

ARTS & LIFESTYLES

TIMES BEACON RECORD NEWS MEDIA • MAY 9, 2024

UNLOCKING KNOWLEDGE



Middle Country Public Library celebrates Museum Day May 16

See story on page B23

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ALSO: Nature Matters B9 • Review of 'Unfrosted' B11 • SBU Sports B20 • Kidz Korner B21

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This year's event will raise funds for the ongoing restoration of the Stony Brook Grist Mill.

Photo courtesy of WMHO

WMHO Summer Soirée set for June 27

The Ward Melville Heritage Organization (WMHO) has announced the Summer Soirée fundraising gala will return with a cocktail hour, dinner and silent and live auction on June 27 at the historic Three Village Inn. The primary purpose of the fundraising is to support the ongoing restoration of the beloved Stony Brook Grist Mill (c. 1751). Any additional funds raised will support WMHO education programs and invasive species projects sponsored by WMHO.

This year's event will be honoring three exceptional individuals who are WMHO supporters and community leaders: Charlie Lefkowitz, Barbara Damianos and the Damianos Family, and Michele Miller.

Charlie Lefkowitz is Chairman of the Suffolk County Water Authority, President of the Three Village Chamber of Commerce and President of CALCO Development and Louis Lefkowitz Realty Inc. Despite this hectic work life, he remains very involved in community endeavors. He resides in Setauket with his family.

Barbara Damianos raised her five children in Head of the Harbor and now resides

in Port Jefferson. She is known for her international charity work that has taken her to countries such as Guatemala, El Salvador, Ukraine, Peru, and Russia. The highlight of Barbara Damianos's professional life was the establishment of her family's wineries. The Damianos Family collectively runs three vineyards: Pindar Vineyards, Duck Walk Vineyards, and Jason's Vineyard.

Michele Miller is an Educator at Selden Middle School. She has been integral to the success of the Ward Melville Heritage Organization's (WMHO) Youth Corps. Her daughter Leslie, an attorney who worked for the Bloomberg Administration and now works for a non-profit, was one of its first members. The Youth Corps is now celebrating its 25th anniversary. Michele resides in Setauket.

"These honorees were selected because of their good works in the Long Island community and beyond", said Dr. Richard Rugen, Chairman of WMHO.

For tickets and sponsorship information for the Summer Soirée, visit www.wmho.org or call 631-751-2244.

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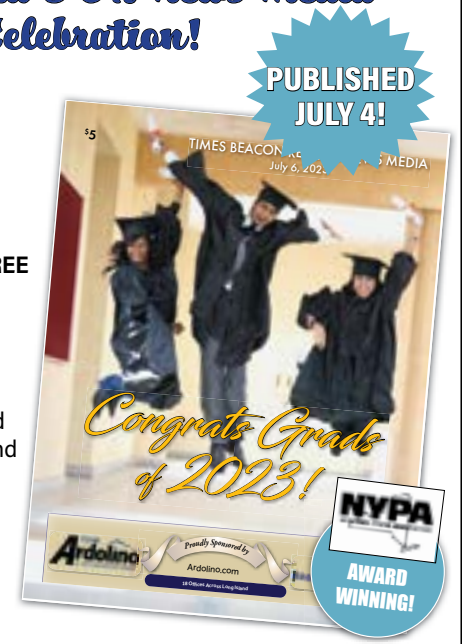
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The Whaling Museum unveils exciting transformation of signature event

The Whaling Museum, 301 Main St., Cold Spring Harbor announces the broadening of its classic event, Whales, Ales, and Salty Tales, now presented as Whales, Ales, and BRINY Tales! This year, the event introduces an exciting new feature: Pickles! Adults aged 21 and over are invited to this immersive indoor/outdoor experience at the museum on Sunday, June 1 from 2 to 5 p.m.

“We are thrilled to unveil the next chapter of our well-received, annual event,” said Nomi Dayan, Executive Director of The Whaling Museum & Education Center. “After offering new pickle-themed programs a few months ago which sold out, we realized Long Island has a crowd interested in flavorful experiences. We are excited to hybridize tastings of pickles with craft beer offerings — a tasty combination that provides a lively backdrop for historical discussions about life at sea.”

The museum’s plaza will be transformed into a hub of activity, showcasing craft brews from local breweries such as Jones Beach Brewing Company, Secatogue Brewery, Take Two Brewery, Threes Brewery, and more to come. Horman’s Best Pickles will offer pickle samples, along with the option to purchase pickles on sticks. For the adventurous, one brewer will even offer samples of pickle-



The Whaling Museum's annual fundraising event on June 1 is now Whales, Ales and BRINY Tales! Photo courtesy of The Whaling Museum

flavored beer. The event will be further enriched by live sea chanteys performed by Scuttlebutt Stu, providing a lively maritime soundtrack guests can sing along to.

Inside the museum, attendees can expand their knowledge through informative talks on pickles and preservation on whaling ships. Creative minds can participate in designing

scrimshaw-style keychains or select the box option for a unique keepsake. The “Tales of the Tavern” adult scavenger hunt will offer a fun and educational experience for interacting with the museum’s exhibits through QR codes and a booklet of clues.

“This event has evolved over the course of 10 years, beginning as a quaint tasting event inside the museum to a tented affair featuring new vendors and activities,” said Gina Van Bell, Assistant Director at The Whaling Museum & Education Center. “We are thrilled to see the ongoing excitement from guests, sponsors, and brewers who have supported the event year after year. We are eager to continue expanding the event, connecting the community with our maritime heritage through creative and delicious experiences.”

To commemorate this special occasion, the first 150 attendees will receive a commemorative tasting cup sponsored by Mercedes of Huntington, adding a collectible element to their experience. Tickets are available for purchase online at \$40, \$30 for members or at the door for \$45, \$35 for members. Designated driver tickets are also available for \$15. Event t-shirts will also be available for purchase and are sponsored by local marina, H&M Powles. For more information and to purchase tickets, visit www.cshwhalingmuseum.org/ales.

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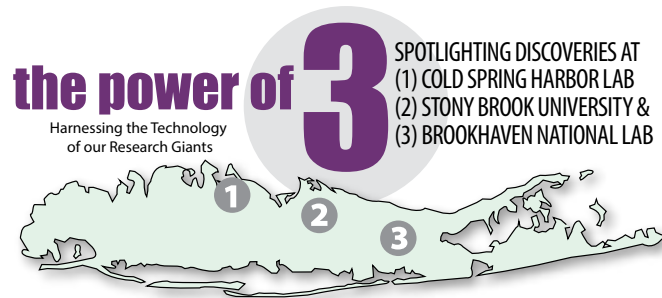


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CSHL's Gabrielle Pouchelon studies effects of sensory cues, genetics on brain development



BY DANIEL DUNAIEF

Gabrielle Pouchelon doesn't need to answer the age-old debate about heredity vs. environment. When it comes to the development of the brain, she's studying the response both to sensory cues and genetics.

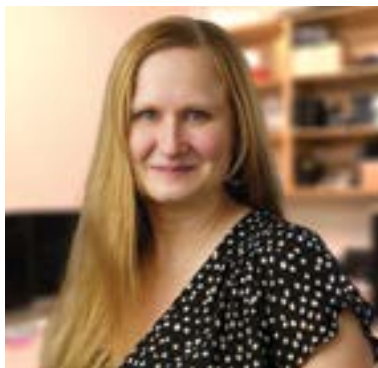
KNOWLEDGE SEEKERS

An Assistant Professor who joined Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory in March of 2022, Pouchelon studies the interplay between sensory and neuromodulatory inputs and genetic programs in circuit maturation. She also studies other neuromodulatory inputs, usually associated with states of adulthood, which could control development.

A combination of genetics and environment shapes the way neurons connect in a healthy brain. In people who develop non-neurotypical behaviors, through autism, schizophrenia or other conditions, the development of neurological connections and architecture is likely different.

Researchers have associated genes of susceptibility with schizophrenia and autism spectrum disorders. Scientists believe environmental cues provide the brain with activity that interact with these genetic components.

"We are trying to understand whether we can [intervene] earlier that can have different outcomes at later times," said Pouchelon. "We are studying ways to intervene with these transient processes and examine whether dysfunctions associated with the disorders are improved."



Gabrielle Pouchelon.
Photo courtesy of CSHL

During critical periods of development, the brain has a high level of plasticity, where various inputs can alter neurons and their connections. This not only involves building connections, but sometimes breaking them down and rebuilding other ones. As people age, that plasticity decreases, which is why children learn faster than adults in areas such as the acquisition and development of language skills.

While the timing of critical periods is less well-defined in humans and language is a complex function, the ability to learn new languages at a young age reflects the high plasticity of the brain.

Scientists are studying language processes, which are specific to humans, with functional magnetic resonance imaging.

Pouchelon, who isn't studying language skills, hopes that understanding the architecture of developing brains and how they respond to sensory and neuromodulatory cues could shed light on the studies performed in humans. Since behavioral therapy and pharmaceutical treatments can help children with autism,



Gabrielle Pouchelon with technician Sam Liebman.

Photo by Constance Brukin/CSHL

she believes understanding how external cues affect genetic elements could uncover drug targets to alleviate symptoms of neurodevelopmental disorders at an early age.

Neurons & the environment

In her lab, which currently includes three researchers but she expects to double within a month, Pouchelon uses sophisticated tools to target not only the effect of the environment, but also to look at the specific neurons that transmit information.

She is trying to "understand at a very precise level what a sensory input means and what are the neurons that integrate that sensory input."

Sam Liebman, who became a technician in Pouchelon's lab two years ago after graduating from the University of Vermont, appreciates the work they're doing and her mentorship.

The lab is "unique and special" because he has that "close relationship" in what is now a smaller lab with Pouchelon, Liebman said.

Growing up in Huntington, Liebman, who hopes to go to graduate school in the fall of

2025, came to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory for field trips in middle school and high school.

"I idolized this place and this campus," said Liebman.

Pouchelon has asked for Liebman's opinion on potential candidates to join the lab, even summer interns.

Fragile X Syndrome

Most of the work Pouchelon conducts is done on animal models. She is mainly studying animals with a mutation linked to Fragile X Syndrome.

In Fragile X Syndrome, which can affect boys and girls, children can have developmental delays, learning disabilities and social and behavioral problems. Boys, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, typically have some degree of intellectual disability, while girls can have normal intelligence or some degree of intellectual disability.

Other models for autism exist, such as genetic mutations in the gene Shank3. "We are trying to utilize these models to apply what we understand of development in brains that are healthy and compare them" to the mutated models, Pouchelon explained.

While clinical trials are exploring receptors as drug targets for Fragile X Syndrome, she hopes to find new ones that are selective in early stages of the disease to modify their use depending on the stages of development.

An annoying nerd

Born and raised in Paris, France to a family that showed considerably more artistic talent than she, Pouchelon struggled with games she and her sisters played when they listened to music on the radio and they had to guess the composer.

"I was the one always losing," said Pouchelon. Her family, including her two older sisters who currently live in France, knew "way more about art and history than I did. I was the nerd scientist."

When she was young, she was curious and asked a lot of "annoying questions" because she was interested in the "mystery of everything." In high school, she became interested in the brain.

