



SUNY OLD WESTBURY

“IN THE NEWS”

NOVEMBER TO DECEMBER 2018

Prepared by
The Office of Public and Media Relations
SUNY Old Westbury



Civic Engagement



Community Action, Learning and Leadership

SUNY Old Westbury's award-winning Community Action, Learning and Leadership Program seeks to effect change both in the local community and within students themselves. This experience promotes civic engagement while building the capacity of partner organizations to meet the needs of their community constituents. Student groups are designed to be diverse in ethnicity, background, and experience to promote values of intercultural understanding and community development, and projects are developed to enhance student learning, provide faculty research opportunities, and meet real community needs.

SUNY Old Westbury and Roosevelt Schools promote increased college attendance through new academy

By The Island Now

November 15, 2018

The State University of New York at Old Westbury and the Roosevelt Union Free School District have announced a new Scholars Academy, a cohort-based learning community designed to promote a college-going culture across the school district. The partnership is being funded by a five-year, \$700,570 grant from the New York State Education Department.

“Far too often, students from lower-income communities do not attend college or are ill-prepared for success should they get there,” said Calvin O. Butts, III, president of SUNY Old Westbury. “We are proud of this partnership with Roosevelt Union Free School District to offer the Scholars Academy to ensure students are ready for, and have the best access to, the life-changing growth a college experience provides.”

The Scholars Academy begins this year with 25 ninth grade students who will be identified this fall. In each following year, a cohort of 25 students will enter the academy.

“We are extremely excited to continue our partnership with SUNY Old Westbury,” said Marnie Hazelton, superintendent of the Roosevelt Union Free School District. “The ability to afford our students with high quality and free access to attain college credits is a paradigm shift for our students and community.”

The design of the Scholars Academy uses formative career pathways to assist students in exploring and orienting to potential career paths as they develop requisite skills and advance their college credit attainment. The program will offer students college-credit bearing instruction, either at Roosevelt High School or at SUNY Old Westbury, beginning in tenth grade with each student having the opportunity to earn at least 24 college credits upon graduation. A range of courses are planned, from English Composition and College Algebra to Basic Biology and Introduction to Law. All courses were evaluated and will be assessed continuously to ensure they satisfy both Common Core requirements and State University of New York General Education guidelines.

The academy experience will also include monthly workshops and seminars offered by the college to educate families and the Roosevelt community about the college admissions process and other higher education issues.

The new Scholars Academy builds upon the already successful Smart Scholars Early College High School program run in partnership between Roosevelt Schools and SUNY Old Westbury for the past seven years. The program has provided ongoing exposure to college studies and experiences for almost than 250 students who have amassed in excess of 6,500 college credits before graduating from high school.

A20

OBITUARIES

LONG ISLAND

John Maguire, SUNY Old Westbury leader

BY JOIE TYRRELL

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John D. Maguire, a colleague of Martin Luther King Jr. and an original Freedom Rider, crusaded for social change throughout his life.

Maguire served as the second president of SUNY Old Westbury, from 1970 to 1981, providing vision and leadership that served as "a bedrock of our college's mission for most of its more than 50-year history," SUNY Old Westbury president the Rev. Calvin O. Butts III wrote in a letter to students and staff. "His was the leadership that helped forge the commitment to diversity, of which we remain so proud and that set the course of what we continue to explore — what he called 'the riddle of human justice.'"

Maguire, president emeritus of SUNY Old Westbury, died Oct. 26 in Pomona, California, after earlier suffering a stroke. He was 86.

His daughter, Anne Turner, of Claremont, California, said that as President Maguire wanted to "bring his ideals about offering access and opportunity to all kinds of students, which he believed was the core of what Old Westbury was about."

Born in Montgomery, Alabama, he grew up in Jacksonville, Florida. He met his wife, Lillian (Billie), now of Pomona, at a Christian summer camp while both were in college. The couple were married for 65 years and had five children.

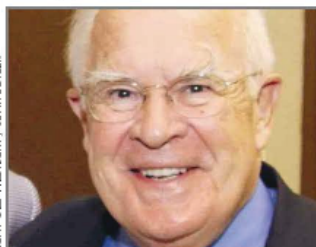
After graduating from Washington and Lee University with a bachelor's degree in philosophy, Maguire became a Fulbright fellow in Scotland. He went on to complete both his bachelor of divinity and doctorate in theology and psychiatry from Yale Divinity School. In 1965, he was a Fulbright scholar at the University of Tübingen in Germany.

He was at a spiritual retreat when he was paired with a roommate who turned out to be King, a daughter said.

"They ended up staying up all night talking and finding that there was so much more about them — both were the sons of preachers," Turner said. "They had so much more in common than what was different about them and they became incredible friends."

Maguire was an official at Wesleyan University when King served as commencement speaker. After King's death, Maguire became a founding member of The King Center for social change in Atlanta and later its chair. He was on sabbatical from Wesleyan when he took the position as president of SUNY Old Westbury and lived on campus with his family.

"While here, he touched on the relation of moral philosophy and religious



John D. Maguire

thought to contemporary society, and on issues of human rights and social justice. Touching on those ideals was no surprise to the longtime faculty members who knew him best," Butts said in a letter to students and staff.

He moved to California from Long Island to serve as president of Claremont Graduate University.

Maguire was a longtime board member of the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund Inc. A statement honoring Maguire posted on the group's website said that in 1961, with urging from King, Maguire and William Sloane Coffin embarked on a Freedom Ride with three black students and several white theology professors, part of a larger effort to challenge Jim Crow's grip on the South. Writing in the June 2, 1961, issue of Life magazine, Coffin said that by joining the rides, he and Maguire "hoped to dramatize the fact that this is not just a student movement. We felt that our being university educators might help encourage the sea of silent moderates in the South to raise their voices."

The group was arrested in Maguire's hometown of Montgomery for "breach of the peace" after attempting to order coffee at a segregated restaurant. They were released on bail after two nights in jail.

Maguire last visited Old Westbury in 2011, when he delivered the commencement address. The theater at SUNY Old Westbury, in the Campus Center, is named for the couple — the John D. & Lillian Maguire Theater.

In addition to his wife and daughter, surviving are his daughters: Catherine Maguire, of Palmyra, Virginia, and Mary Maguire, of Montpelier, Virginia. He was preceded in death by his sister, Merrill Skaggs, of Madison, New Jersey, and is survived by his sister, Martha Worsley, of Jacksonville.

Services will be Dec. 1 at Claremont United Church of Christ at 11 a.m. A private family burial will follow the next day at Oak Park Cemetery in Claremont. In lieu of flowers, donations can be made to Claremont Graduate University.

John Maguire, 86, Early Promoter of Diversity in Education, Dies

By Daniel E. Slotnik

Nov. 9, 2018



John D. Maguire with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. in an undated photo. Dr. Maguire was a faculty member at Wesleyan University in 1961 when he joined Dr. King on a Freedom Ride through the South. After Dr. King's assassination, he served on the board of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta. Arthur J. Wamsley, via John Maguire Papers, Special Collections, the Claremont Colleges Library, Claremont, California

Long before John D. Maguire was a civil rights activist, and long before he developed some of the most inclusive college admissions standards of his day, he grew up in the segregated South with views on race that were far from enlightened.

“We drove through the black side of town throwing pears at black guys and yelling racial epithets,” he said in an interview with the University of Southern California in 2014. “We were the white oppressors. I was the white oppressor.”

His awakening began in 1948, when he was chosen by the YMCA to attend a national baseball camp at Miami University in Oxford, Ohio. The camp was integrated, and each attendee roomed with someone of a different race.

On one hot day several of the players, black and white, shared three Dr Peppers. It was, he said, “the first time I’d ever passed my lips to anything that had touched a black man’s lips.”

Several years later, while he was a student at Washington and Lee University in Lexington, Va., he attended a conference at Crozer Theological Seminary in Chester, Pa., where he met and roomed with the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.

Dr. Maguire and Dr. King became friends and colleagues in the years that followed, and the experience informed Dr. Maguire’s vision when he became president of the [State University of New York’s College at Old Westbury](#), on Long Island.

Dr. Maguire, who was one of the first college educators in the United States to successfully use diversity as a guiding principle in student admissions, died on Oct. 26 at a care facility in Pomona, Calif. He was 86.

His daughter Catherine Maguire said he died after a stroke.

Dr. Maguire was a faculty member at Wesleyan University in Connecticut in 1961 when he joined Dr. King on a Freedom Ride through the South. He was arrested and jailed after trying to integrate a bus station lunch counter in Montgomery, Ala.

After Dr. King’s assassination, Dr. Maguire was on the first board of directors of the Martin Luther King Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change in Atlanta.

In 1970, Dr. Maguire became president of SUNY Old Westbury, a college that had opened two years earlier with the intention of serving populations historically overlooked by institutions of higher education, like minorities, older people and poorer students. The school did not succeed until Dr. Maguire’s tenure began.

The first president, the civil rights leader Harris Wofford, envisioned a college where students, faculty members and administrators would govern by consensus — a radically democratic idea that quickly proved impracticable. (Mr. Wofford went on to greater success as president of Bryn Mawr College in Pennsylvania and a Democratic United States senator from that state.)

After Dr. Maguire installed a more traditional leadership system, he set out to create a student population that was about 30 percent Caucasian, 30 percent African-American, 30 percent Latino and 10 percent other races and ethnicities. A year into his tenure, The Times reported that more than half of Old Westbury’s 610 students were from minority groups.

Over the next decade Dr. Maguire increased Old Westbury’s enrollment to more than 3,000 students and offered classes from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., making it easier for students to attend while working full time.

He left Old Westbury in 1981 to become president of Claremont Graduate University in California, but Old Westbury continued to follow his example. Michael Kinane, the college’s chief communications officer, said that in 2017 the student body was 32 percent white, 27 percent black, 25 percent Latino and 16 percent from other backgrounds.

The Rev. Dr. Calvin O. Butts III, pastor of the Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem and Old Westbury’s president since 1999, said in a telephone interview that Dr. Maguire “laid a lasting foundation on which I stand today.”

John David Maguire was born on Aug. 7, 1932, in Montgomery to John Henry Maguire, a Baptist preacher, and Clyde (Merrill) Maguire, a writer and homemaker. He grew up in Montgomery and in Jacksonville, Fla., where his father led the expansion of the Florida Baptist Convention over two decades.

Dr. Maguire described his parents as “radical segregationists,” although he said they did not see themselves as bigots. His father did not initially welcome his son’s newfound tolerance, and for a time they lost touch.

Dr. Maguire played football in high school and at Washington and Lee and graduated from there in 1953. That year he married Billie Parrish, and she soon accompanied him to Scotland on a Fulbright scholarship.

