

the Tide

OF MORICHES & MANORVILLE

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business guide inside

85TH
75TH Anniversary
HONORARY BUSINESS GUIDE
Rotary Club of Moriches



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Love of Country's Joe Knoetgen and his truck, The Patriot.
MT/Grasso

Love of Country revving up for nationwide push

Closing downtown storefront

BY NICHOLAS GRASSO

From one weekend to the next, Joe Knoetgen's business trajectory changed drastically.

On Dec. 3, he wore fatigues at the 106th Rescue Wing of the New York Air National Guard, in Westhampton Beach, where he is a medic. On Dec. 10, he wore a Love of Country T-shirt on national television. He was invited on "Fox and Friends" for a Saturday morning segment highlighting American-made products people could order as holiday gifts.

Over the 48 hours that followed, his iPhone chimed nearly 1,500 cash register ringtones, one for every purchase made through his Love of Country web store. "This was an overnight thing, it's crazy," he said that weekend. "We ended the year last year at, like, \$230,000 for the year. "This year we were on track for \$175,000, maybe, because of how the

economy is," he continued. "And now we'll be back over better than last year, just because of these two days." The shot in the arm to Knoetgen's faith in his business could not have come at a better time. He has big plans for 2023 and could take comfort in countrywide support, and the cash boost to boot.
See **LOVE OF COUNTRY** on page 14

Inspiration Award winners

Tide honors the Moriches Paquatuck Squaws

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Nominated by Moriches Chamber members Maryann Reid Davis and cham-

ber board member and last year's award recipient Miriam Gillies, the Moriches Paquatuck Squaws have been selected as a group for this year's Inspiration Award winners. Their journey as a group in the community began with Gus Stout, president of the Moriches Rotary Club, and Lewis

Foster, member of the Moriches Rotary Club, in 1972. The duo asked a group of local women for help with raising funds for Camp Paquatuck, a special camp for children with disabilities. That same year, the ladies organized a very successful Christmas fair, which they decided to continue with more fundraising to help

the children of the camp. The original group of the Squaws started with about 10 women and has grown to over 30 women with membership. They are known for hosting fundraisers, including the original Christmas fair as well as the Bike-A-Thon, Chi-
See **PAQUATUCK SQUAWS** on page 15

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PAL football team wins championship PAGE 2

Parade, tree & menorah lighting PAGE 3

Col. Josiah Smith's New York State Marker PAGE 6

Red Devils PAL team finishes as champions

BY NICOLE FUENTES

The Center Moriches Red Devils Suffolk County Police Athletic League's 11-year-old football team recently won the Suffolk County PAL championship, after completing an undefeated season, 8-0! On Saturday, Nov. 9, the team played Hauppauge in the Sergeants Division Final, in which they won in a tight game, 13-12.

This season marked the last seasons for most players. The team consisted of 26 players, with 10 new players. They began practicing in August.

The coaching team included Brian Cunningham, Bryan Kelly, Mike Vitulli, Joe Castellano and Danny Powers.

"We thought we would be good, but never imagined that we would have the success we had," said Cunningham.

"[We] all work very well together to bring out the best in the kids," Cunningham continued.

"We have coached many of these players since flag football," added Kelly. "To see them go out on top was great!"

Their offensive team was led all year by running back Dominick Piciullo, who scored 14 touchdowns in the season. Running back Charlie Cunningham added nine touchdowns this season and quarterback Dylan Rubio commanded the huddle with poise and leadership. He completed plenty of passes, even adding a few touchdowns himself. He was often found downfield, delivering devastating blocks and paving the way for many of the touchdowns.

Defensively, the team crushed it. According to the coach, the team adjusted to different styles, shutting down their



This winning season marked the last season for most players. The team consisted of 26 players, with 10 new players. They began practicing in August.

Courtesy photo

opponents in every game. The defensive team was led by the linebacker crew of Sean Kelly, MJ Srodon and Dominick Piciullo.

"They were tackling machines," Cunningham said.

Also, Jordan Sands plugged up the middle at nose tackle, and Dominick Vitulli and Mike Piciullo played excellent defensive end.