Pouchelon, who isn't actively searching for French food but finds the baguettes at the Duck Island Bakery exceptional, lives on the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory campus with her husband Djeckby "DJ" Joseph, a naturalized American citizen originally from Haiti who works in law enforcement at the VA Hospital in Manhattan, and their two-year old son Theo.

Eager to ensure her son benefits from a multicultural identity, Pouchelon speaks to Theo in French. He also attends on campus day care, where he learns English.

As for the decision to come to Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, Pouchelon, who conducted her PhD research at the University of Geneva in Switzerland and completed her postdoctoral research at New York University and at Harvard Medical School, is thrilled to discuss her work with the talented and collegial staff at the lab.

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, which is known internationally for meetings and courses, is an "exciting place" where scientists conduct cutting edge research.

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Cholesterol and Weight Loss

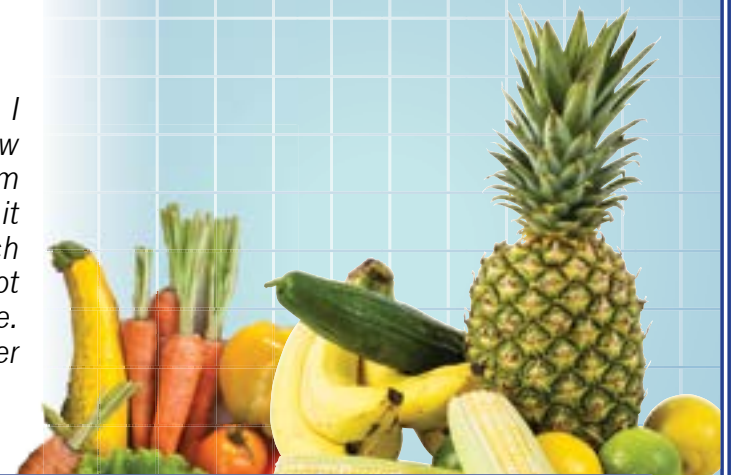
I am a loser all around. I am very excited about reducing my cholesterol. I have not had such low levels of cholesterol since stopping the statin drugs years ago. Also, my sugars are down to normal and my uric acid is down. This is important because I have a history of gout attacks, I'm also excited that I am continuing to lose fat pounds.

Male, age 68

Constipation, Arthritis, and High Blood Pressure

Also, I no longer have constipation. I must have been dehydrated and had low fiber for years! My whole digestive system is working beautifully – I don't remember it being as good as it is now! My life is much better. Before, every morning when I got up, my knees would hurt, but no more. Also, my blood pressure is much better controlled.

Female, age 79



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Keep your kidneys purring

MEDICAL COMPASS



BY DAVID M. DUNAIEF, MD

Your kidneys perform an array of critical functions that help maintain your body's systems. They filter waste and fluid from your body and maintain your blood's health. They also help control your blood pressure, make red blood cells and vitamin D, and control your body's acid levels.

If your kidney function degrades, it can lead to hypertension or cardiovascular problems and it may require dialysis or a kidney transplant in later stages. For the best outcomes, it's critical to identify chronic kidney disease (CKD) early and strive to arrest its advance to more serious stages. However, of the estimated 35.5 million U.S. adults who have CKD, as many as 9 in 10 are not even aware they have it (1).

One of the challenges with identifying early-stage CKD is that symptoms are not obvious and can be overlooked. Among them are foamy urine, urinating more or less frequently than usual, itchy or dry skin, fatigue, nausea, appetite loss, and unintended weight loss (2).

Fortunately, there are simple tests, such as a basic metabolic panel and a urinalysis, that will confirm your kidney function. These indices for kidney function include an estimated glomerular filtration rate (eGFR), creatinine level and protein in the urine. eGFR is a calculation and, while the other two indices have varying ranges depending on the laboratory used, a patient with an eGFR of 30 to 59 is considered to have mild disease. The eGFR and the kidney function are inversely related, meaning as eGFR declines, the severity of CKD increases.

What can be done to address early-stage CKD, before complications occur? There are several studies that have evaluated different lifestyle modifications and their impacts on its prevention, treatment and reversal.

What causes the greatest risk to your kidneys?

Among the greatest risks for your kidneys are uncontrolled diseases and medical disorders, such as diabetes and hypertension (1). If you have — or are at risk for — diabetes, be sure to control your blood sugar levels to limit kidney

damage. Similarly, if you currently have hypertension, controlling it will put less stress on your kidneys. For these diseases, it's crucial that you have your kidney function tested at least once a year.

In addition, obesity and smoking have been identified as risk factors and can be managed by making lifestyle changes to reduce your risk.

Can changing your diet help protect your kidneys?

Fruits and vegetables may play a role in helping patients with CKD. In a one-year study with 77 patients, results showed that fruits and vegetables work as well as sodium bicarbonate in improving kidney function by reducing metabolic acidosis levels (3).

What is the significance of metabolic acidosis? It means that body fluids become acidic, and it is associated with CKD. The authors concluded that both sodium bicarbonate and a diet including fruits and vegetables were renoprotective, helping to protect the kidneys from further damage in patients with CKD. Alkali diets are primarily plant-based, although not necessarily vegetarian or vegan. Animal products tend to cause an acidic environment.

In the Nurses' Health Study, results show that animal fat, red meat and sodium all negatively impact kidney function (4). The risk of protein in the urine, a potential indicator of CKD, increased by 72 percent in those participants who consumed the highest amounts of animal fat compared to the lowest, and by 51 percent in those who ate red meat at least twice a week. With higher amounts of sodium, there was a 52 percent increased risk of having lower eGFR levels.

The most interesting part with sodium was that the difference between higher mean consumption and the lower mean consumption was not that large, 2.4 grams compared to 1.7 grams. In other words, a difference of approximately a quarter-teaspoon of sodium per day was responsible for the decrease in kidney function.

The National Kidney Foundation recommends diets that are higher in fruit and vegetable content and lower in animal protein, including the Dietary Approaches to Stop Hypertension (DASH) diet and plant-based diets (2).

In my practice, when CKD patients follow a vegetable-rich, nutrient-dense diet, there are substantial improvements in kidney functioning. For instance, for one patient, his baseline eGFR was 54.



Simple tests can confirm your kidney's health.

METRO photo

After one month of dietary changes, his eGFR improved by 9 points to 63, which is a return to "normal" functioning of the kidney. Note that this is anecdotal, not a study.

When should you have your kidney function tested?

It is important to have your kidney function checked. If your levels are low, you should address the issue through medications and lifestyle modifications to manage and reverse early-stage CKD. If you have common risk factors, such as diabetes, smoking, obesity or high blood pressure, or if you are over 60 years old, talk to your doctor about regular testing.

Don't wait until symptoms and complications occur. In my experience, it is much easier to treat and reverse CKD in its earlier stages.

References:

(1) CDC.gov. (2) kidney.org. (3) Clin J Am Soc Nephrol. 2013;8:371-381. (4) Clin J Am Soc Nephrol. 2010; 5:836-843.

Dr. David Dunaief is a speaker, author and local lifestyle medicine physician focusing on the integration of medicine, nutrition, fitness and stress management. For further information, visit www.medicalcompassmd.com or consult your personal physician.

ONLY ON THE WEB:

The following articles can be found at www.tbrnewsmedia.com

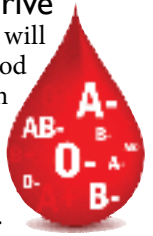
- » Leisure Village Senior Club raises \$5k for St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital
- » SBU Softball tops N.C. A&T to earns sixth straight series win
- » Meet this week's Shelter Pet: Mia at the Town of Smithtown Animal Shelter

COMMUNITY NEWS

Community Blood Drive

The Town of Smithtown will host a community blood drive at the Smithtown Senior Citizen Center, 420 Middle Country Road, Smithtown on Wednesday, May 15 from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Participating community members who donate blood will receive a free box of Girl Scout Cookies. Appointments are preferred by visiting www.nybc.org, however walk-ins will be welcomed. For further information, call Dineen at 631-360-7626.



Older Americans Month Dance

Town of Brookhaven hosts its annual Older Americans Month dance at the Rose Caracappa Senior Center, 739 Route 25A, Mt. Sinai on Friday, May 17 from 1 to 3 p.m. with music by DJ Louis DelPrete. Cake will be served. This event is open to Town of Brookhaven residents ages 60 and older. To reserve a seat, please call 631-451-5312.

Marketplace Enrollment Assistance

Comsewogue Public Library, 170 Terryville Road, Port Jefferson Station offers a NY State of Health Marketplace Enrollment program on Wednesday, May 15 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Health & Welfare Council of Long Island's certified Navigators will help you apply for health insurance. No registration required. For documentation requirements, call HWCLI at 516-505-4426.

Grief Support Group

Mt. Sinai Congregational Church UCC, 233 North Country Road, Mt. Sinai is offering a grief support group on Saturdays, May 11, 18, 25.; June 8, 15 from 9:30 to 10:30 a.m. There is no fee to attend. To register, email mssc1@optonline.net. For more information, call 631-473-1582.

Board 'Walk' Your Way to Wellness

Health professionals from St. Catherine of Siena Hospital will be available at Sunken Meadow State Park's boardwalk in Kings Park on Tuesdays, May 14, 21 and 28 from 5 to 7 p.m. to discuss heart health, healthy eating, weight management, breast health, stroke prevention, skin cancer and Lyme disease prevention tips. Free blood pressure screenings and free giveaways. To learn more, call 631-870-3444.

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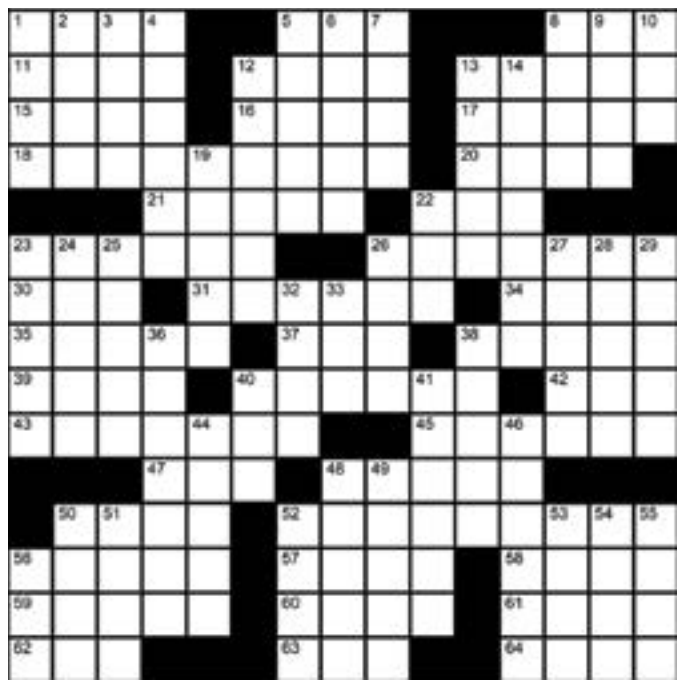
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE



**Things with Wings
CLUES ACROSS**

1. Country alliance
5. Fish of liver oil fame
8. *Stinging pollinator
11. Prefix in levorotary
12. *Dark home to #33 Down
13. Sudden growth
15. Like certain Steven
16. Symphony member
17. Type of feather
18. *Comfy seat (2 words)
20. Don't put these into one basket?
21. Full nelson is _____ wrestling _____
22. Santa _____, Orange County
23. Puts down
26. Et cetera (3 words)
30. Pen point
31. With signs of wear and tear
34. Beyond natural, in U.K.
35. Messes up
37. Chitchat
38. Willow twig
39. Evening purse
40. Win a race
42. Tucker of "Modern Family"
43. Army bathroom
45. Eucharist plates
47. Opposite of WSW
48. French composer Erik Alfred Leslie _____
50. "Back to the Future" antagonist
52. *Beetle with Wings
56. Poodle minus d
57. England's medieval royal house
58. Rabbit's cousin
59. Nymph chaser
60. Genealogist's creation
61. Blackhearted
62. George Gershwin's brother
63. "For _____ a jolly..."
64. It often goes with a rod



CLUES DOWN

1. What the Big Bad Wolf did
2. First name in jeans
3. "Pop it in the _____!"
4. Cuban drums
5. Secret clique
6. Roundish
7. Chronic wasting disease carrier
8. Plug for a barrel
9. *As opposed to urns
10. Pilot's estimate, acr.
12. Herb for treating menopausal symptoms
13. Shop till you drop, e.g.
14. *Flying stallion
19. "The Queen's Gambit" game
22. Take your pick
23. *Biblical Gabriel, e.g.
24. All plants and animals
25. Approximately
26. Shortened word, abbr.
27. Drink request
28. Home to largest mammal
29. Socially acceptable behaviors
32. Malaria symptom
33. *Nocturnal mosquito eater
36. *Lightning beetle
38. Recording studio sign
40. Next to nothing
41. Same as intake
44. Reason by deduction
46. Restraint
48. Academy Award for Best Original _____
49. Chunks of 43,560 square feet
50. Wild hog
51. Itty bit
52. Urban legend
53. Part of cathedral
54. Great Lake
55. Holler
56. Tire measurement



**Answers to last week's puzzle:
Fictional Mothers**



Answers to this week's puzzles will appear in next week's newspaper.

SUDOKU PUZZLE

			1	7		3	8	
4				5				7
				6	9	5	1	
					2		7	
		6				9		
	8		6					
	7	8	2	4				
1				7				4
5	4		9	3				

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Directions: Fill in the blank squares in the grid, making sure that every row, column and 3-by-3 box includes all digits 1 through 9.

4	3	1	8	5	7	6	9	2
8	5	2	6	1	9	7	4	3
7	6	9	3	2	4	5	1	8
2	4	6	1	8	3	9	7	5
3	7	8	4	9	5	1	2	6
1	9	5	2	7	6	3	8	4
9	2	3	5	4	1	8	6	7
6	1	4	7	3	8	2	5	9
5	8	7	9	6	2	4	3	1

Answers to last week's SUDOKU



A river otter caught on a trail camera in Bellport.
Image courtesy of Luke Ormand

A wetlands ambassador

BY JOHN L. TURNER

I slung on the backpack, shut the car door and walked off quickly, fueled by excitement and expectation. After a brisk walk on a shady forest path, bordered by a few small fields hinting at the property's past farm use, I reached my destination — a wooden observation platform providing sweeping views of a freshwater pond situated within the North Fork's Arshamomaque Preserve. I immediately began a binocular scan of the water and the far shore for any sign of movement revealing their presence. Nothing. Scanned for a few more minutes and nothing. I soon fall into a pattern of picking up the binoculars and looking first along the water surface and then the vegetated far shore. This goes on for an hour. Still no action.

I learned a long time ago that nature is not a zoo and the comings and goings of animals are never done to please us humans, but always in response to their needs. So I will see them, if I see them at all, on their schedule. I continue to patiently sit, soaking in the beauty of the warm sunshine, bolstered by a large cup of strong coffee and a cinnamon-raisin bagel.

I was also enjoying the many marsh mallow shrubs blooming in profusion amidst the abundance of cattails ringing the pond. The flowers of this species border on the spectacular — three to five inches across, deep but bright pink petals with a red throat or base, and a prominent tower containing both the stamens and the stigmata. This species is related to the plant whose roots were once the source of that delicious confectioneries used to make s'mores — marshmallows.

Suddenly, there was rippled movement along the far shore. It took me a moment to process what I was looking at but it was a family of four river otters (*Lontra canadensis*) — two

adults and two pups — weaving in and out of the wetland plants. I enjoyed them for about 15 seconds until they all broke back into cover of the cattails at the eastern edge of the pond. A minute or two later they reappeared this time swimming along the wooded shoreline before doubling back to the cattails.

What I was witnessing is a small part of a welcome recovery of the species taking place over several decades now, as an increasing number of otters are colonizing suitable wetland habitat on Long Island, after decades of their dearth. According to Paul Connor's definitive *Mammals of Long Island* published by the New York State Museum in 1971, otters were thought to be extirpated from Long Island in the latter part of the 19th century. He states that Daniel Denton in his 1670 description of Long Island mammals noted the presence of otters, but goes on to mention that more than 170 years later J.E. DeKay declared the species extirpated from Long Island.

Through the 20th century otters were occasionally seen or reported but there was no sense of a sustained recovery of the species on Long Island. Connor reports no sightings in all the field work (conducted over several field seasons in the late 1960's) that formed the basis for his monograph. This began to change in the first few years of the 21st century when sightings of otters became more commonplace. One of the first sightings was near the well-known Shu Swamp sanctuary in Mill Neck, Nassau County.

Mike Bottini, a well-known Long Island naturalist and founder of the Long Island River Otter Project, has studied this recovery as well as other aspects of otter ecology and biology and published an informative published paper investigating the status of river otter in 2008. He states: "This survey estimates that there are at least eight river otters inhabiting Long Island: four on the

north shore of Nassau County, one in the Nissequogue River watershed, one in the west end of the Peconic Estuary, one on the south shore, and one in the Southold-Shelter Island-East Hampton area." Remarkably, a mere decade later otter signs were found in 26 watersheds; the recovery was well underway.

Three years later, in 2021, Mike noted: "otter home ranges included all the watersheds on the north shore from Oyster Bay east to Orient, the Peconic River watershed and a significant portion of the Peconic Estuary, and two watersheds on the south shore." Painting a rosy picture, Mike concludes: "Much excellent otter habitat on Long Island remains unoccupied, especially on the south shore.

In addition to the obvious confirmation formed by actual sightings or finding their tracks in mud or snow, the use of latrines or "otter bathrooms" by this highly aquatic mammal is one of the ways researchers use to gain a better sense of their distribution on Long Island. For reasons that are not entirely clear, otters often defecate (known as scat) in upland areas adjacent to the waterways, these latrine sites thought to be used to communicate information.

I have found their latrines in a few places, the closest being at Frank Melville Memorial Park in Setauket on both sides of the northern pond. Their scat often contains the remains of scales and bones of the fish they prey on, and such was the case by a recent inspection of the latrines at the park — scales and delicate fish bones were prevalent in the sushi meals the otter was consuming. While otters favor fish, they are opportunistic and will eat frogs, turtles, crayfish (yes, we do have crayfish species on Long Island), and freshwater clams and mussels.

Otters are carnivores and are members of the weasel family whose other Long Island members include, according to Connor, Mink, Long-tailed weasel, and perhaps Short-tailed weasel. Further afield in the North American continent we have badgers, the federally endangered Black-footed ferret, and the famous and remarkable wolverine. Thirteen otter species occur around the globe.

As evidenced by my North Fork experience and several other accounts, otters are reproducing on Long Island with their pups presumably helping to fuel the resurgence. As their young (typically between 2-5 pups are born) are quite helpless at birth, being hairless and blind, they grow and develop in dens which provide some degree of protection from the elements. The dens are in close proximity to the water and may, in some cases, be connected to it. As of this writing I don't know of anyone who has conclusively discovered an otter den here.

The use of remote cameras installed in the field at sites likely to be utilized by otters have proven instrumental in learning some new

streams and creeks otters are frequenting. Luke Ormand, a staff member in the Town of Brookhaven's Division of Land Management, has placed several cameras in numerous locations in Brookhaven Town that have been successful in recording otters. With these cameras, otters have been confirmed in the Carmans River watershed and the Motts Creek drainage system in Bellport.

A significant damper on the continued recolonization and expansion of river otters on Long Island are motor vehicles, as otters are sometimes struck and killed. An otter was recently struck on Jericho Turnpike near the famous bull statue in Smithtown and the total number of road killed otters recorded for Long Island stands at 29 animals.

Bottini notes that the peak time is between March and May both when males are searching for females in estrus (ready to mate) and yearling individuals are striking out on their own. The likelihood of being hit by a vehicle is especially high in places where otters are forced to cross a road that spans a stream containing too narrow a culvert or a dam where the dam is under the bridge; the dam face prevents downstream or upstream access, forcing the otter to climb up the banks and lope across the dangerous roadway. Solutions involve the placement of stacked cinder blocks to form a ramp or aluminum ramps which otters can negotiate.

I had the pleasure of working with the aforementioned Mike and Luke one day a few years ago in constructing a cinder block ramp along a dam face on the Little Seatuck Creek in East Moriches. Camera footage soon showed otter use of the ramp although the two otters in the area illustrated different personalities; one otter immediately took to using it while the other was quite hesitant.

Mike notes that otters are "ambassadors of wetlands" and given their broad appeal and popularity this is true. Who doesn't remember wildlife films on Disney and other shows depicting otters tobogganing in the snow, frolicking about in what appears to be joyous play? Perhaps this iconic and charismatic species can help to generate public support on Long Island in better protecting our waterways — important habitats — which sustain so many species.

Let me end by stating the obvious: you "otter" take time out of your busy schedule to look for these furry, very attractive ambassadors. But please drive slowly to your intended destination, all the while keeping an eye out for a sleek, rich brown animal loping across the road.

A resident of Setauket, author John L. Turner is conservation chair of the Four Harbors Audubon Society, author of "Exploring the Other Island: A Seasonal Nature Guide to Long Island" and president of Alula Birding & Natural History Tours.

Gurwin sweeps 2024 Best of Long Island health & wellness awards

Gurwin Healthcare System in Commack has announced that it has received the following awards across various categories in the health and wellness category industry from Bethpage Federal Credit Union's 2024 Best of Long Island Awards:

— Julie Yerkes, RN voted Best Nurse for the second consecutive year.

— Gurwin Adult Day Health Program voted Best Adult Day Care Program for the eighth consecutive year.

— Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center voted Best Rehabilitation for the fourth consecutive year.

— Gurwin Home Care Agency voted Best Health Aides for the sixth consecutive year.

— Gurwin Jewish Nursing & Rehabilitation Center voted Best Nursing Home. The Center also received this honor in 2021.

— Gurwin Jewish ~ Fay J. Lindner Residences voted Best Assisted Living. The assisted living community also received this honor in 2010, 2011 and 2019.

The annual Bethpage Best of Long Island contest is a roadmap to the best businesses and services throughout both Nassau and Suffolk counties. This year, more than one million votes were cast by



Photo courtesy of Gurwin Healthcare System

Long Island residents and patrons, who each voted in dozens of categories.

“We are delighted that Long Islanders have chosen so many of Gurwin's programs as the Best on Long Island,” said Stuart B. Almer, President and CEO of Gurwin

Healthcare System. “This recognition stems from the talented staff on the Gurwin team whose dedication is evident in their compassionate care and innovative programming. We are privileged to serve as a steadfast resource for thousands of

older and medically frail adults in our surrounding communities and are honored to be recognized for our commitment to 5-star quality, patient-centered care.”