He earned a divinity degree from Yale University in 1956 and a doctorate in 1960 before joining the Wesleyan faculty.



Dr. Maguire surrounded by students and reporters during a protest over college policies at [State University of New York’s College at Old Westbury](#) in 1976. As president of the school from 1970 to 1981, Dr. Maguire developed some of the most inclusive college admissions standards of his day. Jon Clymer, via SUNY Old Westbury

At Claremont Graduate University, part of the Claremont College consortium, Dr. Maguire opened centers dedicated to the humanities, education, politics, economics and organizational and behavior studies. He retired in 1998.

In addition to his daughter, he is survived by his wife; two other daughters, Mary Maguire and Anne Turner; a sister, Martha Worsley; and four grandchildren.

Dr. Maguire described his educational philosophy in a convocation address at Old Westbury in 1980.

“The most effective as well as the most demanding way for a college to educate about power and justice as well as truth,” he said, “is by example.”

That speech is now assigned in freshman classes that fulfill a diversity education requirement at Old Westbury.

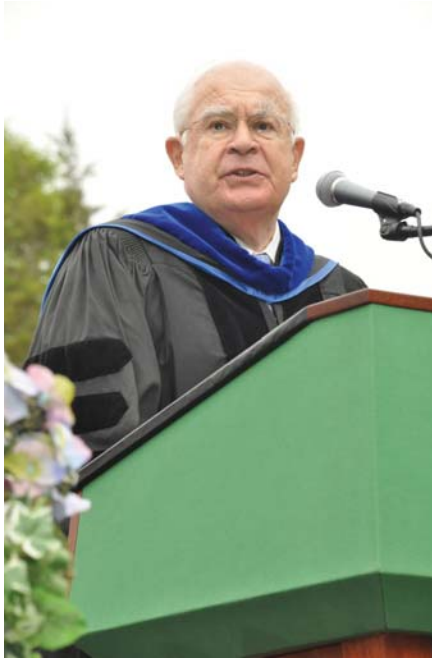
Follow Daniel E. Slotnik on Twitter: @dslotnik

A version of this article appears in print on Nov. 11, 2018, on Page A32 of the New York edition with the headline: John Maguire, 86, Education Reformer.

Former SUNY Old Westbury president John Maguire dies

By Teri West

November 6, 2018



John D. Maguire addresses graduates during the 45th Commencement Ceremony at SUNY Old Westbury in May 2011. (Photo by Island Photography)

John D. Maguire, a civil rights activist and the second president of SUNY Old Westbury, who led the university during its period of rebirth, died at age 86 on Oct. 26.

Maguire was the university's president from 1970 to 1981 and was influential in its transformation into an institution that catered to students underrepresented in higher education, said Robert Hoyte, a SUNY Old Westbury distinguished teaching professor of chemistry.

Maguire died after suffering a stroke, according to Newsday.

After student protests in the late 1960s that urged the university to increase accessibility for minority populations, SUNY Old Westbury closed for a year of planning to pivot toward that goal, Hoyte said.

Maguire joined the university at that time, which he described as an "exhilarating" experience planning "an institution that would be radically mixed [and] trans-disciplinary in its mode of study," in a 2011 interview for SUNY Old Westbury's oral history project.

His presidency throughout the 1970s was during a "rebirth" of the university, as the social justice-minded faculty considered how to best implement a curriculum for a more diverse student body, Hoyte said.

"He provided vision and leadership that has served as a bedrock for our college's mission for most of its more than 50-year history," SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts III wrote in a letter to the campus after Maguire's death.

During Maguire's presidency, the campus community knew him on a first-name basis, and Maguire would open his home to host students and faculty, Hoyte said.

"He was a scholar in the humanities, religion and ethics and philosophy, and so he himself engaged in a lot of in-depth conversations with faculty and students about ideas, about social issues and how to solve this 'riddle of human justice,'" Hoyte said.

Maguire grew up in Raleigh, North Carolina, and Montgomery and Birmingham, Alabama, and said he began getting inklings of a sense of racial injustice during his early teens through discussions with his YMCA director.

He met Martin Luther King Jr. during college at a seminary weekend retreat, and they developed a long friendship, Maguire said in his 2011 interview.

"He, like I, had come young, 16 years old, to college," Maguire said. "He was three years older than I was. So when I was 19 and Dr. King was 21, we met

and then began a series of things that got tight and tighter."

Maguire participated in the Freedom Rides, a civil disobedience movement to protest segregated bus terminals, in the summer of 1961, a period in which he was teaching at Wesleyan University.

He was arrested with his fellow riders, some of whom were black Wesleyan students, in a Montgomery, Alabama, segregated restaurant, according to the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund.

President John F. Kennedy appointed him to the civil rights commission of Connecticut, Maguire said in his 2011 SUNY Old Westbury interview.

Maguire's college career took him from Virginia to Scotland and then up the East Coast.

He attended Washington and Lee University as an undergraduate. He was then a Fulbright fellow in Scotland before attending Yale Divinity School and earning a doctorate in theology and psychiatry.

He was again involved with Fulbright in 1965 when he researched in Germany as a Fulbright scholar.

In 2009, he earned a Fulbright Lifetime Achievement Medal.

Following his 11-year presidency at SUNY Old Westbury, Maguire was chancellor of Claremont Graduate University until 1998.

He remained involved with the university as a senior fellow in its Division of Politics & Economics and director of the Institute for Democratic Renewal.

"He organized and led ground-breaking initiatives on race and democracy," Claremont Graduate University President Len Jessup wrote. "He sought to combat institutionalized racism and remedy race-based disparities in areas such as education, health care delivery, economic development, and criminal justice. He believed that our promise as a nation would only be realized by breaking down these barriers and focusing on social justice for all."

Maguire was on the board of directors for the NAACP Legal Defense and Educational Fund beginning in 1991.

He became a visiting fellow with the Woodrow Wilson Foundation in 2004, according to SUNY Old Westbury.

Maguire is survived by his wife Lillian (Billie) Maguire, his daughters Anne Turner of Claremont, California, Catherine Maguire of Palmyra, Virginia, and Mary Maguire, of Montpelier, Virginia, and his sister, Martha Worsley of Jacksonville, according to Newsday.



John D. Maguire (center, left) with New York State Governor Hugh Cary (center, right) during Cary's visit to campus in 1976. (Photo courtesy of SUNY Old Westbury)



LONG ISLAND

Providing the food for thought

LI colleges help students facing threat of hunger

BY KESHIA CLUKEY
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Adelphi University opened a food pantry this fall on the Garden City campus, and SUNY Old Westbury debuted its "Panther Pantry." Nassau Community College's 3-year-old pantry, having outgrown its space, plans to move to a larger location to better serve the 19,000-student community. And Farmingdale State College has staff ready to help students sign up for public assistance.

Across Long Island, New York and the nation, colleges and universities continue to strengthen efforts to help students who face hunger and issues of food insecurity — the term for those who have limited or uncertain access to nutritious, safe foods. Education officials and food bank leaders say it is essential to do more.

"This is not an uncommon problem. It's just a hidden problem, because students didn't have a voice; people hadn't thought about it," said Randi Shubin Dresner, who co-chairs the State University of New York's Food Insecurity Task Force and is president and chief executive of Hauppauge-based Island Harvest. "Food pantries on the campus are important, because it's finally recognizing now that there is an issue and recognizing that we need to dive deeper into this."

Food pantries or collaborations with local food banks are up and running at all 64 schools in the SUNY system, including the five on the island, SUNY administrators and task force members said last week.

Members of the task force, comprised of higher-education officials, statewide food bank leaders and representatives from health and agriculture agencies, gathered last week at NCC for the annual Food Insecurity Conference to discuss how to meet the needs of students, including the 100,000-plus attending colleges across the island.

Nationally, about 36 percent of university students and 42 percent of community college stu-



Aliyah Black, 37, of Valley Stream speaks at the annual food insecurity conference held at Nassau Community College.

It's tough. It's either I pay for the book or feed my kids."

— Aliyah Black, 37, of Valley Stream, a mother of two who is studying radiation therapy at Nassau Community College

dents indicated feeling insecure about food in the 30 days before they were surveyed, according to an April report from the Wisconsin HOPE Lab, a group of researchers based at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. The survey took into account responses from more than 43,000 students at 66 higher education institutions nationwide.

Aliyah Black, 37, of Valley Stream, a mother of two who is studying radiation therapy at NCC, knows that feeling.

After working for years as an executive assistant, Black decided to go back to school.

"It's tough," she said. One of her books cost \$15 and she was faced with a decision. "It's either I pay for the book or feed my kids," Black said.

She was able to get help at The NEST at NCC, the food pantry that opened in fall 2015 at the largest single-campus community college in the state, and which is being used as a model in the SUNY system.

The food and school supplies she picked up at The NEST have made the difference in her ability to make ends meet. "I have extra money to make sure

I have my bills paid, or I can put gas in my car, or I can pay my tuition, or I can pay for my books at school," Black said.

Hunger on campus is a retention issue as well, said Clare Cady, co-founder and director of the College and University Food Bank Alliance, a national nonprofit focused on addressing food insecurity on college campuses.

"Food tends to be one of the more flexible things in a person's budget," she said. If a student isn't able to pay attention in class because they are hungry, they may not make it to graduation, leaving school without a degree and in debt.

Awareness of the issue is growing nationwide, and the responses have become more prevalent, Cady said.

Many campuses on the island already have pantries, including Stony Brook University, Hofstra University and St. Joseph's College. Suffolk County Community College has three pantries, one on each of its campuses.

Last year, Gov. Andrew M. Cuomo called on both SUNY and the City University of New York system to provide stigma-



Della Hudson, Adelphi's associate dean of student affairs, in the food pantry on the Garden City campus. ■ Video: newsday.com/li

free food access to students as part of his "No Student Goes Hungry Program."

The NEST at NCC, or Nassau Empowerment and Support for Tomorrow, was founded by a committee of faculty, staff and students. The nonprofit distributes about 2,000 pounds of food each week. In its three years of operation, the pantry has served nearly 6,000 people, including students, faculty and staff, said Sharon Masrou, The NEST's founder and executive director.

The pantry has outgrown its space and must move to a larger location on campus, said Sharon Masrou, a full-time reading and basic education professor at NCC. "It's getting to this critical point where something's got to give."

Melissa McDevitt, 35, of Freeport, a part-time student, has gotten both food and professional clothing from the pantry.

"I live in subsidized housing and I need extra help with things at times," she said.