During the championship game, they were originally down 6-0, with Hauppauge playing well on both sides of the ball, the coach said. However, with strong running by Dominick Piciullo, they tied the game with a touchdown by Charlie Cunningham. But Hauppauge answered with another touchdown, leav-

ing the score at 12-6. Hauppauge went on a long drive that took up most of the third quarter into the fourth. The defensive team didn't let them through, with tackles by MJ Srodon, Dominick Piciullo, Sean Kelly, and Mike Piciullo.

The offense took over and got key runs from Charlie Cunningham and Dylan Rubio, before Dominick Piciullo zigged and zagged through the defense, running 48 yards down to the Hauppauge 5-yard line. On the next play, Charlie Cunningham ran the ball around the corner for the tying touchdown. The extra point was run up the middle by Cunningham for the lead. The defense held Hauppauge from scoring for the remaining four minutes.

THE TEAM

Eli Chicas, Isaac Delgado, Rylan Patton, Logan LaGatta, Matthew Pisano, Devin Dade, Kaleesi Adlah, Sean Kelly. (Middle row) Thomas Barczak, Rylen Alaia, Jason Colucci, M.J. Srodon, Dom Vitulli, Holden Tenety, Nick Wolf, Mike Piciullo, Brandon Reaves. (Back row standing) Coach Joe Castellano, Josiah Castellano, Dylan Rubio, Coach Danny, Mason Lane, Dominick Piciullo, Coach Bryan Kelly, Cole Wagner, Charlie Cunningham, Coach Mike Vitulli, Joseph Brandi, Jordan Sands, head coach Brian Cunningham. (Not pictured: Marlon Talley).

"Cheered on by over 100 fans chanting 'defense,' tackle after tackle was made, frustrating the Hauppauge offense until eventually getting the final fourth down," Cunningham added. "A great finish to a great season."

Of the parents among the fans, Greg Lane was always there to chant: "Give them the business!"

The was the first year with Ali Adlah as the president of PAL CM Red Devils football. Registrations have opened up to meet the needs of younger children, with the flag football program starting at 3 years old. They have also added three girls across three tackle teams.

"I couldn't be happier with the growth of our program," he said.

For those interested in joining the Center Moriches PAL Red Devils Football League, email Adlah at cmreddevilfootball@gmail.com. ■

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A massive holiday crowd on Main Street

CMFD Holiday Parade of Lights

BY NICHOLAS GRASSO

The Center Moriches Fire Department's annual Holiday Parade of Lights shined brightly through downtown Center Moriches Saturday, Dec. 10. From Lake Avenue to Ocean Avenue, Main Street in Center Moriches was mobbed with fami-

lies eager for holiday cheer.

"It was an awesome turnout this year," Bill Renzetti, captain of CMFD Company One and parade chairman, said. "The town was packed with people from one end of the parade to the other."

Each year, a committee of judges awards trophies to some of the evening's best floats. This year's judges included Brookhaven Town supervisor Ed Romaine, Center Moriches resident Sarah Townsen, and Miriam Gillies of the Cham-

ber of Commerce of the Moriches, who described choosing winners as incredibly difficult, as they were "all outstanding." Among the evening's winners were the Mastic Fire Department for the Best Fire/EMS Float, Our Lady Queen-Apostles School for Best Community Group, and Holiday Beach for Best Overall.

In addition to the myriad of floats, spectators enjoyed dance performances by Legworks Dance Studio, Christmas classics courtesy of the Center Moriches

High School marching band, and a karate demonstration from students of the Shaolin Self Defense Center.

Renzetti said he began putting this year's parade together back in August. All the work he puts into it is worth it when he stands perched above the spectacle on the bandstand at Ocean Avenue.

"Watching the lights on the floats, and the kids smiling, and everybody happy and in the holiday spirit," he said, "that's the best part of the whole parade." ■



Legworks Dance Studio dancers performed throughout the parade.



Katie Frost of East Moriches holds her son, Carter, as fire engines approach.



Snare drummers from Sayville's New Wave Bugle and Drum Corps.



Antonio, Giovanni, Antonella and Alessandro Turturici waiting for the parade to pass them on Main Street.

All photos MT/Grasso



Moriches Chamber hosts combined Christmas tree and menorah lighting

BY NICHOLAS GRASSO

The Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches hosted a joint Christmas tree and menorah lighting at Center Moriches Square on Dec. 9 at 6 p.m.

For the past several years, Steve Drucek, of Drucek's True Value, has donated four hours of his time and an array of lights to decorate the tree. The menorah is the craftsmanship of Center Moriches native Greg Delong, who owns Freedom Wood Designs.