To view the complete list of winners, visit <https://www.bestoflongisland.com/>

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Jerry Seinfeld's 'Unfrosted' is as artificial as Pop-Tarts

REVIEWED BY JEFFREY SANZEL

Oh, for the comedic integrity of Sid and Marty Krofft's 1971 *Lidsville*. The creators of *H.R. Pufnstuf*, *The Bugaloos*, and *Sigmund and the Sea Monsters* offered a world populated by talking hats. Compared with Netflix's *Unfrosted*, the anthropomorphized Saturday morning toppers were comic gold along the lines of Chaplin, Keaton, and Larry David.

MOVIE REVIEW

Unfrosted tells the fictional tale of the creation of the Pop-Tart. The premise hinges on the 1963 toaster pastry battle between Kellogg and Post, in Battle Creek, Michigan. Jerry Seinfeld directed, co-wrote, co-produced, and stars as Bob Cabana, a Kellogg executive. So, guess who is responsible for this overbaked, leaden soufflé?

The film attempts to be "ZANY!!!" (Yes: all caps, bold, italics, underlined, and three exclamation marks. Perhaps "zzz-any" would have been a better summation.) Rarely has so much energy and celebrity power been squandered on forced, unfunny material as artificial as Pop-Tarts themselves. Strawberry Pop-Tarts contain less than two percent dried strawberries. *Unfrosted* contains less than two percent real comedy. (Maybe the film needed an injection of soybean and palm oil with tBHQ for freshness.)

The film's humor is low-hanging fruit (there are those dried strawberries again). *Unfrosted* spoofs corporate espionage, the moon landing, awards shows (the Bowl and

Strawberry Pop-Tarts contain less than two percent dried strawberries. *Unfrosted* contains less than two percent real comedy.

Spoon Awards), genetic engineering (a ravioli stuffed with Sea Monkeys escapes the lab), the Cuban Missile Crisis, and a dangerous milk syndicate. A benign throughline about disgruntled product mascots, led by Frosted Flakes' Tony the Tiger, becomes a tasteless and horrifying send-up of January 6.

With witty dialogue including "What are you, some kind of ding dong?" and "Uh-Oh! Spaghetti O's!" along with punchlines relying on dumpster diving, former Nazi scientists, and high fructose corn syrup, how could they go right? (And just when you think it is over, there is a full-cast song with bloopers and outtakes.)

Seinfeld recruited and sadly misused a first-rate roster. Melissa McCarthy is Donna Stankowski, Cabana's former cohort who went to NASA. Here, she turns in her standard comedy-for-paycheck performance. Jim Gaffigan blusters as Edsel Kellogg III, playing opposite Amy Schumer's uncomfortable Marjorie Post. Hugh Grant appears as a version of Hugh Grant as Thurl Ravenscroft, the Shakespearean actor who is the rebellious Tony the Tiger.

For no apparent reason, the research team is composed of Jack LaLanne (James Marsden), Steve Schwinn (Jack McBrayer), Harold von Brauhnut (Thomas Lennon), Chef Boyardee (Bobby Moynihan), and Tom Carvel (Adrian Martinez). Cumulatively, they do not manage more than one-and-a-half dimensions and two-and-a-half laughs.

Most of the starry company feature in a handful of brief scenes. Christian Slater as a smilingly sinister milkman. Bill Burr's sexed-up John F. Kennedy (with the gratuitous Marilyn Monroe references) is matched by Dean Norris's Nikita Krushchev, a mumbling version of Bullwinkle and Rocky's arch-enemy, Boris Badenov. Peter Dinklage is amusing as Harry Friendly, leader of the milk syndicate, and John Slattery and Jon Hamm's *Mad Men* ad men are a welcome surprise (until they start pitching, and then it's back to business as usual). Kyle Dunnigan's Walter Cronkite presents a decent impersonation, but jokes about Cronkite's bad marriage (huh?) fall flat. Dozens more fill out the cast in supporting roles and cameos. One hopes everyone was well paid or at least given a good lunch.

Visually, *Unfrosted* appears in a *Barbie* style that seems like a brighter version of *Asteroid City* or *Don't Worry, Darling*—that late 1950s/early 1960s hyper vibrance. Cinematographer William Pope, editor Evan Henke, production designer Clayton Hartley, and costume designer Susan Matheson provide what little style the film achieves.

On April 29, Netflix released a promo explaining that *Unfrosted* referenced two hundred and twenty-one trademarked breakfast cereals without permission or legal clearance. The promo runs two minutes and thirteen seconds. The film lasts ninety-six minutes. Do yourself a favor: Skip both.

HOROSCOPES OF THE WEEK



TAURUS – Apr 21/May 21

Your happiness can bring joy to many other people this week, Taurus. Spread all of your positivity among those people who can use it the most. You will reap rewards as well.

GEMINI – May 22/June 21

The people around you may be behaving in interesting and unexpected ways, Gemini. You don't know what to make of this just yet, so sit back and watch the show.

CANCER – June 22/July 22

Cancer, it is challenging to keep up with all of the comings and goings of the people in your social circle. It may take a little while for you to reconnect.

LEO – July 23/Aug 23

Let others see a side of you that you don't often share, Leo. It is alright to be vulnerable at times, and this vulnerability actually may appeal to some new people in your life.

VIRGO – Aug 24/Sept 22

Virgo, you have a tremendous amount of power at your disposal this week. You should use all of it wisely and not waste a drop. Others will be affected by your presence.

LIBRA – Sept 23/Oct 23

Libra, expect to spot trouble on the horizon before other people around you. This gives you a head-start to take action and prepare yourself and others for what's to come.

SCORPIO – Oct 24/Nov 22

Pay careful attention to any and all financial transactions you make this week, Scorpio. You want to keep tabs on where your money is going and avoid as many mistakes as possible.

SAGITTARIUS – Nov 23/Dec 21

Sagittarius, a situation may arise this week in which you are expected to do more than you feel comfortable. Don't let others bully you into action. Explain your hesitation carefully and respectfully.

CAPRICORN – Dec 22/Jan 20

What is the point of power struggles if it alienates all of the people closest to you, Capricorn? Sometimes you must forego ego to maintain personal relationships and family harmony.

AQUARIUS – Jan 21/Feb 18

Aquarius, try to interact this week with the people who may not necessarily agree with you or share your beliefs. It could be good to see things from different perspectives.

PISCES – Feb 19/Mar 20

Positive energy is circling around you this week, Pisces. Those good vibes will put you in a mood to reach out to some people in your life who may have drifted away.

ARIES – Mar 21/Apr 20

Aries, a friend of yours has made steady progress and exhibited significant personal growth. Continue to support this person's pursuits and act as a source of encouragement.

LIM honored with Engaging Communities Award of Distinction

The Long Island Museum (LIM), a Smithsonian Affiliate, has announced that it has been awarded the prestigious Engaging Communities Award of Distinction for its groundbreaking exhibition *SOMOS/WE ARE: Latinx Artists of Long Island*.

The LIM was part of a group of selected museums, museum professionals, industry partners, and legislative leaders that were recognized for their exceptional achievements at MANY's 2024 annual conference "Giving Voice to Value" in Albany on April 8. The fifteen awards celebrated unique leadership, dedicated community service, transformational visitor experiences, community engagement, and innovative programs that use collections and resources to support museums and to tell stories of everyone who calls New York home.

The Engaging Communities Award of Distinction recognizes organizations that demonstrate exceptional and resourceful methods in engaging their communities and cultivating new audiences. The LIM's exhibition, *SOMOS/WE ARE*, stood out for its immersive approach in showcasing the rich cultural heritage and artistic contributions of the Latinx community on Long Island.

"This was such an important and institution-changing exhibition for us," says Co-Executive Director, Joshua Ruff.



Accepting the award, from left Nina Sangimino Curator at the LIM; Kristin Cuomo, Educator at the LIM; Joshua Ruff, Co-Executive Director at the LIM; and Kelynn Alder, guest curator of the exhibition 'SOMOS/WE ARE: Latinx Artists of Long Island.' Photo courtesy of LIM

"It helped us collaborate and connect with community partners such as the Latino Arts Council of Long Island. We were able to make some significant new accessions for our art collection from some of the artists involved. And this project confirmed that LIM is a

museum dedicated to the history and culture of all people across our region, including the more than 20% of Nassau-Suffolk's total population that has Hispanic heritage."

On view during the fall of 2023, *SOMOS/WE ARE* was guest-curated by Mexican-

American artist Kelynn Alder and curator Nina Sangimino of the LIM. This collaborative exhibition with associated programming focused on the rich cultural heritage and artistic contributions of the Latinx community on Long Island, featured 82 regional artists and explored their diverse styles, media, personal stories, and familial national origins.

In addition to bilingual exhibition text, the museum's education staff published a bilingual Family Gallery Guide and offered Spanish language tours, including one for the Long Island Latino Teachers Association which contributed to an increase in school tours from school districts on Long Island with a high percentage of Latinx students, including Hempstead, Springs, Copiague, Tuckahoe, North Babylon, and Brentwood.

The museum also hosted a ¡ESTAMOS! symposium that featured an artist discussion and performances as well as a free Family Fun Day in October which set a record 600 person attendance for Día de los Muertos, many of whom were first-time visitors.

The LIM's *SOMOS/WE ARE: Latinx Artists of Long Island* exhibition exemplifies the power of museums to connect, inspire, and celebrate diverse voices and communities. For more information, visit www.longislandmuseum.org.



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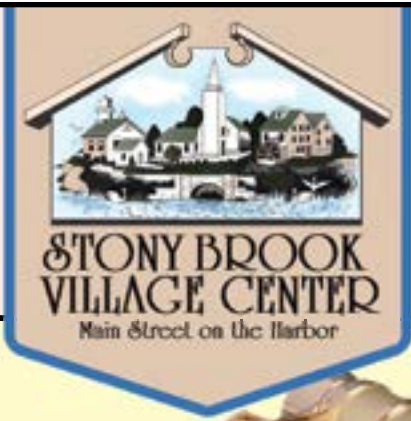
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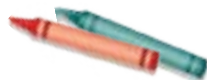
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Anderson Valley Pinot Noirs

THE WINE CONNOISSEUR

Anderson Valley, an AVA (1983) grape-growing area west of Ukiah and north of Sonoma in Mendocino County, California, continues to garner praise as one of the premier regions for Pinot Noir and is one of California's coolest climates. The valley is almost 15 miles long, with virtually no flat land and hills ranging from 80 to 1,300 feet in elevation and runs to the northwest parallel to the coast till it opens to the Pacific just south of Mendocino.

In 1851, a settler named Walter Anderson discovered the valley after getting separated from his hunting group, and it was named after him. Commercial wine production did not begin until the 1960s, when Donald Edmeades planted a vineyard to Chardonnay, Gewürztraminer, French Colombard, and Cabernet Sauvignon. The Husch Vineyards, established in 1971, was the first to plant Pinot Noir grapes in the Knoll Vineyard, in Anderson Valley.