Without the pantry, it "would be difficult," McDevitt said. "I'd barely be squeezing by with paying for the textbooks. There's a chance I wouldn't be able to go at all."

SUNY Old Westbury opened its "Panther Pantry" on Sept. 4, and Farmingdale State is working with Island Harvest and St. Kilian Parish in Farmingdale to assist students.

Officials are in the process of determining whether the 10,000-student college needs a pantry on campus, said Kevin Murphy, director of Farmingdale State's Health and Wellness Center. In the interim, the center also helps students apply for public benefits, such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program. About 93 percent of Farmingdale's students are com-

muters, and those who live on campus are required to have a meal plan, for which the college offers financial aid options, he said.

Since opening Sept. 5, Adelphi's service — also called "Panther Pantry" — has filled 247 orders from 96 community members, 46 of whom were repeat users, said Della Hudson, associate dean of student affairs. The service can be used anonymously by the school's 8,100-plus undergraduate and graduate students, as well as faculty and staff.

The pantry's offerings can be accessed online, with orders given a bar code and sent to the mailroom, she said. The food then can be picked up using only the bar code, and regular shopping bags are used to provide further privacy.

"Going to school and trying to fit in and belonging is stress-

ful enough without having some kind of label on your back — 'In need of food,'" Hudson said.

The SUNY task force next plans to focus on collecting data to better serve these populations, said John Graham, SUNY associate provost for student affairs who is coordinating the group's efforts. "Many of our campuses have been responding — but they're not really tallying exactly how many students are coming and who they are."

The support can't stop at food banks, Cady said. Services are needed that are long-term and more holistic, such as scholarships, food vouchers, and having students sign up for public assistance, she said.

"The solutions must be multifaceted, because students are complex and they have needs that move or change over time," she said.

SUNDAY, NOV. 11, 2018 | NORTH HEMPSTEAD-OYSTER BAY

Newsday

Llife

**VOLUNTEER
NATION**
AN OCCASIONAL SERIES

Starting a conversation

ERASE RACISM IS ORGANIZING COMMUNITY DIALOGUES ABOUT RACIAL INEQUALITY

E4

Elaine Gross, president of ERASE Racism

act2 | Remembering a father and t



Adviser the Rev. Calvin Butts said: "To bring people to a table, that is truth telling. Perhaps through that we'll have some reconciliation."

E8

COVERSTORY

newsday.com/llife

Explaining the impact of racism

COVER STORY from E6

access to rental apartments based on their race. "This kind of discrimination not only denies African-Americans access to housing but it also denies their children access to high-quality public schools," Gross remarked at the time.

LI SCHOOLS SEGREGATION
The situation in the public schools has worsened, Gross said. Using data from the New York State Department of Education, a 2017 ERASE Racism study found that more black and Hispanic students attend segregated schools now than did 12 years ago, and there are more than twice as many intensely segregated school districts. When asked if more should be done to include students from different racial and ethnic backgrounds in public schools on Long Island, 60 percent of blacks, 49 percent of Hispanics, and 28 percent of whites said yes, according to ERASE Racism's research. Asked if less should be done, 43 percent of Hispanics, 32 percent of blacks, and 54 percent of whites said yes.

Gross said her organization set up the Student Task Force because "we felt students are impacted by the segregation. We thought they should be educated about this and they should use their voices to speak to the adults and share their opinion. The children are often ignored."

Nine students from Nassau and Suffolk high schools who are part of ERASE Racism's Voices Campaign participated on panels at the 59th annual New York State School Boards Association and Education Expo in Manhattan from Oct. 25 to 27. The three-day event attracted more than 700 school boards. Gabriela Daza, 17, a senior at Merham High School in North Bellmore, was in the ERASE Racism contingent. "We spoke about education equity in Long Island public schools and the segregation that exists," Daza said. "The platform that ERASE Racism gives students is a unique platform," she said. "It is very rare you are able to speak to your school board members about topics like this." Her panel focused on diversity in school curriculum. "We



ERASE organizer Elaine Gross took students to Manhattan to meet with state school boards officials.

want more focus on Latin American, African and Asian cultures as opposed to just a Eurocentric curriculum," said Daza, who is Hispanic. "In my school, there was not a lot of diversity in the student population; you were just a student of color if you were not European."

"There was no distinction between Indian, Pakistani, Middle Eastern or Latin American; we were all grouped together. I hope they take our words into practice," Daza said. David Albert, a spokesman for the state School Boards Association said, "We believe it is important for schools to have a diverse and inclusive curriculum so that students learn and understand the contributions that people from all backgrounds have made to society, and we encourage educators to listen to all mem-

bers of the school community, including students, when making decisions, including decisions related to curriculum and instruction."

ERASE Racism also has a prestigious board of directors and a College of Advisors drawn from the fields of education, law, banking, marketing, immigration and real estate. Both groups help ERASE Racism carry out its mission to bring people together and bring people together in a way that's going to be productive. "To bring people together, Gross is urging residents in Nassau and Suffolk to join ERASE Racism's Partnership for Racial Equity, a diverse coalition of community voices to fight injustices caused by policies and institutions."

PEOPLE OF 'GOOD WILL'
"Both the blacks and whites she (Gross) works with are men and women of good will trying to address this amorphous and endemic racism that exists on Long Island," said Butts, who is also pastor of Abyssinian Baptist Church in Harlem. "I believe the work they're doing is necessary and important and brings people together in a way that's going to be productive."

To bring people together, Gross is urging residents in Nassau and Suffolk to join ERASE Racism's Partnership for Racial Equity, a diverse coalition of community voices to fight injustices caused by policies and institutions. "That support will create a Long Island undivided by race," she said. "We want people not just to say, 'We'll support your some reconciliation.'"

mission. "We want to have a group of active constituents to come together to push for things we are working on. We hope we will have people of all means participating, that we'll have people saying, 'We can't let this die. I have to be part of the solution.'"

Toward that goal, the organization also aims to train public school educators, college and university professors, school board members, business leaders, health care providers and the general public about "how individuals can work to dismantle racism in their personal and professional lives."

Jong-eun Rhee has been a volunteer with ERASE Racism for three years. A professor of education and researcher at LIU Post, she is helping a colleague collect and analyze data about Long Island educators and administrators — kindergarten to college level — "brainstorming about strategies we can use to address racial equity issues." "I knew the organization, and always wanted to get involved," Rhee said. "I thought this was the perfect opportunity for me to work with them. I can introduce what they do to my students who are going to become teachers. Doing this racism work with local organizations, I think that's very important."

A \$100,000 grant from the Unitarian Universalist Congregation at Shelter Rock has made the upcoming forums possible. "The congregation has a longstanding commitment to racial justice and racial equity," said the Rev. Ned Wright, interim senior minister of the Manhattan congregation.

"Knowing as we do the history of Long Island, where housing discrimination and racial injustice have been part of our history, it's important for us to partner with organizations on Long Island to create a practice of much greater equity; to partner with them recognizing that they are taking the lead," Wright said. "I hope there's a good turnout for these conversations." That is also Gross' hope. "I think this is both an opportunity and a necessity," she said. "The time is ripe for us to do this, because people are open to it. We shouldn't lose this opportunity. We can't afford to have things continue as they are."

On Our Island: Nonprofit highlights of the week

By: Bernadette Starzee November 14, 2018



The Long Island African American Chamber of Commerce teamed up with **SUNY Old Westbury** to present a Business Boot Camp. (From left) Phil Andrews, Shalei Simms, Sean Phillips, Winnie Benjamin, Sharon Davis-Edwards, Vincent McNeil and Jennifer Scott.

30 DAYS OF GIVING

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30 Days of Giving 2018 – Day 10: SUNY Old Westbury Commemorates Veterans

By Tiffanie Li

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SUNY Old Westbury hosted a [Veterans Day Remembrance Event](#), which included a ceremony attended by dozens of students, faculty and staff. The ceremony was hosted on Veterans Day, where the event started with a short speech commemorating the dedication and commitment of Veterans in protecting our nation.

Prior to the event, SUNY Old Westbury President Calvin O. Butts said, "Veterans Day is an opportunity for each of us to thank veterans for their service, to acknowledge and appreciate their contributions to our national security, and to recognize their sacrifices. This includes a number of students, faculty, and staff among our own campus community who are veterans. Today, and every day, we should reflect on the liberties we enjoy and the role the men and women of the armed forces across our nation's history have played in earning and protecting those rights. There are more than 20 million of these heroes walking among us today, saying little and still serving our communities in many ways. We must all remember and honor their dedication to our nation."



SUNY Old Westbury students plant flags in the ground on campus to honor veterans on Veterans Day.

After the speech, students had the opportunity to place flags in remembrance of Veterans. More than 100 flags were placed in front of the main academic building on campus, and there was a letter-writing campaign that followed throughout the day. The goal was to hit 100 letters within an hour of the campaign starting, which was easily exceeded. The letters were then given to a local American Legion to distribute to veterans at local hospitals or abroad. It was with these letters that veterans would be reminded of how much citizens appreciate their sacrifice to our country.

Like 0 Share Tweet Share

December 1, 2018

Tags: [SUNY Old Westbury](#)

WINNERS

Compiled by Michael R. Ebert

ARTHUR KALISH

Educator

Arthur Kalish of Huntington has been inducted into the New York State Mathematics Educators Hall of Fame for demonstrating “outstanding leadership and dedication to mathematic education,” the organization said. Kalish, who taught secondary math at Syosset High School for 42 years before retiring in 2010, is the director of the Institute of MERIT (Mathematics Education, Research, and Instruction Technology) at SUNY Old Westbury and project director for SUNY Old Westbury’s Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students. He is an inductee of the Long Island Mathematics Hall of Fame and is involved in the development of the National Museum of Mathematics.



Byrd joins board of Old Westbury College Foundation

🕒 November 5, 2018 💬 Comments Off



Alton Byrd

The Old Westbury College Foundation announced the election of Alton Byrd as a member of its board of trustees. Byrd currently serves as vice president of business operations for the Long Island Nets.

Councilwoman elected to board of trustees

🕒 November 16, 2018 💬 Comments Off



Viviana Russell

The Old Westbury College Foundation announced the election of Russell to its board of trustees. Viviana Russell is a town councilwoman for the Town of Hempstead.

No. 363: The Master Of Innovation Prognosticates, Dowling Writes It Down And DG Sotheby's Techs Up (Once Again)

ON THE MOVE

DECEMBER 7, 2018

Town of Hempstead Councilwoman Viviana Russell has been elected to the board of the Old Westbury College Foundation.

