLI uses our home batteries whose cost has been subsidized by government rebates.

Finally, eliminating diesel from New York state's school bus fleet is one of many steps to fulfilling the state's climate law. Investments we make now are going toward a livable future for our kids — on and off the school bus.

*Peter Gollon
Huntington*

On the road again

March 12 was the 102nd anniversary of Northport resident Jack Kerouac. It made me reread one of his best writings, "On The Road." His works reminded me of the more adventurous spirit of youth. Sadly, as we get older, with more responsibilities and less free time, there are fewer journeys to take, but Kerouac's ideals continue to live in all of us.

*Larry Penner
Great Neck*

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Opinion

Peaking through the window into the lives of other families

When we are born, the experience is passive, as we don't suddenly decide, despite what our families might tell us later about how we couldn't wait to see the world, that it's time to leave the womb.

Similarly, once we're outside, we don't make many choices. We can't say, "Milk? Again? You don't have orange juice or maybe a chocolate milkshake?"

The people around us, the customs that define our days and years, the languages we speak and many other factors that shape who we are remain outside our control.

Definitions of normal vary by our circumstances. People who share a single room and one bathroom with four siblings and those with four dogs, three cats, and two parakeets typically accept the conditions around them.



D. None of the above

BY DANIEL DUNAIEF

"Everyone has a crazy Uncle Allen and a chatty Aunt Dorothy," they think. Or, perhaps, "everyone shops for a new wardrobe each year before the start of a school year" or "doesn't everyone run three miles before breakfast every morning?"

And then, in the journey through life, we get a window into the lives of other people.

When our daughter was about four years old, she visited a friend, who, our daughter reported, drank soda with breakfast and ate candy as a post breakfast snack. "I like soda," our daughter declared after the playdate. "Why can't I have it with breakfast, too?"

It's not just visits to other homes that become eye-opening experiences: we read about people, watch dramas about their lives, and get a sense of what we think we might strive for or reject in our expanding world.

We and our children see our families in a completely different light when we have the opportunity to compare them to the world outside. Sometimes, we not only measure up, but we exceed the limitations of other people's lives. Our children might, for example, spend

time with parents who pay little to no attention to their sons and daughters, barely aware of their comings and goings.

At that point, our helicopter parenting, which made them gnash their teeth every time we asked for more details about the events of their day, upcoming tests, school dances, or tryouts for school plays, might seem considerably less unbearable or even, dare I say it, charming.

Other times, we fall short in ways that even our children recognize is well outside the experience of most people. Some of their friends' parents might own private jets, have a spare house on the lake, or have season tickets near the front row to watch one of their favorite teams.

Despite the id-driven desire to have similar life amenities, our children, sooner or later, recognize that they shouldn't expect such lavish luxuries, even if they secretly, or, perhaps, not so secretly, hope to attain them.

And then there are the times when the world outside the family seems like the kind of easy-going, light-hearted, jovial tv show in which they'd like to star as the plucky but successful child.

During those moments, we can ask some questions about what they want or wish for that they don't have, or that, perhaps, they find too cumbersome. Yes, we tell them, we really are related to that wacky Uncle Allen, but that doesn't mean our children are going to become like him or that he has no redeeming qualities. Indeed, the search for redeeming qualities in everyone, starting with our own extended family, may help re-inflate our disappointed children.

If the head-to-head match up leaves them wanting something else, we have other options. We can suggest that no one will ever love or appreciate them as much as we do.

We can also suggest that they can use their desire for something more or different to inspire them to work hard for it and to find it for themselves and, if they choose to have one, for their own families.

Hopefully, our children can recognize that, on balance, the things that they considered givens — material, cultural, ethical and otherwise — didn't drop from the sky, but came from hard work and the best of intentions.

The Ides of March tell a tale of violence, betrayal and murder

This week brings us the Ides of March on the 15th. The designation comes from the Romans, who marked several religious services on that 74th day of the Roman calendar. It was also the deadline for settling debts in Rome. But most notable,



Between you and me

BY LEAH S. DUNAIEF

was 55 years old.

it's the day Julius Caesar was assassinated in the Senate by conspirators who may have numbered between 60-80.

Caesar was stabbed 23 times that day, but only one knife thrust was fatal, delivered through his ribs. He probably bled to death, and his body was left unmoved for a long time after the assailants fled. Caesar

Caesar is not just a remote figure in history for me. In high school, I suffered with him and because of him through his account of the Gallic Wars during my four years of Latin. Reading of military battles in his own words has left me with some sense of him. In addition to being a warrior, he was also a historian, a statesman and an author who thought highly of himself, and not without merit.

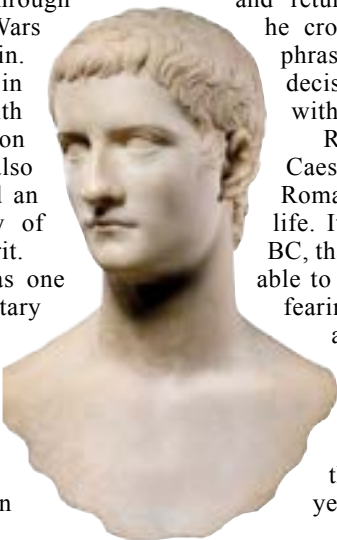
History regards Caesar as one of the most brilliant military commanders. He and his legions conquered Gaul, essentially what is France today, among other major victories and reached as far as Britain.

But it was on his return

from those eight years of warfare that he was told by the Senate to disband his army and return to civilian life. Refusing, he crossed the Rubicon (where the phrase indicating an irreversible decision originates) and marched with his soldiers to Rome.

Ruling as dictator from 49 BC, Caesar was declared head of the Roman Republic by the senate for life. It was shortly thereafter, in 44 BC, that those who opposed him were able to gather support for his murder, fearing his permanent stature and absolute power. The scene was carefully staged to happen in the senate so as to appear an act for the public good.

In fact, it was his death that ended the Republic. Four years of civil war ensued until



his adopted son and designated successor, Octavian, was victorious in 40 BC, and on the anniversary of Caesar's death, executed 300 senators and staff to avenge the murder. He came to rule Rome as Emperor Augustus in 27 BC. Thus began the Roman Empire.

Caesar's reforms were allowed to stand, most notably the Julian calendar, land distributions, offering citizenship to many in far off lands, unheard of until then, and a vast building program.

Caesar was warned of a plot to overthrow him, and he was urged by his wife not to go to the senate on March 15. Initially he sent word to its members that he was not coming. But then one of the conspirators went to his home and coaxed him into attending the fateful session.

Unlike Caesar, beware the Ides of March. Or at least, like Shakespeare, commemorate the event by telling one of history's better tales.



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