As the crowd drank free hot chocolate and coffee, courtesy of Hampton Coffee Company, they enjoyed performances

by middle- and high-school band students from Center Moriches and children and teens enrolled in the Artistic Choreography Dance Academy.

Before the festivities began, chamber president Arthur Gerhauser honored the memory of community figures who supported the tree lighting in years past: John Damiano of Damiano's Realty Group, which owns the square, and Dr. William Savino.

"This time of year, at Christmas time, we like to remember people," Gerhauser began. "John was liaison to the community; John was a man that never said no whenever the chamber of commerce

asked for anything. And so, when you see the star lit on the tree this evening, that star every year is in memory of John.

"Also, if you look at the storefronts on Main Street—the decorating—we always have a contest every year in memory of William Savino," he continued. "If you knew Bill Savino, he was 'Mr. Christmas.' And so, we have a contest within the chamber of commerce where we judge the window decorating and we give out an award in memory of Bill Savino."

Master of ceremonies Chuck Schultz, of Village Music Shoppe, invited Steve Schwartz, from the Jewish Center of

Moriches, to speak. In a playful way, he provided a brief lesson on Hanukkah for those who do not celebrate.

"There's an old Jewish joke: What holiday is celebrated on the 25th of the month and you get presents?" Schwartz began. "The answer is Hanukkah. What month? The month of Kislev. That's an old Jewish joke; you can tell it to your friends."

"We're very pleased to be invited here to participate in this," he continued. "I want to thank Miriam for the invitation; I want to thank the chamber for the invitation. It's a great pleasure to be here, to be a part of the community." ■



Brendan and Jessie McHefhey, of Center Moriches, brought their 4-year-old elf, Noah, to see Santa Claus at the Christmas tree and menorah lighting.



Brookhaven Town deputy supervisor Dan Panico addresses the crowd alongside supervisor Ed Romaine and Suffolk County Legis. Jim Mazzarella.



Chamber president Arthur Gerhauser welcomes the crowd to the Christmas tree and menorah lighting.



The tree and menorah are lit.

All photos MT/Grasso



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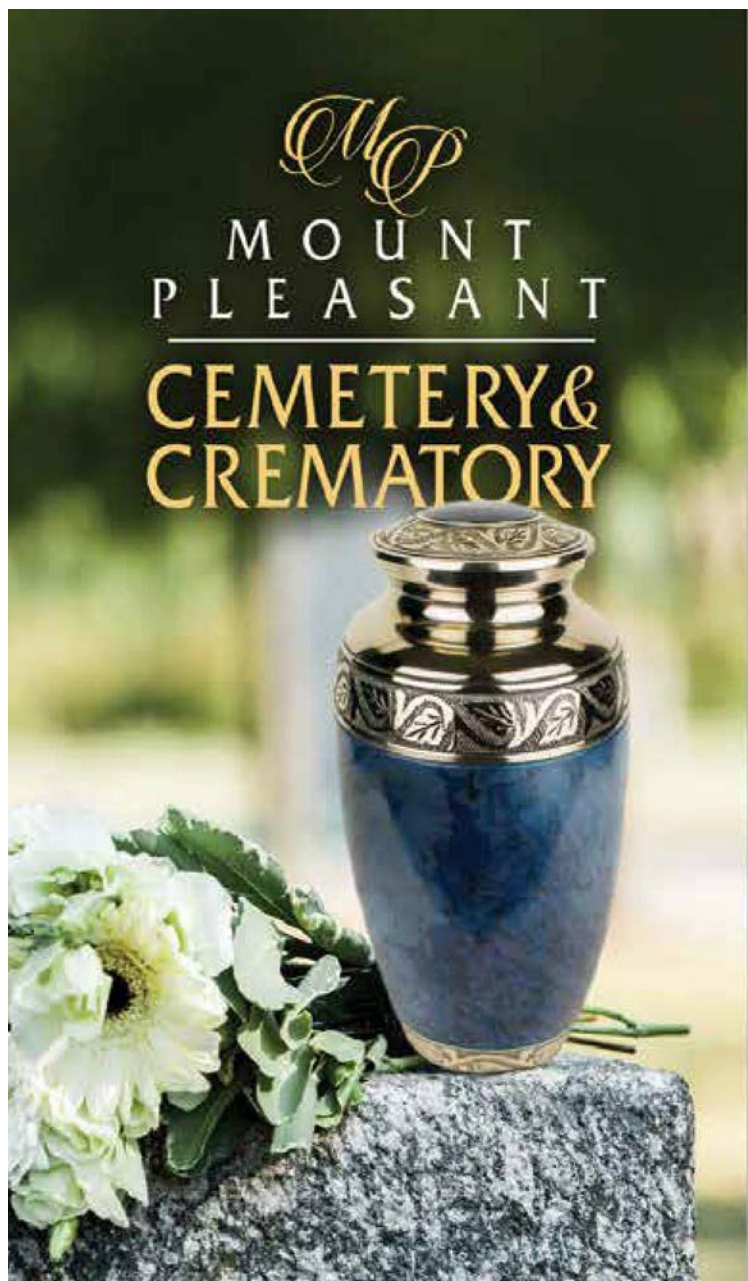
Volunteers wrap gifts for locals