No. 354: Journalists' Lives Matter, The Wisdom Of Confucius And All Kinds Of LI-Based Heart-Valve News

ON THE MOVE

NOVEMBER 2, 2018

+ The Old Westbury College Foundation has elected Alton Byrd, vice president of business operations for the Uniondale-based Long Island Nets, and Viviana Russel, Town of North Hempstead councilwoman, as new board trustees.

CLAUDIA MARIN ANDRADE

November 28, 2018



CLAUDIA MARIN ANDRADE was appointed dean of students at State University of New York (SUNY) College at Old Westbury. She previously was the assistant dean of students and director of student advocacy and prevention awareness at Hofstra University. Andrade earned a bachelor's in graphic design from Manhattanville College and a master's in social work from Fordham University.

NEWS AND ANALYSIS

NOVEMBER 02, 2018

Goodwill Chooses Former HUD Secretary as CEO (Transitions)

By M.J. Prest

New University Fundraisers

Rossano Rovello, associate director of individual giving at St. Francis College, in New York, has been named director of advancement initiatives at the State University of New York College at Old Westbury.

LONG ISLAND

LI notable deaths of 2018

By Newsday Staff

Updated December 31, 2018 7:50 AM

Long Island lost several notable people in 2018, including activists, first responders, teachers and students. Here's a look back at the lives and legacy of some notable Long Islanders who died this year.



Photo Credit: Amelia Cariddi

Madelyn Bowen of Massapequa Park, a [SUNY Old Westbury](#) student and softball player, died on Oct. 6 after a battle with cancer. She was 21. [Newsday's obituary of Madelyn Bowen.](#)



4:47

+ QUEUE

DOWNLOAD

ENRGE

1968: After Dozens Of Acquittals, Police Forced To End Raids On Gay Haven

December 16, 2018 · 5:37 PM ET
Heard on All Things Considered

JON KALISH

In the autumn of 1968, close to two dozen gay men were acquitted of consensual sodomy charges in a series of criminal trials on Long Island. The trials and acquittals marked a pivotal moment in what eventually became the gay rights movement. They demonstrated to the larger gay community — then mainly closeted — that gay people could band together to resist police harassment.

The trials took place the year before what came to be known as the Stonewall Rebellion — violent clashes between New York activists and the police in the summer of 1969. Stonewall is often seen as the birth of the modern gay rights movement.

Cherry Grove is and was an important gay community on Fire Island, which lies off the southern shore of New York's Long Island. It was an annual summer ritual for police from Suffolk County, Long Island, to stage raids in Cherry Grove, rounding up gay men engaging in public sex.

"Every year there was this tradition of raiding the gay communities of Fire Island and arresting 25, 30, up to 40 fellas, and charging them with sodomy and other crimes," said Karl Grossman, who took a job at a daily newspaper called the Long Island Press in 1964.

"They came in police boats and stormed the beach with their flashlights in the middle of the night. They took the shackled suspects back to the boats and transported them to the mainland [Long Island]," Grossman remembered.

Although the police raids on Fire Island started in 1953, they intensified in 1964, the same year Fire Island was designated a National Seashore. At the time, Grossman covered crime and the courts. He'd get a call from the cops every summer and said the police were eager to feed him personal details about the gay men they had arrested in Cherry Grove.

"Not only was I given the names and the addresses, but also where they worked," recalled Grossman, now a journalism professor at the [State University of New York, Old Westbury](#). "The cops very much wanted me to mention that one of them worked at this bank or one of them worked at this library. I mean, clearly, the cops were after the jobs of these men."

It may be hard to fathom today but, back in the 1960s, being outed could cost gay men and lesbians their jobs.

A double life

"This is what we lived with back then. There was this commandment: You Have to Hide. And gay people lived a double life," said Esther Newton, a retired anthropology professor who wrote a history of Cherry Grove. She also wrote a memoir titled *My Butch Career* which detailed her early academic years when she felt it was imperative to remain closeted.

Newton is one of the few anthropologists who have focused exclusively on gender and gay culture. Her book, *Cherry Grove, Fire Island: Sixty Years in America's First Gay and Lesbian Town*, chronicles Cherry Grove's growth from the 1920s on. It includes coverage in Long Island newspapers that referred to the half-mile wooded area where men congregated to have sex outdoors as a 'nocturnal hell-hole' and a 'sex cesspool.'

"There was a lot of newspaper coverage about how they were taking over and bitterness towards straight landlords who were renting to 'those pansies,'" said Newtown.

The wooded area where gay men had sex was known colloquially as 'the Meatrack.' Some men referred to it simply as 'the Rack.'

"You weren't allowed to bring any lights," Newton said. "This was a strictly anonymous kind of thing and similar to what was going on in the gay baths. It kept growing, it was really popular. There were hundreds and maybe even thousands of men who went there. People described it to me as a very, very positive experience. They loved it."

Lesbians, Newton said, were under the distinct impression that they were not welcome in the area after dark. She said the most controversial aspect of the outdoor sex was that it sometimes took place on the boardwalks, outside people's houses.

"A lot of the old-timers and a lot of the lesbians really didn't like that," said Newton. "I remember when I was there in the 1980s I didn't like that."

NPR was unable to locate any of the men arrested and put on trial a half-century ago. Suffolk County courts were not able to locate the files for their cases due to the county's document retention policies. NPR contacted William Underwood, a retired

judge who presided over prosecutions of gay men arrested on Fire Island, and Howard Berler, a retired Suffolk County prosecutor who tried some of those cases, but both men said they didn't remember the trials.

Author Esther Newton recorded an interview with one gay man who was arrested in the Meatrack for her book on Cherry Grove. That man, Nat Fowler, is now deceased.

"After the bars would close, everybody was just going into the bushes," Fowler told Newton. "In spite of the fact that we might be caught, we would still go down to 'the rack.' We were scared but we still would go."

In the recent documentary, *Cherry Grove Stories*, a retired lawyer named George Cabell recounted how he managed to avoid getting caught during a police raid of the Meatrack.

"I was out in the rack and all of a sudden headlights just went on," Cabell told the film's director, Michael Fisher. "I knew it was a raid. And I could just see my career going up in smoke if I got caught. So I headed for the bay, sat down in the muck and mud of the bay until the sun came up. I did not get arrested!"

The Mattachine Society, an early gay rights group, played a key role in organizing efforts to stop the police raids on Cherry Grove. The late Dick Leitsch, who served as president of the organization, told Esther Newton that some Cherry Grove regulars rebuffed him and other Mattachine volunteers who distributed flyers advising gay men not to plead guilty if they got arrested in the Meatrack.

"We went out there with thousands of flyers and handed them out on the walks and the queens got so hostile," Leitsch recalled. "What are you doing? Don't you dare do this, you're creating waves. Don't cause trouble."

But others were eager to help counter the raids and aid the men who were arrested. The Pokorny family, which operated one of the ferry services that shuttled visitors from Long Island to Fire Island, provided cash for bail.

"They were very generous," said Bob Levine, a long-time Cherry Grove summer resident. "They bailed out a lot of people. They were the people who had the money right at the moment. If you needed a thousand dollars right away, you could call them and they would bail people out."

Michael Fisher, director of the *Cherry Grove Stories* documentary, said the owner of the Belvedere Hotel in Cherry Grove installed a special light, "and when he heard that the cops were coming, he flicked this light on so all the guys in the Meatrack would know the Meatrack was about to be raided."

Arrests, trials and verdicts

In late August, 1968, police arrested 27 men in Cherry Grove. A few pleaded guilty to consensual sodomy and paid a fine of \$250. But 22 men fought the charges in court.

Benedict Vuturo, a prominent Long Island criminal defense lawyer, was retained by the Mattachine Society. In the fall of 1968 Benny Vuturo, as he was known, demanded jury trials for all of the gay men he was defending.

"Benny said there's terrible crimes on the mainland of Long Island, murders and rapes, and here the cops go and they beat the bushes and try to find these gay fellas who are not harming anyone," said reporter Karl Grossman, who covered some of the trials for the Long Island Press.

"The juries, one after another, concurred, and they found the defendants not guilty, not guilty, not guilty. And that was the end of the police raids on Fire Island. To me, it really was a testament to the common sense of eastern Long Island residents who served on those juries, and to the jury system."

Vuturo was hoping to lose one of the trials so he could challenge New York's sodomy law but he won every case.

The state's sodomy law was overturned in 1980, 12 years after the Fire Island trials. Vuturo went on to become a judge in Suffolk County and died in 1991.



People gather at the beach in the Cherry Grove section of Fire Island in the 1960s. Courtesy of Cherry Grove Archives Collection

November 8, 2018 by LaMont Jones

Dr. Gloria Ladson-Billings is a proud member of “the Class of Shalala,” an informal name adopted by a group of Black women faculty at the University of Wisconsin-Madison (UWM) whose academic careers were boosted by the newly elected Congresswoman, who mentored women and minority faculty in higher education long before she ventured into politics.

More than an administrator, Dr. Donna Shalala helped women and minorities gain employment, tenure and advancement as far back as the 1980’s, when she was president of Hunter College. And some of those whose careers she influenced, like Ladson-Billings, say she will be a force for diversity and higher education as she represents Florida’s 27th congressional district.

Shalala – who was chancellor of UWM and later served as president of the University of Miami – ran as a Democrat and won 51.8 percent of the vote to defeat longtime Republican incumbent Ileana Ros-Lehtinen. And although at the age of 77, Shalala will be starting at the bottom tier of seniority as a junior legislator, she will be a force of nature on Capitol Hill, predicted scholars she mentored.

“They’d better get ready, because she will have done her homework,” said Ladson-Billings, president of the National Academy of Education and the former Kellner Family Distinguished Professor of Urban Education in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction at UWM.

“She’s not somebody to be trifled with,” said Ladson-Billings, who also is a faculty affiliate in UWM’s departments of Educational Policy Studies, Leadership and Policy Analysis and Afro-American Studies. “She’s not lazy, she pays attention to detail, and she has a mind like a steel trap. And I think she’ll be a friend to higher education. She’s concerned about the rising costs of tuition and student loan debt and will be someone on the forefront of trying to address that.”

Shalala, who has a bachelor’s degree from Western College for Women and a Ph.D from the Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University, served as federal secretary of health and human services in the Clinton administration and headed the Clinton Foundation from 2015 to 2017.

She was president of Hunter College in the 1980’s when Dr. Johnnetta B. Cole, president emerita of Spelman and Bennett colleges, met her. Cole said Shalala would become one of her principal mentors and a dear friend, joining Marian Wright Edelman, the president of the Children’s Defense Fund, in persuading Cole to vie for the Spelman presidency.

And when Cole was inaugurated as the prestigious college’s first Black female president, the robe she wore contained pieces of a textile woven in an Ibo village in Africa, a gift from Shalala.