Anderson Valley has almost 100 vineyards planted on 2,457 acres. The grapes grown are 69 percent Pinot Noir and 21 percent Chardonnay. Secondary grapes include Gewürztraminer, Pinot Gris, Riesling, Merlot, Sémillon, and Sauvignon Blanc. In addition to Pinot Noir, Anderson Valley produces some of California's best sparkling wines... Scharffenberger Cellars, Handley Cellars, Navarro Vineyards, and Roederer Estate, to name but a few.



BY BOB LIPINSKI

Recently tasted Pinot Noirs are...

2019 Domaine Anderson "Pinot Noir" Anderson Valley, California. (Made with organic grapes) Bouquet of dried herbs, black cherry, plum, and mulberry with flavors of mushrooms, bittersweet chocolate, and hints of smoke, and pomegranate. The aftertaste begs for another glass.

2021 Crosby Roamann Pinot Noir "Fiadh Vineyard" Anderson Valley, California. (Fiadh is an Irish girl's name meaning "wild" and "untamed" like this small vineyard site.) Aged 18 months in new oak barrels. Ruby color with an earthy bouquet of mushrooms, black olives, leather, and tobacco. Subtle flavors of cola, cinnamon, vanilla, and dark berries with some tannin.

2021 Crosby Roamann Pinot Noir "Annie's Old Vines" Sonoma Coast, California. (Aged 18 months in used oak barrels) Light cherry colored with a bouquet bursting with red fruit: cherries, cranberries, and strawberries. Flavors of jam, black pepper, black plums, cocoa, and mint with notes of roses and sandalwood. Very smooth finish and long aftertaste.

2019 Handley Cellars "Pinot Noir," Anderson Valley, California. Aromas of boysenberry, cherries, and dried fruit with a hint of bay and eucalyptus. Medium-bodied with plums, oak, jam, and some tannin to lose. Vibrant aftertaste with notes of clove and cardamom.

Bob Lipinski is the author of 10 books, including "101: Everything You Need To Know About Whiskey" and "Italian Wine & Cheese Made Simple" (available on Amazon.com). He consults and conducts training seminars on Wine, Spirits, and Food and is available for speaking engagements. He can be reached at www.boblipinski.com OR bkjm@hotmail.com.

Winner of Scavenger Hunt announced

We have a winner! Michele Giunta of Selden was the first reader to find the flower bouquet hiding on page B21 in last week's Arts & Lifestyles and wins a six month subscription to the paper of her choice. Congratulations!



Honoring Our Beloved Pets: Memorial Tribute Page

Celebrate the memories of your furry, finned, feathered and scaly companions who have crossed the Rainbow Bridge.

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Ways to make Mother's Day extra special

BY HEIDI SUTTON

Don't let Mother's Day pass by as just another day on the calendar. Make this year's celebration a true ode to the moms in your life with some extra special touches.

LET'S EAT Give her flowers

Flowers are a timeless Mother's Day gift for a reason. They provide pops of color on dining room tables, kitchen counters, end tables or even nightstands. Consider mom's favorite spot in the house and place them within eyeshot for a frequent reminder of how much she's appreciated.

Create a personalized card

Add a special final touch to an already memorable morning with a thoughtful card and handwritten message. Get the kids involved and create a card from scratch with construction paper, colored pencils, markers and more for a homemade gift she'll cherish. If you didn't fall from the artistic tree, don't fret — a store bought card means all the same when paired with a heartfelt message that conveys your love.

Give her the day off

Whether she's the culinary expert of the home or cooking is usually a team effort, make sure her morning is one of rest and relaxation while you handle kitchen duties from prep to cleanup. There may be no better way to start Mother's Day than serving Mom some breakfast in bed. A homemade meal before Mom even gets out of bed can set the right tone for a day that celebrates all mothers have done and continue to do for their children.

If Mom loves a traditional hearty morning meal, this recipe for "Mixed Berry French Toast" courtesy of Taste of Home is sure to please.

Mixed Berry French Toast

YIELD: Makes 8 servings

INGREDIENTS:

- 6 large eggs
- 1 3/4 cups fat-free milk
- 1 teaspoon sugar
- 1 teaspoon ground cinnamon
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/4 teaspoon salt
- 1 loaf (1 pound) French bread, cubed
- 1 package (12 ounces) frozen unsweetened mixed berries
- 2 tablespoons cold butter
- 1/3 cup packed brown sugar
- Confectioners' sugar and maple syrup (optional)

DIRECTIONS:

Whisk together the first 6 ingredients. Place bread cubes in a 13 x 9-inch or 3-quart baking dish coated with cooking spray. Pour egg mixture over top. Refrigerate, covered, 8 hours or overnight.

Preheat oven to 350 F. Remove berries from freezer and French toast from refrigerator and let stand while oven heats. Bake French toast, covered, 30 minutes.

In a small bowl, cut butter into brown sugar until crumbly. Top French toast with berries; sprinkle with brown sugar mixture. Bake, uncovered, until a knife inserted in the center comes out clean, 15 to 20 minutes. If desired, dust with confectioners' sugar and serve with syrup.



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Ongoing

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Dreamland Amusements brings the Bald Hill Fair to the Catholic Health Amphitheater, 1 Ski Run Lane, Farmingville from May 9 to 19 with whimsical kiddie rides, state-of-the-art thrill rides, entertaining midway games, and carnival eats. Hours are Mondays to Thursdays from 5 to 10 p.m., Fridays from 5 to 11 p.m., Saturdays from noon to 11 p.m. and Sundays from noon to 10 p.m. For tickets in advance, visit www.baldhillfair.com.

Thursday 9

Health & Wellness Fair

The Town of Brookhaven will host a Health and Wellness Fair at the Rose Caracappa Senior Center, 739 Route 25A, Mt. Sinai from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. with free balance screenings, blood pressure screenings, food and nutrition education, cholesterol and glucose screenings and more with St. Charles Hospital. Free. For more information, call 631-451-5312.

Lunch & Learn

Huntington Historical Society continues its Lunch & Learn series with a special screening and discussion of *I Now Take Up My Pen* at the Conklin Barn, 2 High St., Huntington from noon to 2 p.m. Presented by the Port Jefferson Historical Society and the Huntington Historical Society, the film tells the heart wrenching tale of two brothers from Huntington William and Jesse Platt, who served in different NYS Regiments from Long Island. Admission is \$45 per person, \$35 members and includes a wrap, salad, chips, dessert, and a beverage. To register, visit www.huntingtonhistoricalsociety.org.

Mother's Day lecture

Join the Whaling Museum of Cold Spring Harbor for an online lecture titled *Oh Baby! Motherhood at Sea* at 7 p.m. Get ready for Mother's Day with this "What to Expect When you're Expecting" — maritime edition! Explore the untold yet remarkable experiences of pregnancies, childbirth, and the early years of raising a child for the brave 19th century whaling wives who went to sea. Adults only. Free, suggested donation of \$10. To register, visit www.cshwhalingmuseum.org.



BIRDS-EYE VIEW

The Bald Hill Fair in Farmingville (May 9 to 19) will feature 'The Wheel,' the largest Ferris wheel on Long Island at a towering 110 feet tall. Photo courtesy of Dreamland Amusements

Friday 10

Garden Club Plant Sale

The Centerport Garden Club will hold a plant sale in front of Harborfields Public Library, 31 Broadway, Greenlawn from 9 to 11 a.m. Shop for well-tended plants donated by members from their own gardens. Rita Rover from the Long Island Chrysanthemum Society will be answering questions regarding exhibition mum growing and Anthony Marinello from Dropseed Native Plants will also be offering plants for sale.

A Taste of the Neighborhood

The Setauket Neighborhood House, 95 Main St., Setauket hosts its annual A Taste of the Neighborhood fundraiser from 7 to 10 p.m.

Enjoy scrumptious food, beer and wine, music, raffle baskets and prizes. Tickets are \$50 per person in advance, \$60 at the door. Proceeds will be used for maintenance and beautification of the historic building. For further information, call 631-751-6208 or visit www.setauketneighborhoodhouse.com.

Game Night in St. James

Join Celebrate St. James for Game Night at the St. James Community Cultural Center, 176 Second St., St. James from 7 to 10 p.m. Enjoy board games, card games and pizza. \$10 donation. To register, visit www.celebratestjames.org.

Grounds and Sounds Concert

Unitarian Universalist Fellowship, 380 Nicolls Road, E. Setauket hosts a Grounds

and Sounds concert featuring Cole Fortier with doors opening at 7:30 p.m., open mic at 8 p.m. followed by featured artist. Tickets are \$15 at www.groundsandsounds.org or at the door. 631-751-0297.

Northport Chorale Concert

Middleville Middle School, Middleville Road, Northport will present a concert by the Northport Chorale, "Spring of Dream," featuring the Northport Community Jazz Orchestra at 8 p.m. Ticket are \$15 and can be purchased at the door. 631-261-1950.

Friday Night Face Off

Long Island's longest running improv comedy show is coming to the Smithtown Performing Arts Center, 2 Main St., Smithtown tonight, May 17 and May 24 at 8 p.m. Join them for a "Who's Line Is It Anyway?" style improv competition between the performers. Tickets are \$26. To order, visit www.smithtownpac.org.

Saturday 11

Spring Mother's Day Market

St Thomas of Canterbury Episcopal Church, 29 Brookside Drive, Smithtown invites the community to a Spring Mother's Day Market from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring 70 local artisan vendors, food trucks, live music, face painting, a visit from Sweetbriar Nature Center, and an animal rescue adoption event. For more information, call 631-265-4520.

CSHL Walking Tour

Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, 1 Bungtown Road, Cold Spring Harbor will host a guided walking tour of the campus from 10 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. Learn about the historic and modern architecture, the Nobel legacy, and the advanced cancer, neuroscience, and plant research taking place at the lab. Fee is \$7.18 per person. To register, visit www.cshl.edu. 516-367-8844.

Northport Art and Craft Fair

Northport High School, 154 Laurel Hill Road, Northport presents its annual outdoor Spring Art and Craft Fair from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Featuring over 125 vendors to find that perfect gift for Mother's Day. Free admission. Event will be moved indoors in the case of rain. 631-846-1459

Spring Wildflower Walk

Join the staff at Caleb Smith State Park Preserve, 581 W. Jericho Turnpike, Smithtown for a Spring Wildflower Walk from 10:30 a.m. to noon. See if you can identify these growing spring treasures with the help of a field guide. Adults only. \$4 per person. To register, visit www.eventbrite.com. 631-265-1054

All Souls Poetry Reading

All Souls Church in Stony Brook will host a poetry reading via zoom from 11 a.m. to noon. The featured poet will be Nina Yavel.

An open-reading will follow poet; all are welcome to read one of their own poems. For more information, please call 631-655-7798. Participants can access the program through the All Souls website <https://www.allsouls-stonybrook.org/>

An evening of comedy

The Comedy Club returns to Theatre Three, 412 Main St., Port Jefferson at 8 p.m. Treat mom to a night of laughs and non-stop fun with comedians Dan Barry, Rich Walker, Rob Falcone and a surprise guest. Tickets are \$40. To order, call 631-928-9100 or visit www.theatrethree.com.