The Moriches Community Center recently went shopping for Christmas; then, dozens of volunteers helped wrap all the gifts. The community gift-wrapping Santa's Workshop Day took place on Saturday, Dec. 17 from 8 to 11 a.m. The event was completely volunteer-run with about 35 volunteers helping. About 38 families are aided through the program. All items are then donated to families identified as "in-need" by the district. For more information visit morichescommunitycenter.org. Pictured is the local Girl Scout troop, which also

shopped for a few families. Also pictured is the Community Center treasurer and her daughter and grandson.
 -Nicole Fuentes

Courtesy photos



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North Fork Equestrian celebrates the timeless tradition of horseback riding

A world-class environment, including indoor ring suitable for all levels

BY SHANA BRAFF

Think of horseback riding, and that age-old tradition is likely to evoke iconic archetypal images of chivalrous knights in shining armor on a quest, stately queens making a grand entrance at the castle gates while riding aloft a white horse side-saddle, heroic princes saving the day, as well as rugged all-American cowboys, intrepid pioneers, and daring explorers making their way triumphantly across the plains in search of new adventures and success. With all these mythic connotations and more, it's no wonder that today, many are called to continue this more than 1,000-year-old tradition, in a 21st-century way.

Today, if someone rides horses, it's usually for the sheer enjoyment of the boundless freedom it imparts. However, there are also more practical reasons for becoming a modern-day equestrian, including but not limited to, equine therapy, stress-reduction, keeping your brain sharp, and reducing anxiety by initiating a calm and focused flow state, inherent in the delicate balance between horse and rider. Being an equestrian, one also gleans the immense confidence it takes to pick up the reins in all areas, while also staying open to wherever life takes you. Horseback riding is also an exciting addition to your physical fitness regimen. It strengthens a variety of muscles throughout the body, offers a great tune-up for your ticker, and improves posture. Being in nature also reduces stress itself, but with winter here, it's also great that riders have options for an expansive, climate-controlled ring to continue to reap all the benefits of the stately sport throughout the year, and North Fork Equestrian is an ideal option in this regard.

Escape the post-holiday doldrums this



North Fork Equestrian is situated on 21 acres of bucolic farmland.

winter and consider booking a session at the North Fork's preeminent equestrian facility. Situated on more than 21 acres of bucolic farmland and conveniently located in Riverhead, this idyllic, top-of-the-line equestrian facility, at the gateway to Long Island's legendary East End, was designed with both amateur jumpers and Grand Prix athletes in mind, as well as everyone in between. North Fork Equestrian features a 78-by-185-foot indoor riding area, which is welcoming to both horse and rider with its state-of-the-art, dust-free footing and surrounding mirrors, to monitor your form and to get to see the fabled version of yourself reflected atop a trusty steed. There is also an insulated ceiling and a stereo system throughout to keep your spirits lifted. The spacious, high-end facility has dozens of stalls of various sizes to accommodate each rider and horse's needs, and a 220-by-160-foot outdoor ring, with sure footing that consists of felt fibers and sand, with ideal drainage and layout. This allows all-year riding opportunities to give each equestrian a satisfying experience amid the picturesque landscape, featuring sweeping acres of

green grass and landscaped trees.