“I have a phrase I often use to describe her, a way of lifting up her commitment to diversity, equity, accessibility and inclusion,” said Cole in an interview with Diverse. “I always say, ‘Sister Donna, you got a touch of color.’”

While Shalala, an Ohio native, is of Lebanese descent, Cole is alluding to actions that have been “consistently, unequivocally committed to the issues of social justice. She’s also, of course, a strong, strong supporter of women, diverse women, and the absolute necessity for us to get rid of gender inequality.”

And that’s what she’ll take to Congress, added Cole.

“When it came across the television screen that she had won, I was simultaneously not surprised and beyond elated,” said Cole. “Donna has succeeded at everything she has done, and look at the diversity of positions she has held. She’s so creative, so innovative, so persistent, such a strategic thinker, so collaborative in her leadership style that I’m prepared to say she is going to do incredibly well as Congresswoman Shalala.”

Ladson-Billings also knows Shalala’s determination firsthand. It was Shalala who recruited her away from Santa Clara University in California when Ladson-Billings had no interest in leaving.

It happened in 1990, when Ladson-Billings visited UWM to lecture as part of an annual minority visiting scholars program. The latter part of her itinerary included joining a colleague at a dinner honoring women at Shalala’s residence. When Shalala opened the door, Ladson-Billings said hello and Shalala replied, “What do we need to do to get you?”

One thing led to another, and soon Ladson-Billings found her family moving to

Wisconsin. Those first interactions gave her a glimpse into how Shalala always looked ahead and was committed to going out of her way to build a diverse faculty.

“That was always her vision,” said Ladson-Billings, who is one of the nation’s most prominent scholars of urban education. “Even back then, when others were saying they couldn’t find talented Black faculty, she said they’re out there and we are going to get them, and she aggressively did that.”

Many Black women, in particular, came on faculty and gained tenure with Shalala’s support, Ladson-Billings noted. Around 1991, when Shalala got wind that Harvard University had begun courting one of them – Nellie McKay – she did something that Ladson-Billings has never forgotten.

Shalala summoned McKay to her office and asked what would make her stay at UWM, Ladson-Billings recounted. McKay said she wanted there to be “enough Black women on faculty that I don’t have to like them all” – in other words, a numerically significant number to ensure diversity within diversity.

So Shalala hosted a catered dinner at her home, Ladson-Billings continued, and about two dozen Black female faculty showed up. “Donna came in and said, ‘I understand you folks don’t know each other. You need to fix this.’ And she left.”

It was the beginning of a strong support network that the group formed, later referring to themselves as “the Class of Shalala,” Ladson-Billings said.

But it’s not just women Shalala has mentored. Dr. Aubrey W. Bonnett, a professor emeritus in American Studies at SUNY Old Westbury, met Shalala when he was an assistant to the provost at Hunter and came to know her as “a very, very gifted leader.”

Shalala was working to place young academics and helped him get involved in the Office of Academic Affairs at CUNY, obtain a faculty fellowship and become a department chair at Hunter.

“She was always willing to help and give support, not just to Blacks and minorities, but the whole college,” said Bonnett, who has retired but still teaches.

“She was very, very, very devoted to women’s issues and seeing Black men in positions of power in higher education. And she is a change agent.”

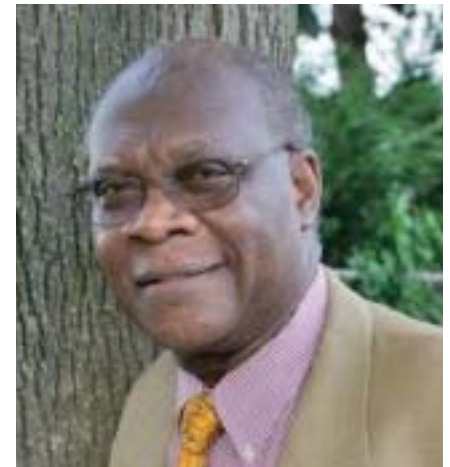
In 1987, Bonnett was the first African-American appointed to a dean’s position at California State University, San Bernardino, and later became vice president of academic affairs at SUNY Old Westbury.

Although Shalala won’t have the perks and privileges that come with seniority in Congress, Bonnett said “her leadership skills are so important and she has so much talent that she can bring about changes covertly, silently. She doesn’t have to be up front.”

Cole agreed, saying she is “jumping for joy” at the prospect of what Shalala and a record number of other women in Congress – including Muslims and Native Americans – will accomplish in government.

“I am reminded of an Ethiopian proverb that says when women lead, streams run uphill. So, I don’t expect the ordinary from Donna Shalala. I expect the exceptional, the extraordinary, maybe even the magical.”

LaMont Jones can be reached at ljones@diverseeducation.com. You can follow him on Twitter @DrLaMontJones



Dr. Aubrey Bonnett



Black is a theoretical hypothesis

Helidon Gjergji is a multidisciplinary artist and at the same time a professor of art at the Department of Visual Arts at New York State University [SUNY, Old Westbury]. He has worked on a variety of media, such as installation, video, painting, and urban art.

Helidoni is initially graduated at the Tirana Academy of Arts and later at the Academy of Fine Arts in Naples, to close the Master's degree program at Northwestern University in Chicago, Koha Ditore writes today.

He has exhibited at many national and international exhibitions including: Venice Biennial, Manifesta, Tirana Biennale, Bosnian Biennale, New York Museum New Museum Ideas Festival, Museum Ludvig in Budapest, Museum Pino Pascali in Italy, Kunsthale Botkyrka in Sweden, Chelsea Museum in New York, Kunsthalle Lothringer 13 in Munich, and in the national galleries of Albania, Kosovo, Macedonia, Montenegro, Romania and Malta.

He was the co-director of "Tirana Open". His work has been reconsidered by the international press, such as "Artforum", "Mousse Magazine", "Sculpture, Contemporary", "Flash Art", "Reuters" and so on. Helidon has lectured on his work at such institutions as: Harvard University, Columbia University, Northeastern University, American Academy in Dubai and others.

Gjergji is the character of this week being told in the weekly "7 Letters" section on "The Sunday of Koha Ditore".

Black . It does not exist in the reality surrounding us, but it is always a theoretical hypothesis. It is the cosmic holes that alludes the penetration of light.

Black is an idea without light and white is a light without idea.
Black is nothing that faces the all over white.

[Full article can be read in "Sunday with Daily News"]

You can also read the Koha Ditore newspaper online. **Here you can find out how to subscribe.**



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12/17/18 10:00am

Suffolk Closeup: Confronting Suffolk racism

by Karl Grossman

“How Do We Build A Just Long Island?”

That important question is being asked at a series of five public forums organized by the organization Erase Racism.

This is quite an undertaking, considering a history in which the KKK was a major force on Long Island in the 1920s; where Nazis from all over the New York Metro Area came and marched at their Camp Siegfried in Yaphank in the 1930s; where African-Americans have been consigned through real estate “steering” to communities aptly called “ghettoes;” and antagonism toward the latest immigrant group, Latinos, has been intense.

Moreover, the composition of students at schools is based on neighborhoods, and so most schools are nearly all-white and several nearly all African-American and Latino.

I went to the forum in Riverhead last week held by Erase Racism. Its executive director, Elaine Gross, opened it by noting that Long Island has been found to be “among the top 10 segregated metropolitan regions in the country.” The purpose of the forums, she said, is to “try to activate the public” and cause change.

First, there was a panel of three experts, then the 100 people in attendance formed into discussion groups, and then a representative of each came forward with proposals of his or her group.

“All humans alive today share a common ancestor in Africa 150,000 years ago,” said panelist David Micklos, executive director of the Dolan DNA Learning Center at the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory, a world leader in genetic research.

“All humans share 99.9 percent of their genetic material,” Mr. Micklos added. “Biologically there’s very little difference between any two human beings.”

He contrasted the slight genetic difference between people of only “one-tenth of one percent” to the genetic differences between types of corn in Mexico which ranges from 5 to 10 percent.

“Race doesn’t exist — it’s a social construct,” said panelist Anthony Zenkus, senior director of education and communications at the Victims Information Bureau of Suffolk and a professor at Columbia University. “White is a skin tone, not a racial identity.”

There was the “invention of whiteness,” and this “props up supremacy ... Long Island is one of the most segregated regions because we have some of the richest, most elite communities in the country. Economic inequality and racial inequity, class and race are inextricably linked.”

Miriam Sarwana, a graduate student in psychology at Stony Brook University, spoke on the results of racism — how “nonwhites on Long Island are five times more likely to be arrested as a result of traffic stops,” and in Suffolk County, 53 percent of all arrests and 67 percent of felony arrests in the past decade were of people of color.

What’s involved, said Ms. Sarwana, is “structural racism.”

Ms. Gross, before the break-out session, said: “We are structured to be racially separated. We can’t let this stand.”

After a re-assembly of attendees, representatives reported their group’s recommendations.

“We need to look deeply inside ourselves and identify different biases that we have,” said Laura Goode, a retired nurse at Riverhead High School. If “we can acknowledge this we should be able to overcome it.”

We need to “break our generational curses,” said Lawrence Street, a leader of the Eastern Long Island chapter of the NAACP. “If we don’t do that ... things will remain the same. We must begin that dialogue and talk about it.”

“Schools are silos, breeding grounds, of segregation,” said long-time teacher and former Suffolk County Legislator Vivian Viloria-Fisher. The pattern of schools lacking diversity needs to be changed, she said. Needed, too, she said, is affordable housing which has routinely been stopped by a “few loud voices ... and politicians got nervous.”

The need for diversity in schools so young people can get to know young people of other backgrounds is critical, I’d say, based on my 40 years of teaching at [SUNY/College at Old Westbury](#). The college for a half-century has had a goal of having diversity be a key part of the educational experience. It’s among the most diverse colleges in the U.S.

There are equal amounts of white, African-American and Latino students as well as Asian-American, Native American and foreign students. The faculty and administration is comparably diverse.

No group is in a majority. It’s wonderful to see the students get to know each other and get along beautifully.



COURTESY ILLUSTRATION

LONG ISLAND

LONG-TRUSTED TRUSTEE

Has served on
Lynbrook school
board since '70s

BY JOIE TYRRELL
joie.tyrrell@newsday.com

Alicemarie Bresnihan, about to enter her 44th year as a trustee on the Lynbrook Board of Education, has a real insider's knowledge of the local schools.

Her — and her late husband's — nine children were students in district schools from 1960 through 1987, and all graduated from the system. She now has 21 grandchildren, including three enrolled in Lynbrook schools. She is a familiar face at school concerts and athletic events and serves as a reading partner to students in the classroom.