Sunday 12

Mother's Day at the LIM

In honor of Mother's Day, the Long Island Museum, 1200 Route 25A, Stony Brook will offer free admission to mothers and grandmothers from noon to 5 p.m. Explore the different art exhibits and the state of the art carriage museum. 631-751-0066

Benner's Farm Concert

Good Earth Soundstage at Benner's Farm, 56 Gnarled Hollow Road, East Setauket welcomes Bob Westcott and Gerry McKeveny in concert from 3 to 5 p.m. \$15 donation at the door. Bring seating. Proceeds will benefit the artists and Homestead Arts for this year's Fiddle & Folk Festival. 631-689-8172

Monday 13

Sound Beach Civic Meeting

Sound Beach Fire Department, 152 Sound Beach Blvd., Sound Beach hosts a meeting by the Sound Beach Civic Association at 7:30 p.m. All are welcome. For more information call 631-744-6952.

Tuesday 14

No events listed for this day.

Wednesday 15

Cruise Night Car Show

The Shoppes at East Wind, 5720 Route 25A, Wading River hosts a Cruise Night Car Show every Wednesday through October from 5 to 9 p.m. Visit the Shoppes, enjoy a bite to eat and then check out the fine array of classic cars in the parking lot. 631-929-3500

Hard Luck Cafe Concert

Rod Abernethy and Abigail Dowd, both North Carolina-based singer-songwriters, share the bill during the monthly Hard Luck Café concert series co-presented by the Folk Music Society of Huntington and the Cinema Arts Centre, 423 Park Ave., Huntington in the Cinema's Sky Room from 7 to 10 p.m. An open mic precedes the concert. Tickets are \$20 at www.cinemaartscentre.org or at the door.

Thursday 16

Museum Day at the MCPL

Middle Country Public Library, 101 Eastwood Blv., Centereach hosts its annual Museum Day from 4 to 7 p.m. *See more page B23.*

Film

'We Are the Warriors'

Port Jefferson Documentary Series Spring line-up continues with a screening of *We Are the Warriors* at John F. Kennedy Middle School, 200 Jayne Blvd., Port Jefferson Station on May 13 at 7 p.m. For nearly 70 years, students and alumni of Wells High School in Maine have called themselves the "Warriors." The school's mascot, variations of a stoic Native American head in profile with braids and feathered headband, has drawn both support and criticism in the past. However, during the 2017 fall athletic season, an incident shocks the town and reignites the debate. Followed by a Q&A with guest speakers Helen Sells and Robert Thompson, President and VP of the Setalcott Nation. Tickets are \$10 in advance at www.portjeffdocumentaryseries.com or at the door (cash only).

'Monty Python and the Holy Grail'

Cinema Arts Centre, 423 Park Ave., presents a screening of *Monty Python and the Holy Grail* on May 15 at 7 p.m. A hysterical, historical tour-de-force from Terry Gilliam and Terry Jones, this cult classic comedy from the Monty Python team loosely follows the legend of King Arthur, along with his squire and his Knights of the Round Table as they embark on a fearless quest in search of the elusive Holy Grail. Introduction by Film Historian Glenn Andreiev. Tickets are \$16, \$10 members. www.cinemaartscentre.org

Theater

'Antigone'

Suffolk County Vanderbilt Museum, 180 Little Neck Road, Centerport kicks off the 35th annual Shakespeare in the Courtyard Festival with *Antigone* by Sophocles from May 3 to 26. One of the finest examples of Greek Tragedy, *Antigone* follows the events of the Oedipus legend, wherein the title character displays great strength as she disobeys King Creon in an attempt to bury her brother in consecrated ground. Presented by the Carriage House Players, the show will take place in the mansion's Spanish Revival Courtyard on Wednesdays and Fridays at 8 p.m. and Sundays at 7 p.m. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 seniors and children. To order, visit www.vanderbiltmuseum.org.

'Jersey Boys'

Extended! John W. Engeman Theater, 250 Main St. Northport presents *Jersey Boys*, the

story of Franki Valli & The Four Seasons, from March 14 to June 16. They were just 4 guys from Jersey until they sang their very first note—a sound the radio just couldn't get enough of. But while their harmonies were perfect on stage, off stage was a different story—a story that has made them a sensation all over again. Winner of the 2006 Tony® Award for "Best Musical," *Jersey Boys* features the top ten hits "Sherry," "Big Girls Don't Cry," "Walk Like A Man," "Can't Take My Eyes Off You," and "December, 1963 (Oh What A Night)." To order tickets, call 631-261-2900 or visit www.engemantheater.com.

'The Producers'

Theatre Three, 412 Main St., Port Jefferson presents Mel Brooks' *The Producers* from May 18 to June 22. With something to offend everyone, the hilarious show-biz hit follows the antics of a pair of scheming Broadway producers with a plan to put on the biggest flop of all time. Featuring "If You've Got It, Flaunt It," "That Face," "Keep It Gay," and the outrageous "Springtime for Hitler," *The Producers* is a side-splitting musical bliss. *Contains adult humor and situations.* Tickets are \$40 adults, \$32 seniors and students, \$25 children ages 5 to 12. To order, call 631-928-9100 or visit www.theatrethree.com.

Vendors Wanted

♦ **Three Village Historical Society**, 93 North Country Road Setauket is now accepting vendors for the 10th annual Three Village Farmers & Artisans Market which will be held from May 3 to Oct. 25 (May to August from 3 to 7 p.m., September to October from 3 to 6 p.m. Fee is \$650 for full season (25 weeks), \$450 half season (12 weeks), \$50 pop up per week, food trucks \$50 per week. For an application, visit www.tvhs.org

♦ **Three Village Historical Society**, 93 North Country Road, Setauket seeks vendors for its annual Community Wide Yard Sale on May 18 from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m. Each 10 x 10 space is up for grabs at \$50, \$35 members. Reserve your spot now at www.tvhs.org/yardsale. 631-751-3730

♦ **Long Island Game Farm**, 489 Chapman Blvd., Manorville seeks food and flea market vendors for its Wild Treasures Market on June 9, July 14, Aug. 11, Sept. 8 and Oct. 13 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Visit www.wildlifesustainability.org/market for more information.

CALENDAR DEADLINE is Wednesday at noon, one week before publication. Items may be mailed to: Times Beacon Record News Media, P.O. Box 707, Setauket, NY 11733. Email your information about community events to leisure@tbrnewspapers.com. Calendar listings are for not-for-profit organizations (nonsectarian, nonpartisan events) only, on a space-available basis. Please include a phone number that can be printed.



Image courtesy of Gallery North

Winners Circle exhibit opens at Gallery North

Gallery North, 90 North Country Road, Setauket presents its annual Winner's Circle exhibition celebrating the award-winning artists of the 2023 Outdoor Art Show and Music Festival from May 16 to June 23. An opening reception will be held Thursday, May 16 from 6 to 8 p.m.

The exhibition features recipients of the Best in Show award and best in categories including mixed media, fiber art, glass art, jewelry, painting, photography, and pottery at the 2023 Outdoor Art Show and Music Festival hosted by Gallery North.

The 2023 festival judges, Tasha Boehm, Director of the Reboli Center for Art and History in Stony Brook, Julianna Kirk, a Long Island jeweler, multimedia artist, and educator, and contemporary artist Loretta Oberheim evaluated over 50 exhibitors to present the 13 available awards.

The Winner's Circle exhibition includes artists Melanie Wulforst, Denise Aneke, Renee Brown, Jane Irvine, Flo Kemp, Joanne Liff, Susan Nagel, Lori Rosen, Paul Speh, Marlene Weinstein, Ally Liff, Dan McCarthy, and artists of the Brick Studio. These artists are all exceptional representatives of Long Island's creative community and are an essential part of the Outdoor Art Show and Music Festival's importance to the cultural offerings of the region.

"Gallery North is proud to celebrate their significant achievements within their respective mediums," read the press release.

This exhibition is generously sponsored by Jefferson's Ferry and Suffolk County's Department of Economic Development and Planning. The exhibition and reception will be free and open to the public. For more information, call 631-751-2676 or visit www.gallerynorth.org.

Religious Directory



Catholic

INFANT JESUS ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

110 Myrtle Ave., Port Jefferson 631-473-0165
Fax 631-331-8094

email-rectory@infantjesus.org
www.infantjesus.org

REV. GREGORY RANNAZZISI,
PASTOR, ASSOCIATES:

REV. FRANCIS LASRADO &
REV. ROLANDO TICLLASUCA

Parish Outreach: 631-473-0165

Weekday Masses: 7:30am in the church and
12pm in the Chapel (Mon-Fri)

9am Mass in the Church on Saturdays

Weekend Masses: Saturday at 4:30pm, Sunday
9:00am and 12:00pm in the Chapel.

7:30 am, 8:45am (Spanish), 10:30am,
and 5pm in the Church

Spanish Masses: Wednesdays 6:00pm
Sundays 8:45am in the church

The Sacrament of Reconciliation remains
scheduled on Saturdays 12:30-1:15pm
in the lower church.

ST. GERARD MAJELLA ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

300 Terryville Road, Port Jefferson Station
631-473-2900

email-office@stgmajella.org
www.stgmajella.org

REV. GREGORY RANNAZZISI, PASTOR
Mass: Saturday 5pm

Sunday 8am, 10am & 12pm

Weekday Mass: 9am

Confessions: Saturday 3:45pm-4:45pm

Office Hours: Monday-Thursday 9am-4:30pm

Thrift Shop: Monday-Thursday 10am - 4pm
and Friday 10am-2pm.

Parish Outreach: Please call Office
for information

Baptism and Wedding arrangements can be
made by calling the Parish Office.

ST. JAMES ROMAN CATHOLIC CHURCH

429 Rt. 25A, Setauket

Phone: 631-941-4141 Fax: 631-751-6607

Parish Office email:

parish@stjamessetauket.org
www.stjamessetauket.org

REV. ROBERT KUZNIK, PASTOR

REV. ROBERT SCHECKENBACK,
ASSOCIATE PASTOR

REV. MIKE S. EZEATU,

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Our Daily Bread Sunday Soup Kitchen
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Food Pantry Open Open Every Wednesday

from 12 Noon to 2pm
Open Every Sunday from 2-3pm,
Mission Statement: We, the Catholic commu-
nity of the Three Village area, formed as the
Body of Christ through the waters of Baptism,
are a pilgrim community journeying toward the
fullness of the Kingdom of God, guided by the
Holy Spirit, nourished by the Eucharist and
formed by the Gospel. We strive to respond to
Jesus invitation: to be faithful and fruitful disci-
ples; to be a Good Samaritan to our neighbor and
enemy; to be stewards of and for God's creation
and to be living witness of Faith, Hope and
Charity...so that in Jesus name, we may be a
welcoming community, respectful of life in all
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Sunday Masses at 7am and 9am

Please consult sspxlongisland.com for updates
and current mass times.

Christian

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631-473-1582

www.msucc.org

We are a congregation committed to justice. **All
are welcome** into our full life and ministry
regardless of age, race, abilities, economic or
marital status, gender, sexual orientation, or
gender identification. We are a church that is
open and affirming of all people, as we are each
made in the image of God

Sunday Worship at 10am

Livestreaming on YouTube:

@MtSinaiCongregationalChurchUCC

Sunday School at 10am

"No matter who you are or where you are
on life's journey, you are welcome here."