The manager of North Fork Equestrian, as well as a trainer, Deborah Moore, explained the benefits of horseback riding and what sets their facility apart: "It's a better workout than cardio. If you're looking for something to take you away, you need to just deal with riding. Life is stressful. Plus, you get the added benefit of working with an animal. That's its uniqueness. The indoor riding area attached to the barn is rare as well."

The owner and operator of North Fork Equestrian is Dennis Katevatis. For nearly 50 years, the successful entrepreneur has been the catalyzing force behind his renowned home-improvement company, Shells Only Complete Home Improvements. An amateur rider and equine enthusiast, Katevatis has always had a passion for riding, but amid the responsibilities of both raising a family and building a business, for many years, it left him little time for an avocation. However, he did impart his affinity for horses onto his granddaughter, Victoria Manzitto, who first sat on a horse at just 6 months old. She has now grown into an accomplished up-and-coming eques-

trian, with aspirations of becoming a career rider. When the opportunity to purchase the equestrian property came along, the timing was right, and, with his granddaughter's encouragement, he embarked on his latest endeavor.

Manzitto cited the "bond between rider and horse" as one of the most remarkable aspects of her chosen career path.

Throughout years of personal experience as a horse owner, Katevatis experienced the joys as well as the frustrations of horse ownership, such as dusty barns, unmanicured rings, lackluster care, and barn drama. These cautionary tales served as the blueprint on how to build a welcoming facility and create the supportive culture of North Fork Equestrian. Why not check out the equestrian facility, right in our own area, that would impress even Grand Prix athletes, but with a best-of-both-worlds atmosphere that makes it also feel like a day at the park? North Fork Equestrian is a stress-free, family-friendly environment with world-class trainers, pristine indoor and outdoor rings, adventurous fun, unique jump opportunities, and a sense of community with those who have a shared passion for the indescribable bond between horse and rider, which is unlike any other.

To book riding lessons, purchase gift certificates, or to find out more info, go to northforkequestrian.com. ■



Victoria Manzitto with her beloved horse, Noah. MT/Braff

Sonnie Betts makes it back to the main stage

Local elementary student acts in 'A Christmas Carol'

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Sonnie Betts, a 9-year-old fourth-grade student at East Moriches, was cast as Grace Smythe and served as the understudy for Tiny Tim in Gateway's "A Christmas Carol," at the Patchogue Theatre for the Performing Arts. The show ran from Dec. 16 to 18.

When asked about her character, she said, "Her mom died and her dad can't pay for the funeral expenses and are having a very hard time, going through a lot, with Scrooge not letting them get more time to pay."

The role marks the third that Betts plays with a mother who has died. Her real mother, Gerilyn, however, is alive and well, and attended all 15 shows.

As for memorizing her lines, Betts said, that's the easy part. The hard part is managing schoolwork and show work, as this was her first show while in school.

"But I still love it, and it's worth it to



Courtesy photo

get to go on stage," she said.

She was most excited to play alongside the Gateway's director of development and public relations, Scot Allan, who played her dad in the show.

"I have known Sonnie Betts since she appeared in 'The Sound of Music' as Gretl at age 5. She stole the show every night with her charm, poise, and complete devotion to the show," Allan said of the young actress. "She is a pro, and I have enjoyed watching her career grow as a young actor. Her mom, Gerylin, saw something early on and enrolled her

in The Gateway School of Performing Arts. She has now, at such a young age, worked and met some of the greats like Julie Andrews, and I'm honored to share the stage with her every night as her father in our production of 'A Christmas Carol.'"

"I just love being with the adults," she said. "It's just really fun."

Betts discovered her love for acting at the age of 4, and by the age of 6, she made her main stage debut at The Gateway Playhouse as Gretl in "The Sound of Music." Throughout her young career,

About the show:

"A Christmas Carol," the Broadway musical, was originally staged at the famous Madison Square Garden and was brought to life by Broadway heavy-hitters, Alan Menken (Disney's "Beauty and the Beast," Disney's "The Little Mermaid," "Little Shop of Horrors") and Lynn Ahrens ("Ragtime," "Seussical," "Once on This Island"), with a book by Mike Ockrent and Lynn Ahrens.

Betts has performed in a wide variety of shows at both the Westhampton Beach Performing Arts Center and The Gateway Playhouse, and most recently, this summer, appeared in Bay Street Theatre's "Ragtime."