Over the decades, she has faced some opponents for her seat on the board, but not many, she said in a recent interview. She has had a hand in the hiring of several superintendents and has overseen millions upon millions of dollars in annual district budgets.

"I really, really enjoy seeing our students and their achievements, and I just really feel very close to them, and I am very proud of our kids," said Bresnihan, who declined to give her age, saying she is "older than you think."

Bresnihan is one of the longest continuously serving trustees in public education on Long Island. The New York State School Boards Association does not keep a tally of how long board members across the state have served, although the group's officials said there are some in upstate districts who have spent 50-plus years as trustees. The Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association does not keep an official record of tenure, either.

Another long-term trustee

Sydney Finkelstein of Elwood has been a member on the Western Suffolk BOCES board for more than 50 years. He was first elected to the Elwood school board in 1967 and to the BOCES board in 1979. He declined an interview, but officials at Western Suffolk BOCES honored him last year, saying he "is the consummate gentle-



Alicemarie Bresnihan, who has served on the Lynbrook school board since she first was elected in 1975.

I really, really enjoy seeing our students and their achievements, and I just really feel very close to them, and I am very proud of our kids."

— Alicemarie Bresnihan, about to enter her 44th year as a trustee on the Lynbrook Board of Education

man and an important, valued and highly respected board trustee. He has spent the majority of his adult life in service to the children of Long Island."

Bresnihan moved to Lynbrook in 1959 with her husband John. They were drawn to the village for its Nassau County location and the reputation of the school district, she said. Bresnihan was first elected to the board in 1975 after being active in the local Parent Teacher Association.

It took her 30 years to earn her bachelor's degree from **SUNY Old Westbury**, but she did and retired in 2003 after working for 20 years as a probation officer for Nassau County. She also is a past president of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association. Her husband died in July 2017.

Lorraine Deller, executive director of the Nassau-Suffolk School Boards Association, said Bresnihan has been a long-time advocate of education at the federal level as well, traveling to Washington annually and

meeting with local members of Congress during the year.

'A sense of continuity'

"You know, long-term, veteran board members bring a sense of continuity and a connection to the culture of the district and serve to inform and educate new board members," Deller said. "They serve a vital role."

As a trustee, dealing with the district budget is always a challenge, Bresnihan said, and she believes students and teachers face more stress now than ever.

It's time, she said, for the State Legislature to put the "kibosh" on using student test scores to evaluate teachers — a move that caused much controversy and resulted in the state Board of Regents placing a four-year moratorium on that linkage, which probably will be extended past its scheduled end in June.

"I find that school is a lot more work than when my children were in school — a lot more is expected of kids," she

said. "It is a hard job; teaching kids is a hard job."

Lynbrook schools Superintendent Melissa Burak said Bresnihan's longevity on the board "provides historical knowledge that is invaluable."

Jennifer Aboud, 49, is Bresnihan's youngest daughter, and her three children are district students. She said residents often say to her, "Your mother is amazing, and she knows all about the history of this community — and we need somebody like that."

Aboud said she does not really recall much about her mother being on the board when she was a student, but she said it is special for her children. She noted that Bresnihan serves on the board for all students.

Her mother travels to art shows that are out-of-district, and she is at football, basketball and lacrosse games. She even went to Carnegie Hall last year when local students were performing there, Aboud said.

Looking back over her time as a trustee, Bresnihan said that among the highlights is when the district of about 2,700 students has been recognized for its achievements. She is in the midst of her three-year term, and she is not sure if she is going to run again when she is up for re-election in May 2020.

"I haven't made that decision," she said. "It has been a long time."

REAL ESTATE WEEKLY

Deals & Dealmakers

WHO'S NEWS: Matthew Sparks lands at GFI Realty; JLL hires another Silicon Valley veteran

by REW

November 21, 2018



GFI Realty Services the hire of **Matthew Sparks** as Senior Managing Director. An industry professional with more than 20 years of commercial real estate experience, Sparks will leverage his industry contacts and knowledge of the New York City multifamily market to expand GFI's investment sales activity across the city.

Sparks served most recently as a principal at Eastern Consolidated, where he specialized in arranging multifamily investment sales transactions.

Prior to that, he spent three years as a managing partner of ERG Property Advisors, a brokerage he co-founded in 2010. Earlier, Sparks spent more than a decade at GFI Realty, where he developed his expertise in the broad range of multifamily properties. He also has extensive experience transacting in the affordable housing space.

Over the course of his career, Sparks has arranged a total of approximately \$1.5 billion of transactions.

Recent transactions include the \$63 million sale of a 13-building multifamily portfolio in Inwood

Sparks studied accounting and finance at [SUNY Old Westbury](#) and is a member of REBNY.

...

North Merrick fire commissioner election upcoming

Posted December 5, 2013

By Brian Racow



Joseph Vicario

Two vacant seats on the North Merrick Fire Department's Board of Commissioners — created when commissioners Robert Ellensohn and Michael Costanza were forced to resign because they took part in a widespread, criminal scheme in which Long Island Rail Road employees retired on fake disabilities and drew federal benefits — have led to a larger-than-usual field of candidates running for the board this year.

Scott Rockwin, a long-serving commissioner, is running unopposed in a regularly scheduled election for a five-year term, while four candidates are running in special elections for the two seats that Ellensohn and Costanza vacated.

The election will take place on Dec. 10, from 2 to 9 p.m., at the department's headquarters, at 2095 Camp Ave. Voters who have lived in North Merrick since at least Nov. 10 and who registered with the county Board of Elections on or before Nov. 17 are eligible to cast ballots. The following is information on the candidates.

Two-year term special election

Joseph Vicario

- Age: 57
- Family: wife, Cathy; daughter, Kaitlin; son, Anthony.
- North Merrick resident for: entire life.
- Education: bachelor's degree in business, SUNY College at Old Westbury.
- Career: Town of Hempstead Water Department. Vicario cited "30 years of municipal experience in management, accounting, purchasing and supervision."
- North Merrick Fire Department experience: 19-year member, firefighter and EMT, chief from 2003 to 2008, member of EMS committee and safety committee.
- Prior electoral experience: none.
- Goals for office: "Mostly, I want to be fair."
- Other: North Bellmore-North Merrick Little League director; 18-year Little League coach.

The Garden City News

After 15 years, Library Vice Chair looks to pass the torch

December 14, 2018

BY RIKKI N. MASSAND

At the Garden City Public Library Board of Trustees' meeting held Monday night, December 10, kind words, applause, affection, a Certificate of Appreciation, cookies and a cake were presented to the Library Board Vice Chair, Gloria Weinrich, marking her 15 years of dedication to the library and the Village of Garden City.

Library Trustee Weinrich is a longtime Western Property Owners' Association director, a career educator and a loyal New York Rangers' hockey fan. Since 2003 she has volunteered on the Library Board, having served as the vice chair for the last 12 years of her 15-year run. She called the December 10 meeting to order, and as Library Board Chairman J. Randolph Colahan will be traveling during the holidays, Weinrich is serving as the acting chairperson of the Library Board for the next two weeks, Colahan announced.

The Library Board has officially voted for Weinrich to remain as vice chair through 2019, and although Trustee Weinrich is actively looking for a new WPOA volunteer to fill her role, she accepted. Board Chairman Colahan announced that at this time there is no nominee to fill her seat as the library trustee from the West. Trustee Weinrich will remain in service for now and officially retire from the Library Board once there is a successor in place from the WPOA. Applications for the Library Board trustee position should be directed to the WPOA (gcwpoa.com).

Colahan was proud to honor his longtime friend Weinrich at the December 10 meeting. He said the Certificate of Appreciation presented this week and small celebration were a way to thank Weinrich before she officially leaves her post with the Library Board. Weinrich joked with her colleagues, "it has been a hard 15 years."

Every year in late December, Library Trustee Weinrich has submitted the article "Garden City Public Library Board appointments" always published in The Garden City News, and the votes for positions take place at each December's Library Board meeting.

Over the summer Trustee Weinrich authored the introductory article for the new library director at GCPL, Marianne Malagon, published in The Garden City News on July 13, 2018. Two months later, on September 16 Weinrich spoke on social and historical perspectives during the unveilings of the Gutenberg Bibles display at GCPL, donated by Gil and Lynn Pavia (with the Friends of GCPL covering half the cost of the display cases) and the Reach for Knowledge sculpture by Angelo Bona that adorns the back wall of GCPL. Trustee Weinrich has longtime led the Community Relations and Public Relations functions of the Library Board of Trustees, as a regular contributor of articles and photographs for the News.

At the December 10 meeting Weinrich supported a report from Reference Librarian Ann Garnett for GCPL to use a paid service called Meet Edgar to schedule informational library-related social media posts to Twitter, Facebook and blogs at regular intervals, avoiding oversaturation, for \$50 per month. Weinrich believes this engagement to be a good community initiative, and Trustee Lola Nouryan agreed with the notion. The library's planning came up after Garnett wrote about a program on Social Media Engagement for Cultural Institutions held at Sachem Public Library in November: "social media posts should be planned to be posted consistently at appropriate times, managed for responses, and analyzed to determine if the platforms used reach the intended audience....For adults most posts should reach the audience when people are most likely to check their personal social media — Monday and Tuesday, sometimes Wednesday, are suggested days to post rather than later in the week, and seldom if ever on the weekend."

On Monday evening GCPL's staff, Joanne Kastelek and Director Malagon, presented a cake and balloons as they congratulated Trustee Weinrich. Malagon thanked her for the many contributions to the library.

"This cake, certificate and the festivities are from all of us and your fellow trustees of the Garden City Public Library.... The library and its Board of Trustees acknowledges Gloria Weinrich in recognition and sincere appreciation of her 15 years of devoted service, valuable contributions and dedication as library trustees including 12 years of service as vice chair. On my first day coming to GCPL I met with Trustee Weinrich and Trustee Nouryan and I believe I would not be here if I hadn't met you that night. I am very grateful for the opportunity to serve as library director and for your part in it!" Malagon said.

Weinrich has traveled to all seven continents on Earth and initiated travel programs for many local organizations and schools. Within the field of education, she's been active as an innovator and motivator. Weinrich has written a syllabus for social studies, was on the committee to write the first state charter in education for [SUNY at Old Westbury](#), and has mentored the student teacher program in the Carle Place Public Schools. She was the first vice president of the Carle Place Teachers Association and the first president of the Carle Place Retired Teachers group. For many years she continued as president and vice president, secretary and historian for that organization.