Through our worship and by our actions
we strive to live out Christ's message
to love one another

The Island Heart Food Pantry

643 Middle Country Road, Middle Island NY
Wednesdays and Thursdays 2:15PM-4:15PM

MSCC Food Cupboard

233 N. Country Rd, Mt Sinai

Every other Tuesday 9:15-11:45

Episcopal

ALL SOULS EPISCOPAL CHURCH

On the hill across from
the Stony Brook Duck Pond

61 Main Street, Stony Brook

FATHER TOM REESE VICAR

www.allsoulsstonybrook.org or call
631-655-7798

Sunday: 8:00am Virtual Morning Prayer
9:30am Holy Eucharist with Organ music

Tuesday: 8:00am

Interdenominational Morning Prayer

Wednesday: 12 noon

Interdenominational Rosary

We are a friendly welcoming community
for all people.

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1 Dyke Road on the Village Green, Setauket
Web site: www.carolinechurch.net

email: office@carolinechurch.net
631-941-4245

REV NICKOLAS C. GRIFFITH-RECTOR

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300 years of community, fellowship & ministry!

Services:

5:00pm Saturdays - Holy Eucharist

8:00am Sundays - Holy Eucharist

9:30am Sundays - Holy Eucharist

w/ choir & Children's Chapel

12:30pm Weds. - Noonday Prayer

10:00am Thurs. - Healing Service

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Food Pantry

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Entrance is located at the back of the

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All are welcome!

CHRIST EPISCOPAL CHURCH

127 Barnum Ave., Port Jefferson
631-473-0273

email: ccoffice@christchurchportjeff.org

www.christchurchportjeff.org

Church office hours: Tues. - Fri. 9am - 12pm
Please join us for our 8:00 and 10:00 Sunday

Eucharists and our 10:00 Wednesday Eucharists
in our Chapel. **GOD BLESS YOU**

Father Anthony DiLorenzo

Priest in Charge

It is the mission the people of Christ Church to
grow in our relationship with Jesus Christ and to
make his love known to all through our lives and
ministry. We at Christ church are a joyful,
welcoming community. Wherever you are in
your journey of life we want to be part of it.

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getting to know the God who already loves you.

THE REV. JENN PILAT, RECTOR

email: revjenn@stanselmofshoreham.org

Office phone: 631.744.7730

**Office hours: Mon - Fri 9 am to Noon and by
appointment** www.stanselmofshoreham.org

[https://www.facebook.com/
saintanselmsepiscopal/](https://www.facebook.com/saintanselmsepiscopal/)

Services

Saturday-5pm Eucharist

Sunday-8am and 10am

Monday-9:30 am Morning Prayer

Tuesday-8 pm Compline on Facebook Live

Thursday-9:30 am Morning Prayer

Friday-8 pm Compline on Facebook Live

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REV. CLAIRE D. MIS, DEACON

Alex Pryrodny, Music Director

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8am Rite I Holy Eucharist

10am Rite II Holy Choral Eucharist

9:40am Sunday School

Noonday Prayer

12 noon - Wednesdays

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[Facebook.com/stjohns1745](https://www.facebook.com/stjohns1745)

Religious Directory



Jewish

NORTH SHORE JEWISH CENTER
385 Old Town Rd.,
Port Jefferson Station
631-928-3737
www.northshorejewishcenter.org
 RABBI AARON BENSON
 CANTOR DANIEL KRAMER
 EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
 MARCIE PLATKIN
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 YOUTH DIRECTOR JEN SCHWARTZ
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 Call For Times. Tot Shabbat Family Services
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 Club Seniors' Club Youth Group Continuing Ed
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 Other Fridays 7:30pm
 Saturday B'nai Mitzvah services 10am
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 Bar and Bat Mitzvah-
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Email: office@hopelutheran.com
Website: www.hopeluth.com
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Kids' Club (ages 3-11)
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Teen Ministry (ages 11-15)
 Saturdays 6:00-7:30 p.m.
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Our Food Pantry is open to everyone on
 Thursdays from 12:30-2:30 p.m. for picking up
 food. Also, donations can be made from 11
 a.m.-noon or by making arrangements by leaving
 a message on the church answering service.
 Offerings to support our ministry can be made at
 church services and through our website's
 "Share God's Mission" page.
 In any emergency, call the pastor at
 516-848-5386

ST. PAUL'S EVANGELICAL LUTHERAN CHURCH

309 Patchogue Road
Port Jefferson Station
631-473-2236
e-mail PastorPaulDowning@yahoo.com
pastor's cell phone voice or text 347-423-3623
www.StPaulsLCPJS.org
facebook.com/stpaulselca
Services
 Sundays 8:30am and 10:30am
Wednesday Bible Study
 over Zoom at 9:30
 Friday Prayer Group at 10:30am
 in church or zoom
WELCOME FRIENDS
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Methodist

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631-751-4140
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Sunday Worship: 10:30 Am
 Adult Sunday School 9:30 Am
Lectionary Reading And Prayer:
 Wed. 12 Noon
Gospel Choir: Tues. 8 Pm
 Praise Choir And Youth Choir 3rd And 4th Fri.
 6:30 PM.

SETAUKET UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

160 Main Street, Corner of 25A
and Main Street
East Setauket 631-941-4167, or
email us at sumcny@aol.com
 Rev. Steven Kim, PASTOR
Sunday Worship Service and
Sunday School at 10am
Services are streamed online
@ www.setauketumc.org
and livestreamed on Facebook
 Holy Communion 1st Sunday of Month
 Mary Martha Circle (Women's Ministry)
 meets every 2nd Tuesday each month at 1pm
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journey, you're welcome here!

Presbyterian

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Website: www.pjpres.org
 REV. EMILY FOWLER, PASTOR
 The First Presbyterian Church of Port Jefferson
 is delighted to welcome their new pastor, Rev
 Emily Fowler. Emily, a native Texan, received
 her Master's of Divinity at Memphis Theological
 Seminary and then received 9 units of Clinical
 Pastoral Education at Parkland Health and Hospi-
 tal System in Dallas, TX. Emily has ministry
 experience as a palliative care and picu pediatric
 chaplain, and was faithful in her volunteer work,
 caring for those with Room in the Inn Ministries,
 Manna House Ministries, and Soles4Souls. All
 are welcome to come to First Pres to meet our
 new pastor, her husband, and their 4-year-old
 son. **Worship is every Sunday at 10am.**
 Live streaming available on Facebook page
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 and Fridays 3:30-5:00 pm
 Call the church office or visit our website for
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NYS Certified Non Denominational Preschool

and Daycare

The purpose of First Presbyterian Church of Port
 Jefferson is, with God's help, to share the joy &
 good news of Jesus Christ with the congregation,
 visitors and the community at large; to provide
 comfort to those in need and hope to those in
 despair; and to seek justice for all God's people.

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SBU SPORTSWEEK



MAY 9 TO MAY 16, 2024

TOMORROW IS FRIDAY – WEAR RED ON CAMPUS!

STONY BROOK UNIVERSITY



Photo courtesy of Stony Brook Athletics

Women's lacrosse wins second consecutive CAA championship

For the second year in a row, the No. 14 Stony Brook women's lacrosse team has won the CAA Championship after defeating the No. 2 seed Drexel, 9-6 on May 4. With the win, the Seawolves earn their 11th straight appearance in the NCAA Tournament, a streak that dates back to the 2013 season and they extended their season-long winning streak to 12 games in a row.

Stony Brook captured its 10th conference championship title in program history (two CAA, eight America East) and won its ninth at home inside Kenneth P. LaValle Stadium.

The Seawolves were fueled by a standout defensive effort en route to victory as they limited the Dragons to just six goals, 15 shots, and eight shots on goal. In addition, the Stony Brook defense forced 18 turnovers and held Drexel's top scorer Corinne Bednarik to just one goal and a season-high seven turnovers.

After trailing 2-0 midway through the second quarter, Stony Brook senior defender Clare Levy charged towards goal with a full head of steam and found the

back of the net for the Seawolves' first goal of the game. The Stony Brook crowd erupted when Levy scored, and it gave the Seawolves the momentum that it needed to close out the first half.

Drexel took a narrow 3-2 lead into the halftime break after the teams traded goals to close out the second quarter. Stony Brook took control of the game in the second half and used a 6-0 run to take the lead and never looked back.

The run was fueled by five different goal scorers as Ellie Masera (scored twice), graduate attack Kailyn Hart, graduate midfielder Charlotte Verhulst, graduate midfielder Erin MacQuarrie, and graduate attack Morgan Mitchell all tallied goals over the run.

Masera led all players with a game-high three goals to pace the scoring for the Seawolves. Hart registered a pair of goals for her 15th multi-goal performance of the season and 11th in a row. The aforementioned Levy, Verhulst, Mitchell and MacQuarrie all tallied one goal apiece.

Verhulst helped the Seawolves win the battle for the draws as she recorded a

season-high seven draw controls, which allowed Stony Brook to out-draw Drexel, 12-5. Masera added a pair of draw controls and set the Seawolves' single-season record for most draw controls with 136. The senior moved past Kerri McCarthy, who previously held the record with 135 draw controls in 2018.

Defensively, Hines continued her dominance as she caused five more turnovers and she too set a Stony Brook single-season record. With her 60 caused turnovers, Hines moves past Brook Gubitosi (55 in 2017) for the most caused turnovers in a single season in program history.

Four Seawolves earned All-Championship Team honors for their standout play in the tournament. Masera, Verhulst, Hart, and Levy were named members of the All-Championship Team, with Masera taking home the Most Outstanding Performer honor.

Head coach Joe Spallina is now 21-1 in conference tournament games as Stony Brook head coach and the Seawolves have won 20 consecutive conference tournament games under him.

"What a crazy game, right? I'm really happy for our players," said Coach Spallina postgame. "Drexel came in and played a hard game. ... I'm proud of how our players responded. Defensively I thought we were phenomenal the entire game, and I thought we played really good offense. For the seniors to go out with a win at LaValle Stadium, that's apropos," he said.

Up next, the team is set to take on MAAC Champion Niagara in the first round of the 2024 NCAA Tournament in Syracuse on May 10, at 2 p.m., as announced during the Selection Show on May 5. The winner of the first round matchup will face No. 3 seeded Syracuse on May 12.

Seawolves Home Games

BASEBALL

May 10 vs. Delaware2 p.m.

May 11 vs. Delaware1 p.m.

May 12 vs. Delaware12 p.m.

Visit www.stonybrookathletics.com for tickets and any last minute cancellations.

KIDZ KORNER

PROGRAMS

Books in the Barn

In partnership with the Smithtown Library, the Smithtown Historical Society will hold a special Storytime event for children ages 3 to 5 years old with a parent/caregiver at the Franklin Arthur Barn, 245 E. Main St., Smithtown on May 10 and May 24 from 10 to 10:45 a.m. Come listen to stories about farms animals and then visit the chickens, bunnies, sheep, ponies, and barn cats. Free. Registration required by calling 631-360-2480, ext. 196.

Bicycle Rodeo

On May 11 the Brookhaven Highway Department will host a Bicycle Rodeo at Safety Town, 249 Buckley Road, Holtsville from 8 a.m. to noon. Children will learn how to safely ride their bikes in a mock-roadway, kid-sized setting. Participants are required to bring their own helmets and bicycles; both will be inspected for safety. Free but by appointment only; call 631-451-5335 to reserve your spot.



LIFE LESSONS
Town of Brookhaven
hosts a Teen Driver Safety
Program on May 16.