The actress has two younger brothers and parents who are in the gardening and technology fields. She is the only actress of the family. When asked about her daughter's early acting career, Gerilyn, said she believes it's her stamina that gets her roles. ■

'Neighbors Being Human'

Church documentary features Passport Rotary

BY NICOLE FUENTES

A few years back, just prior to COVID, St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, located in Yaphank, started a community outreach program called Neighbors Being Human, by opening a food pantry. Soon after, the group began including the nomadic families living year-round at the Suffolk County campgrounds by creating blessing boxes and filling them with food. Families were able to take what they needed, and the church replenished it daily.

"In the off-season, only two campgrounds are open to families, who are forced to move weekly. One of the campgrounds only has six electrical sites, and campers are not allowed to use generators at night for heat," explained Rotary Club charter founder, Janice Graf.

The need continued to grow, and in search of assistance, a partnership formed with the local Passport Rotary, which stepped in and helped distribute to the campgrounds. Twice a month, Passport Rotary visits the campsites, bringing much-needed supplies. They serve over 500 people a month. On Thanksgiving and Christmas, the Rotary also helps prepare feasts to share, as well as food and warm clothing for the



Courtesy photo

harsh winter days and nights. And, this year, with the generosity of Lewin Farm, the group was able to acquire fresh vegetables to distribute to the campers.

Earlier this year, the Episcopal Diocese of Long Island funded and created the in-house made documentary about the program and nomadic families who benefit. The seven-minute documentary was filmed during the summer of 2022 and includes both the church's food pantry and the campsites distributions with Passport Rotary.

"They wanted to capture the plight of what they're going through," Graf said.

According to Richard Ohlsen, church chair of the program and Episcopal Diocese of Long Island postulant, the film was made by diocese videographers and can be viewed on the ministry's website at <https://episcopalministries.org/who-we-are/neighbors-being-human>.

He estimated that their pantries feed roughly 150 people per week, and predicts this number will increase as the holidays approach.

How to help

You can support Neighbors Being Human by making a financial gift or purchasing an item off their Amazon wish list. If you're a resident of Suffolk County and interested in getting involved, please email info@NeighborsBeingHuman.com.

Additionally, Passport Rotary holds food drives and fundraisers in order to continue to provide much-needed assistance for these families. Donations are tax deductible and can be sent to Passport Rotary Foundation, P.O. Box 1305, Center Moriches 11934, or visit their website, [@rotarypassportclub.org](http://rotarypassportclub.org).

"We want them to know they are not forgotten, and we are taking care of them," he said of why they continue to program, also explaining that many of the people are underemployed, just living in the margins. "God provides."

The team at NBH comprises both parishioners at St. Andrew's and concerned community members, including Richard Ohlsen, Sherrilee Partiss, Leo Serrate, Craig Chin-Suey, Robert Williams, Uwe Ross, Laura Geenen, Kerri Dillon, Shawna Tereshko, Kristen Iraina, Tony Mannino, and members of the Passport Rotary Club and IGHL Group Home Manorville. ■

Col. Josiah Smith's New York State Marker

BY JOHN PAUL REDMOND

Under lowering clouds with light rain winnowing against old headstones, local residents and elected officials from the Town of Brookhaven gathered at a small family cemetery on Paquatuck Avenue to garland wreaths and place a New York State Marker remembering Col. Josiah Smith's service during the Revolutionary War as commanding officer of The Militia - Suffolk County, First Regiment of Minute Men, from Long Island, N.Y.

It was Aug. 21, 1776, and weeks prior, "In the Battle for Long Island," some 30,000 British troops (Red Coats) amassed in Brooklyn and New York Harbor described as "all of London," in response to Bunker Hill and the signing of The Declaration of Independence. In fear, a call for arms heralded throughout the Colonies, and a whirlwind of activity and the building of fortifications and placement of troops commenced on Long Island, also known as Brooklyn. English King George, beset on taking New York and dividing the Colonies geographically, hoped to arrest or kill self-identified Patriots fighting for selfhood, like George Washington. And this may have happened, if only the British commanding general Howell had listened to his officers and soldiers and continued the attack.