After graduating from Washington Irving High School in New York City, Gloria attended Hofstra University where she received a BA in History and MA in Education. She went on to continue her education in both Education and other fields. Gloria was president of the Alpha Upsilon Chapter of Delta Kappa Gamma International, an organization of exceptional educators, where she successfully conducted a NY statewide conference. In 2010 Trustee Weinrich received the prestigious "Woman of Distinction" award from the New York State Assembly.

Amnesia, Lack of Accountability Reign as Wall Street Celebrates Halliburton's 100-year Anniversary

By Lauren Smith
teleSUR 14 November 2018

Global Research, November 30, 2018
Region: USA Theme: Oil and Energy

"So for Halliburton's 100-year anniversary wish, let's wish its stock tanks and that its guilty are remembered, held accountable, and that justice is ultimately served."

When it comes to the ruling elite's corporate plunder and crimes against humanity, the U.S. national memory's short and no one, not even its political henchmen, assume blame or suffer real consequences: take Halliburton and former chief executive and U.S. Vice President Dick Cheney for example.

Not only did Cheney plan and justify the invasion, occupation and pilferage of Iraq's oil, gold bars and national museum treasures under treasonous false pretenses, but its subsidiary, Kellogg Brown & Root (KBR Inc.), overcharged the U.S. taxpayer to a tune of more than US\$2 billion due to collusion engendered by sole source contracting methods and shoddy accounting procedures.

It's even forgotten that Cheney received a US\$34 million payout from Halliburton when he joined the Vice President ticket in 2000, in advance of his unscrupulous maneuvers, according to news commentator, Chris Matthews; because on November 5th 2018, in celebration of its 100-year anniversary, its chief executives rang the New York Stock Exchange's (NYSE) opening bell.

Sadly, as a nation, the U.S. doesn't recall Cheney's lies, or his role in planning the contemptible "Shock and Awe" saturation bombing campaign that destroyed a sovereign nation, which posed no threat to the United States, and left the world's cradle of civilization in ruins. Conveniently, it doesn't recall the over 500,000 deaths from war-related causes, as reported by the Huffington Post in its 2017 updated article; nor does it recall that obliterating Iraq's government created a sociopolitical vacuum that enabled the exponential growth of the CIA's unique brand of Islamofascism and its resulting terrorism, which has culminated in war-torn Syria and Yemen.

Iraq's only "crime" against the United States, if you want to call it that, was being hogtied by Washington's sanctions and embargo against it – in what can only be called a Catch 22 situation. Iraq couldn't do business with U.S. corporations not because Saddam Hussein was unwilling to, but because the U.S. government effectively barred Iraq from doing so. This Catch 22 situation is presently being repeated in Venezuela and Iran in advance of its planned invasion and occupation.

Then there is the cost of war itself: according to The Costs of War project at the Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University,

"The wars in Afghanistan, Pakistan, and Iraq (the war in Pakistan refers to U.S. counterterrorism efforts there, such as drone strikes and other efforts against al Qaeda) cost US\$4.4 trillion. Included in the cost are: direct Congressional war appropriations; war-related increases to the Pentagon base budget; veterans care and disability; increases in the homeland security budget; interest payments on direct war borrowing; foreign assistance spending; and estimated future obligations for veterans' care. By 2053, interest payments on the debt alone could reach over US\$7 trillion."

Keep in mind that the U.S. taxpayer directly subsidizes the profits of the military industrial complex, and oil & gas industries. Yet, no U.S. protests against Halliburton are found in the media later than 2007. And, there are no organized disinvestment campaigns of record.

So Wall Street celebrates Halliburton's 100-year anniversary with a clear conscience, because no one has graffitied its large four column wide sign or is disinvested from its stock. The nation only recalls, according to IBTimes, in their 2013 article on Iraq war contracts, that Halliburton's subsidiary, KBR, had the most: KBR's war contracts totaled US\$39.5 billion in just a decade.

Other than the Kuala Lumpur War Crimes Commission, which found Cheney and President Bush et al guilty of war crimes in absentia for the illegal invasion of Iraq, there remains no lasting acknowledgment in the U.S. consciousness of Cheney's evil doings. Cheney had recent book deals and continues to ramble on with speaking engagements. He was scheduled by Cornell University to issue a keynote address as recent as May 2018. In short, the ruling elite protects those engaged in their dirty work until they prove unnecessary. In this regard, consider the fact that Saddam Hussein was a former CIA asset and a good corporate customer – as the weapons of mass destruction (WMD), he once possessed, were sold to him by the U.S. and Britain. However, according to the former United Nations (UN) chief weapon inspector, Scott Ritter, the UN destroyed Iraq's stockpiles after the Persian Gulf War (1990-1991)—well before the 2003 invasion. This report was ignored because it contradicted the prevailing narrative that justified the invasion, occupation and looting of Iraq.

Just as the ruling elite engineered Saddam Hussein rise to power when he was useful, they ensured Cheney's political ascent, and the success of his campaign against Iraq. To illustrate the persuasive power of the oil & gas industry in politics, note that according to Open Secrets.org, oil & gas lobbyists spent over US\$175M in 2009 (Obama's first year in office). Of that amount, ExxonMobil spent the most at US\$27.4M and Chevron Corp., in second place, spent US\$20.8 million. For the record, ExxonMobil and Chevron are successors of Rockefeller's Standard Oil Company. Prior to President Obama & Vice President Biden, the Oil & Gas Industry lobbyists spent approximately half that amount at \$86.5M in 2007. Thus, Bush & Cheney represented a 50 percent savings for oil & gas lobbyists.

When seeking to "out" the elite, keep in mind that the Rockefeller clan describe themselves "as ExxonMobil's longest continuous shareholders". In Iraq, ExxonMobil has a 60 percent share of a US\$50 billion market contract developing the 9-billion-barrels southern West Qurna Phase I field, and ExxonMobil is expanding its oil & gas holdings into the semiautonomous Kurdish region in the country's north.

Within this context, the enemy is not a corporate office, an oilrig, pipeline or refinery; it's the ruling elite that own and control the means of production. If people of conscience don't hold them accountable for their crimes, they will continue to commit them in countries such as Venezuela and Iran, which are presently locked in their sights. While henchmen change, the ruling elite remains. Why should the U.S. allow its military and secret service to be pimped out as corporate stooges and glorified security guards?

Imperialism is insatiable and fascism expedient. The time to hold the ruling elite accountable is now before another invasion and occupation is executed against a fake enemy that just so happens to coincidentally have a large desirable oil reserve. Let's follow Iceland's lead and seek the prosecution of white-collar criminals that hide behind a facade of corporate stock holdings now, before it's too late and they strike again in Venezuela and Iran.

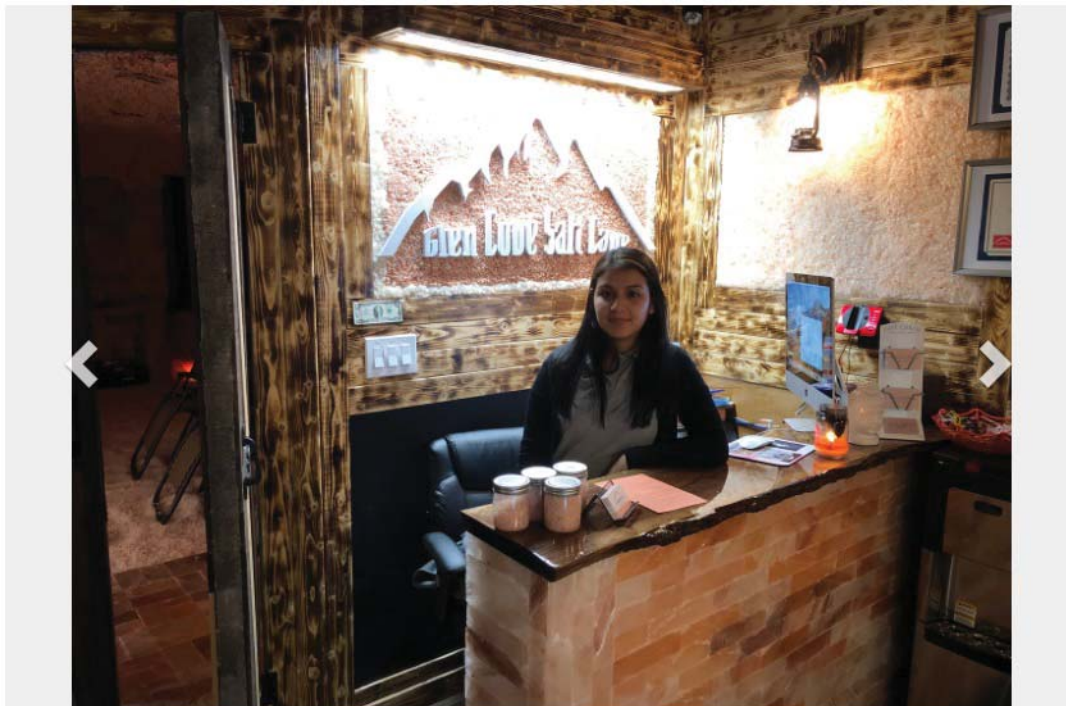
So for Halliburton's 100-year anniversary wish, let's wish its stock tanks and that its guilty are remembered, held accountable, and that justice is ultimately served.

Lauren Smith has a BA in Politics, Economics and Society from [SUNY at Old Westbury](#) and an MPA in International Development Administration from New York University. Her historical fiction novel based on Nicaragua's 1979 revolution is due out in 2019.

Holistic health at new salt cave in Glen Cove

Posted November 16, 2018

By Joe Pantaleo



Glen Cove resident Yajhayra Reyes was inspired to open the city's very first salt cave after she struggled with eczema growing up.

JOE PANTALEO/HERALD GAZETTE

When Yajhayra Reyes, 24, of Glen Cove, opened her business last month, she aimed at giving residents an outlet to relax and decompress, while also exposing them to the health benefits of salt therapy.

Reyes first pursued the idea of opening a salt cave this January and started her search for a space in the spring. When she found a location with parking and handicap accessibility, she imported 25 tons of Himalayan salt from Pakistan. With the help of her father, Raul, an independent contractor, she used the salt to design the interior of the caves over the summer. The store opened on Oct. 11.

According to the Salt Therapy Association, the inhalation of dry salt, known as halotherapy, helps absorb allergens, toxins and foreign substances that build-up in the lungs. The salt particles can also help relieve acne and other skin conditions. While halotherapy is recognized as a safe and effective wellness practice, Reyes acknowledges that it is not intended to replace medications or treatments.

To mimic the conditions of an actual Himalayan salt cave, Reyes puts customers inside one of two salt-filled rooms. Then, using a halogenerator pumps salt-infused air into the space.