Photo from TOB

Mother's Day Craft

Pizza and crafting — the perfect combo to celebrate Mom! Join Celebrate St. James Kids Community at the St. James Community Cultural Arts Center, 176 Second St., St. James on May 11 from 11:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. to indulge in tasty pizza and get crafty with special Mother's Day craft to take home. \$15 per person, \$10 each additional child. Register at www.celebratestjames.org.

Crafternoon at the Library

Join Emma Clark Library, 120 Main St.,

Setauket for a Crafternoon on May 11 from 2 to 4 p.m. Create a work of art out of recycled materials. For families with children ages 3 to 12 years old. Supervision may be needed for younger children. Open to all. Questions? Call 631-941-4080 or email kids@emmaclark.org

Baby Animal Day

Join the Suffolk County Farm, 350 Yaphank Ave., Yaphank for Baby Animal Day on May 11 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Bring your family and friends to enjoy a day on the farm with

baby animals, wagon rides, food trucks, games, touch-a-truck, and more! \$15 per person ages 3 and up in advance, \$20 per person at the gate. Held rain or shine. For tickets, visit www.eventcreate.com/e/bad24. For more information, call 631-852-4600 or visit www.ccesuffolk.org

Grow and Taste Garden

Benner's Farm, 56 Gnarled Hollow Road, E. Setauket hosts a children's workshop for ages 3 to 9, Grow and Taste Garden, on May 11 from 10 a.m. to noon. It's spring! Time to get your hands dirty and plant some seeds. Children will plant an edible vegetable and flower garden to take home. Pick from the farm's spring garden and taste what your seeds will grow to be. Followed by a craft and tour of the farm. \$40 per child. To register, call 631-689-8172 or visit www.bennersfarm.com.

Touch-a-Truck

Middle Country Public Library, 101 Eastwood Blvd., Centereach hosts a Touch-A-Truck event for families on May 11 from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Children can explore various vehicles, sit in the driver's seat and discover the world of trucks. This unique event will feature large trucks and heavy equipment from law enforcement, fire department, commercial companies, industrial companies and more. Open to all. 631-585-9393

KIDZ KORNER continued on page B22



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KIDZ KORNER

Continued from page B21

Welcome Back Osprey

Sunken Meadow State Park (Lot 3), Sunken Meadow Parkway, Kings Park presents a family program, Welcome Back Osprey, on May 12 from 1:30 to 3 p.m. The Ospreys are back at the park! Go out and find these — and other amazing birds of prey — as they return for the warm summer months. \$4 per person. To register, visit www.eventbrite.com.

Story & Craft with Nana Carol

The Next Chapter bookstore, 204 New York Ave., Huntington hosts a Story and Craft event with Nana Carol on May 13 at 10:30 a.m. No registration required. Appropriate for ages 0-4. 631-482-5008

Teen Driver Safety Program

The Brookhaven Highway Department will offer a Teen Driver Safety Program at Safety Town, 249 Buckley Road, Holtsville on May 16 from 6 p.m. to 8:30 p.m. Teenagers 15 and older and their parents are invited to participate in an interactive experience exhibiting the dangers of texting or drinking and driving. Certified instructors with many years of defensive driving and accident investigation experience will talk with participants about the importance of developing safe habits when traveling the roadways. Teens will then use electric cars to complete obstacle courses designed to simulate driving while texting and impaired. Free but by appointment only; call 631-451-5335 to reserve your spot.

Art in the Barn

Walt Whitman Birthplace Association, 246 Old Walt Whitman Road, Huntington Station presents Art in the Barn, storytime and hands-on art projects for pre-schoolers on May 18, 25 and June 1 at 11 a.m. \$15 per child, \$13 members. To register, visit waltwhitman.org/events.

THEATER

'Alice in Wonderland'

John W. Engeman Theater, 250 Main St., Northport present's Lewis Carroll's *Alice in Wonderland* from March 23 to May 12. Alice takes a tumble down an enchanted rabbit hole to an off-kilter world of mock turtles, dancing flora, punctual rabbits, and mad tea parties. Will Alice be able to find her footing in this bizarre place? More importantly, will she ever figure out how to get home? All seats are \$20. To order, call 631-261-2900 or visit www.engemantheater.com.

'Willy Wonka'

Community Playhouse of Northport presents Roald Dahl's *Willy Wonka* at The Brosnan Theater, 158 Laurel Ave., Northport on May 10 at 7:30 p.m. and May 12 at 3 p.m. Character



TALE AS OLD AS TIME

Catch a screening of 'Beauty and the Beast' at the Cinema Arts Centre on May 12.

meet and greets will be from 2:15 to 2:45 p.m. at Sunday performance. Tickets are \$20 adults, \$15 students and seniors. To order, visit www.communityplayhousenorthport.org. 631-683-8444

'Seussical the Musical'

The John W. Engeman Theater, 250 Main St., Northport continues its children's theater with *Seussical the Musical* from May 18 to June 30. "Oh the Thinks You Can Think!" Dive into the colorful world of Dr. Seuss as The Cat in the Hat tells the story of Horton, an elephant who sets off to save a speck of dust containing The Whos from destruction. Horton must protect the Whos from a world of doubters while guarding an abandoned egg, left to his care. Ultimately, the powers of friendship, imagination, loyalty, and community are challenged and emerge victorious. Tickets are \$20. To order, call 631-261-2900 or visit www.engemantheater.com.

'The Mystery of the Missing Ever After'

"Where in the world is our happy ending?" Stories collide and mysteries abound as three great princesses come together to solve *The Mystery of the Missing Ever After* at Theatre Three, 412 Main St., Port Jefferson from May 25 to June 15. A slipper, a spinning wheel, and a red, red rose are all clues in this hilarious new musical! All seats are \$12. To order, call 631-928-9100 or visit www.theatretreethree.com.

FILM

'Beauty and the Beast'

Cinema Arts Centre, 423 Park Ave., Huntington continues its Cinema for Kids! series with a screening of *Beauty and the Beast* on May 12 at noon. Disney's beloved modern classic follows spirited, headstrong village girl Belle, who enters the castle of a prince who has fallen under the spell of a wicked enchantress — who has turned him into the hideous Beast until he learns to love and be loved in return. With the help of his enchanted servants, including the matronly Mrs. Potts, Belle begins to draw the cold-hearted Beast out of his isolation. Tickets are \$13 adults, \$5 children 12 and under. www.cinemaartscentre.org.

Museum Day returns to Middle Country Public Library

BY TARA MAE

Like separate entries in an anthology, different community organizations offer rich options for diverse cultural endeavors that form a cohesive collection of experiences to encourage understanding and appreciation.

In this spirit, Middle Country Public Library's Centereach branch at 101 Eastwood Blvd. will host Museum Day on Thursday, May 16, from 4 to 7 p.m. The event is free and no registration is required.

COVER STORY

This year 30 local institutions are participating, including the Long Island Museum of American History, Art and Carriages (LIM) in Stony Brook, Three Village Historical Society (TVHS) in Setauket, Whaling Museum and Education Center of Cold Spring Harbor, Railroad Museum of Long Island in Riverhead, and Sweetbriar Nature Center in Smithtown.

"The purpose [of Museum Day] is to provide a forum for community members to interact with representatives from local museums, historical societies, science and nature centers that participate to share information regarding their collections, programs, and exhibits in a festival type setting," said Deborah Hempe, Middle Country Public Library's Coordinator for Outreach Services and Museum Corner.

Held at the Museum Corner section of the library, which is part of the Youth Services Department, Museum Day is geared towards children and their families. Interactive elements across multiple mediums include science experiments, arts and crafts, live animal visits, and interaction with museum displays and artifacts.

"For many children, looking and listening isn't enough to activate the desire to learn. At events like this, children are presented with opportunities to also create, explore objects for themselves, and feel a connection that is personal," said Lisa Unander, Director of Education at the Long Island Museum. "That feeling can be a catalyst to spark wonder and a lifelong love of art and history."

The LIM will have a collage project inspired by the art of Reynold Ruffins, whose work is featuring in one of its current exhibits, *Painting Partnership: Reynold and Joan Ruffins*. The activity will concentrate on how using color and geometric shapes can create art.

TVHS will set up a mini-exhibit and teach hands-on crafts, like making colonial whirligigs. Sweetbriar Nature Center will



attend with two of its ambassador animals; traditionally, a resident owl and snake come as its guests. The Railroad Museum of Long Island will set up a train display.

"I enjoy seeing the families who attend Museum Day and [engaging] with the children on hands-on learning activities we offer during the event," said Education Coordinator of TVHS Lindsey Steward-Goldberg.

These offerings are made to energize minds and excite imaginations.

"Museums can be places that introduce new ideas, unique perspectives and often challenge people's ways of looking and thinking. Giving children a chance expand their way of thinking and encouragement to be creative in unexpected ways is often a goal of museum educators," Unander said.

For 35 years, Middle Country Public Library has organized the gathering in

conjunction with International Museum Day, which falls on or around May 18. In 2023, more than 37,000 museums in about 158 countries and territories took part in the celebration.

Coordinated by the International Council of Museums, International Museum Day has a distinctive theme every year; 2024's focus is Museums for Education and Research.

Although the motif changes, primary objectives of the official occasion and the library's exhibition remain consistent: to alert people to the role museums play in the advancement of society and fortify the cooperation between neighboring operations.

"The public is able to learn about what these local organizations have to offer in a fun and interactive setting...Additionally,



Scenes from Museum Day 2023 at the Middle Country Public Library. Photos courtesy of MCPL



it provides a nice way for the organizations to do a bit of networking with each other," Hempe said.

A welcome chance to fortify interdisciplinary dynamics for the attending entities while engaging with a new audience and enchanting existing patrons, Museum Day is both a synopsis and preview of the organizations' services. Many vendors return annually to maximize and solidify their exposure.

"Each year we meet many patrons who know our museum, and also many who have not ever visited the LIM. It is a wonderful way to showcase what the LIM has to offer and to extend a personal invitation to these families to visit for the first time or to come back and see what is new since their last visit," Unander said.

Through nurturing partnerships of longevity and consistency, Museum Day invigorates lifelong interest in learning as well as sustained support for assemblages dedicated to historical preservation and intellectual enrichment.

"I look forward to further cultivating those relationships, interacting with the staff and volunteers of participating organizations, and seeing the event attendees interacting with them as well...all are welcome," Hempe said.

To learn more about Museum Day, call 631-585-9393 or visit www.mcplibrary.org.

Participating organizations:

American Airpower Museum
 Bayard Cutting Arboretum
 Bethel Hobbs Community Farm
 Cornell Cooperative Extension of Suffolk County Community Education
 Fire Island Lighthouse Preservation Society
 Fire Island National Seashore
 Greater Port Jefferson Arts Council
 Hallockville Museum Farm
 Hofstra University Museum of Art
 Long Island Explorium
 Long Island Maritime Museum
 Long Island Museum
 Long Island Telephone Museum
 LT Michael P. Murphy Navy SEAL Museum

Montauk Historical Society/Lighthouse
 NY Marine Rescue Center
 Old Westbury Gardens
 Patchogue Arts Council
 Railroad Museum of Long Island
 Sagtikos Manor
 Smithtown Historical Society
 Southampton History Museum
 South Fork Natural History Museum
 Sweetbriar Nature Center
 Three Village Historical Society
 Town of Brookhaven Historian
 Vanderbilt Museum and Planetarium
 Whaling Museum & Education Center of Cold Spring Harbor
 Water Mill Museum

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