"I'm not throwing you in there and you're just looking at salt," Reyes said. "You're actually breathing it in."

A graduate student at [SUNY Old Westbury](#), Reyes, first discovered salt therapy when she was struggling with eczema in high school. Desperate to find relief, she read about the benefits of halotherapy online.

After going to a few salt cave sessions in Huntington, Reyes noticed an immediate improvement in her condition. "Thirty percent of my eczema was gone after a week," she said. And after one month, she was completely clear of any symptoms. "If it was a placebo effect, how would [the eczema] have gone away?"

Ever since, Reyes, an undergraduate in public health, has been a frequent salt therapy patient, and now she's trying to make a business out of it. With only a handful of salt caves scattered across Long Island, she aims at giving residents an affordable halotherapy option located just minutes away.

Glen Cove residents Margret Hartigan and Lenore Guirrerri, both 77, discovered salt therapy two years ago in Pennsylvania. They have attended a few sessions at the Glen Cove Salt Cave.

Guirrerri, who struggles with sinus headaches, claimed that spending time in the cave has improved her condition. "I was looking for something much more holistic," she said. "My experience in salt caves has been very therapeutic."

Hartigan sought out salt therapy to improve her breathing and arthritis. "We're introducing other people to it," Hartigan said.

The two were complimentary of the Glen Cove Salt Cave's "affordable" prices, and plan on becoming regular customers.

In addition to the \$35 individual sessions, Reyes has hosted some group events in the salt caves. Last Saturday, she cleared out the larger cave for a yoga class, and a few weeks earlier hosted a Halloween-themed gathering, where kids dressed up in costume and played in the salt cave. Reyes also sells a variety of salt-based products in her store.

With no known side effects, Reyes believes everyone can benefit from a few sessions inside a salt cave. "This is a very noninvasive form of being able to feel better," she said. "You don't know if it's going to work until you try it."



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NOTEBOOK

Schools help feed those in need

Long Island students collected food and funds to help local families in need have a special Thanksgiving.

In Merrick, members of Meadowbrook Alternative Program's Key Club hosted a Taco Tuesday fundraiser to benefit the Community Cupboard, the food pantry for the Bellmore-Merrick Central High School District.

The effort raised enough money to purchase 50 roasting pans for the pantry's Thanksgiving baskets, which students and staff assembled on Nov. 15.

"Families in our area really need our help, and it's important for us to do what we can," Key Club president Grace Kavanah said.

In East Rockaway, students and staff at Waverly Park Elementary School in the Lynbrook school district collected about 200 canned food items as part of a Waverly Park CAN Be Kind project held in honor of World Kindness Day. The items, which were donated to Island Harvest, were decorated by students with stickers that featured inspirational sayings and drawings.

The National Junior Honor Society at Massapequa High School's Ames Campus hosted a three-week food drive, collecting enough nonperishable items — including soup, cereal and canned vegetables — to fill 30 boxes for Our Lady of Lourdes Church in Massapequa Park.

In West Hempstead, the high school's Key Club gathered enough food items to feed about 45 families. The student body also donated many gift cards.

PLAINVIEW

Discovery Learning Lab

The Plainview-Old Bethpage school district recently unveiled a new Discovery Learning Lab that will allow the system's elementary school students to participate in hands-on learning opportunities in the fields of biology, chemistry, physics and Earth science.

The lab, at Stratford Road Elementary School, is expected to help children form their own hypotheses and develop lab experiments to prove or disprove the theories. During the first lab session, students from Old Bethpage Elementary School explored the density and solubility of solids in various solvents.

"We hope that by encouraging our young students to participate in these fun, creative, science-based exercises, they will become more inquisitive, knowledge-seeking young adults, and have skills that will serve them well whatever direction their lives may take in the future," Superintendent Lorna Lewis said.



Students in the National Junior Honor Society at Massapequa High School's Ames Campus held a food drive for the Our Lady of Lourdes Church pantry in Massapequa Park.

COUNTYWIDE

Math scholars

Eighty-three students have been named Long Island Young Scholars of Mathematics by the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at **SUNY Old Westbury**. Selection means they are in the top one-tenth of 1 percent of math students in the grade across the Island.

Nassau County scholars and their school districts are: Aurrel Bhatia, Simoni Khashu, James McGlynn and Pawan Pitiranggon, Bethpage; Derek Zhang, East Williston; Edward Shen, Floral Park-Bellerose; Thor Cepeda, Freeport; Julia Wang and Oliver Zhang, Garden City; Christina Bai and Amber Sun, Great Neck; Jarod Chan, Connie Huang, Carolyn Lau, Kloie Liao, Joy Om, Nikita Shah and Kayla

Sohn, Herricks; Daniel George, Hicksville; Chris Huang, Island Trees; Victoria Chang, Anahita Chowdhary, Michael Jiao, Jean-Claude Pierre III and Vyom Shah, Jericho; Rio Arengo, Long Beach; Owen Brennan, Malverne; William Massaro and Deanna Polosino, Mineola; Darsh Mirchandani, New Hyde Park-Garden City Park; Aaryan Vira and Eli Wesley-Jones, North Shore; Alexa Perri, Oceanside; Sydnée Metrano and Kaisei Vi, Port Washington; Fiona O'Reilly, Sewanhaka; Cody Cheng, Griffin Hon, Vivien Huang, Katherine Li, Maggie Liu, Karan Patel and Samuel Wang, Syosset; Charles Wu, Valley Stream Central; and Melanie Volz, Wantagh.

Other local students selected are Jada Daniels, of Long Island Lutheran High School, and Alvin Deng and Misha Gujja of Long Island School for the Gifted in South Huntington. — MICHAEL R. EBERT



LEARNING TO REACH OUT

At a recent community service fair hosted by Manhasset Secondary School, students met with representatives of Tuesday's Children, a Manhattan-based nonprofit that supports children who have been affected by traumatic loss and terrorism.

Institute For Gifted Accepts 4 Northport Students

Those selected are in the top one percent of skilled math students Island-wide.

By Paige McAtee, Patch Staff | Nov 15, 2018 10:00 am ET | Updated Nov 15, 2018 10:00 am ET



The Northport-East Northport School District was recently informed that four students have been accepted into the Institute of Creative Problem Solving (ICPS) for Gifted and Talented Students.

Northport Middle School students Ty D'Amico and James Posillico, and Northport High School students Isabella Voza and Camden Burkare are four of the 87 students who received this honor. Six hundred students across Long Island were nominated for the program, and those selected are in the top one percent of skilled math students Island-wide.

Those selected will spend 50 hours over 20 Saturday mornings studying an extensive mathematics curriculum. The institute's mission is to grow problem-solving skills in students using intense mathematics and creative thinking.

Additionally, Danielle Levanti, a NHS student who previously completed ICPS, was accepted into program's Math Research and Technology class. This research program allows graduates of ICPS to hone skills of writing mathematical papers and how to deliver presentations on their work — skills necessary for future success in the world of mathematics.

This tuition-free institute is supported by [SUNY College at Old Westbury](#), the Suffolk and Nassau County Mathematics Teachers Associations, the Nassau Interscholastic Mathematics League and others.



Story, Photos courtesy of the Northport-East Northport School District :

Northport High School students Isabella Voza and Camden Burkare were selected for the 2018-19 Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students.

Northport Middle School students Ty D'Amico and James Posillico were selected for the 2018-19 Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students.

NHS student Danielle Levanti, who previously completed ICPS, was accepted into program's Math Research and Technology class.

New Hyde Park seventh-grader selected for college math program

By The Island Now

December 3, 2018



New Hyde Park Memorial High School seventh-grader Fiona O'Reilly is pictured with Principal Dr. Richard Faccio. (Photo courtesy of Sewanhaka Central High School District)

New Hyde Park Memorial High School seventh-grader Fiona O'Reilly was accepted into the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at SUNY College at Old Westbury. Fiona is among 85 students who will pursue the study of mathematics and its applications.

To qualify, Fiona and 84 other students competed against approximately 500 of the top-ranking students nominated from school districts on Long Island. Selection by the institute implies that a student is among the top one-tenth of 1 percent in math of all students on Long Island in his or her grade. Acceptances were based on four criteria: school transcript, teacher recommendation, a brief written statement by the student and a rigorous entrance exam.

Each student is expected to spend 50 hours in class over the course of 20 Saturday mornings. The curriculum covers mathematical topics including algebra, discrete math, number theory and more.

LONG ISLAND / LI LIFE

Syosset student amasses achievements



Griffin Hon, 12, a seventh-grader at H.B. Thompson Middle School in Syosset, has a growing list of achievements in math, science and film production. Photo Credit: The Hon family

By Michael R. Ebert

michael.ebert@newsday.com

Updated November 15, 2018 6:00 PM

A Syosset seventh-grader has amassed a list of academic achievements in fields including math, history and film production.

Griffin Hon, 12, who attends Harry B. Thompson Middle School, won a gold medal at this year's Long Island Math Fair and was a member of the school's Math Olympiad Team that placed third during the most recent tournament at [SUNY Old Westbury](#).

Griffin won an Award of Excellence at this year's National PTA Reflections Contest for his stop-motion animated film titled "The Great Drought of Causbotania." This work, entered in the film production category's middle school division, will debut with other winning efforts from students nationwide at a student arts showcase in Washington, D.C., in January.

"All of my achievements I'm very proud of, but the Reflections Contest holds a special place in my heart," Griffin said. "It's the one where I got to express my creativity."

In addition, he was named a Long Island Young Scholar of Mathematics by the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted and Talented Students at [SUNY Old Westbury](#) and a national qualifier in this year's National History Bee and U.S. Geography Olympiad. He also is a student at the Johns Hopkins Center for Talented Youth.

Griffin plays violin in his school's chamber orchestra and is a member of the Math Club, Technology Club, FIRST LEGO League team and Science Olympiad team.

Mineola students selected for problem solving

By The Island Now

November 5, 2018



Mineola's sixth-grader William Massaro and freshman Deanna Polosino were participate in the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted & Talented Students at SUNY College at Old Westbury. (Photo courtesy Mineola Union Free School District)

Two students from Mineola Union Free School District are among only 85 chosen islandwide to participate in the Institute of Creative Problem Solving for Gifted & Talented Students at SUNY College at Old Westbury. The district congratulates sixth-grader William Massaro and freshman Deanna Polosino on being selected for this prestigious and rigorous program.

William and Deanna will spend a total of 20 Saturday mornings – more than 50 classroom hours – tackling mathematical areas such as algebra, geometry, discrete math and number theory. The program focuses on problem-solving skills and challenging students beyond their typical course of study.