Undeterred by this opposition, Col. Smith and the Suffolk County Minutemen responded to British claim with deadly force on the 27th of August. It was the heaviest day of fighting when British Gen. Howell ordered 20,000 infantry soldiers stationed in Flatbush (Flatbush, Brooklyn) to attack under Gen. Cornwallis, who then, latterly ordered half his force to flank the Colonists. By British accessing an old Native American trail near Jamaica Pass, they found entry to the rear of the Colonial forces, essentially surrounding them. Yet, American



Courtesy photos

Colonial Maj. Mordecai Gist and The Maryland 400 heroically attacked at the Vechte-Cortelyou House, "The Old Inn" near Park Slope, and took the fight to the British with waves of frontal assaults, as some Colonial battle lines held firm led by Smith late into the evening.

"We were alarmed at 2 in the morning and had many scurmishes (skirmishes) and they attempted to force our lines & they killed 1 of mine and we suppose that we killed a number of them, & and we drove them back & lay in the trenches all night," Smith from his diary Aug. 27, 1776.

Against all odds, Washington and his forces were pushed back to the East River as other defensive lines were broken, and soldiers dispersed from high ground near Park Slope to "The Heights," known as Guan, and farther west known as Gawanus Creek. While attempting to transverse marsh and boggy waters under gunfire, young Colonial foot soldiers were ripped apart and cut to the

waist by Hessian muskets (Mercenaries hired by King George from the Prince of Germany), who were surrounded and slaughtered to high-pitched cries. It was only the frontal assaults of the Maryland 400 and men who stood their ground that offered salvation for Washington and his 1200 men with the river to their backs. A slight delay by the British not to attack, the Colonial Marblehead Marauders from Massachusetts with their boats and sea vessels under the cover of a dark moonless sky evacuated Washington and his men to live, to fight in the hill-streets of Manhattan and White Plains in the following weeks and months.

Today, those canals, and creeks, and swamps where many died in Brooklyn are referred to as "Black Mayonnaise," due to pollution and raw sewage from the many Americans that came after, for what Washington once called a "Divine Providence."

Thus, free people to the East remember Smith with a blue steel marker, and

all men and women who have answered our county's call, in rumination of life and liberty. It was Col. Smith, who fought in the trenches and rain for days after Aug. 27 and marched to New Rochelle with the New York Minute Men to rendezvous with other regiments. On Sept. 1, he ferried back to Smithtown to his family homestead as grandson of "Bull" Smith, and was later arrested and jailed becoming a prisoner of war in the notorious Provost Prison in downtown British-controlled Manhattan. Released under house arrest, he was forced to live in Connecticut until the end of the war and returned to East Moriches, where he resided with his wife, Susannah Gelston, and their four children until his death.

"We are stronger as a nation remembering those that served," said Edward P. Romaine, Brookhaven Town supervisor at the Marker Commemoration, and one would have to agree. The Sons and Daughters of the American Revolutions were directly involved in this ceremony and provided literature and information to support this narrative. ■



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Healthy. Beautiful. Smart

BY STACY KREY, LMT

Happy New Year from the team at Ocean Spa Beauty and Wellness! We wanted to share with you a little about our intentions (dare we say resolutions?) for 2023. We started last year with a vision - that everything we do, every service we provide, and every product we offer support a healthy, beautiful, and smart lifestyle. "Healthy. Beautiful. Smart." became more than just a tagline, it became our guiding principle. This vision, and these words have informed every new product, service, treatment, and event we offered in 2022. And for 2023 we're renewing our intentions around health and wellness, beauty and confidence, and knowledge and expertise. We have and will continue to aim high - to provide therapeutic massage and skin care services using healthy, clean, and sustainably sourced products, and to provide the highest level of expert care so you can achieve all your beauty and wellness goals. Healthy, Beautiful, Smart - that's you!

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HAVE A HEALTHY, BEAUTIFUL, SMART NEW YEAR: Whatever your journey is for 2023, we'd like to encourage you all to know your own worth, create your own happiness, and embrace a path toward wellness. We are setting the intention for 2023 to be a Healthy, Beautiful, and Smart year for ourselves, our families, and our clients. Join us by scheduling an appointment at the spa. Begin 2023 by making time for you!

Ocean Spa Beauty & Wellness, established in 2015, is a family owned and operated day spa at 369 Montauk Hwy in East Moriches. Owners (and sisters) Stacy Krey, LMT and Virginia White, LE have over 20 years collective experience in the day spa industry. To speak with one of them directly, please call (631) 909-3810. A full menu of services can be found at www.OceanSpaLI.com.



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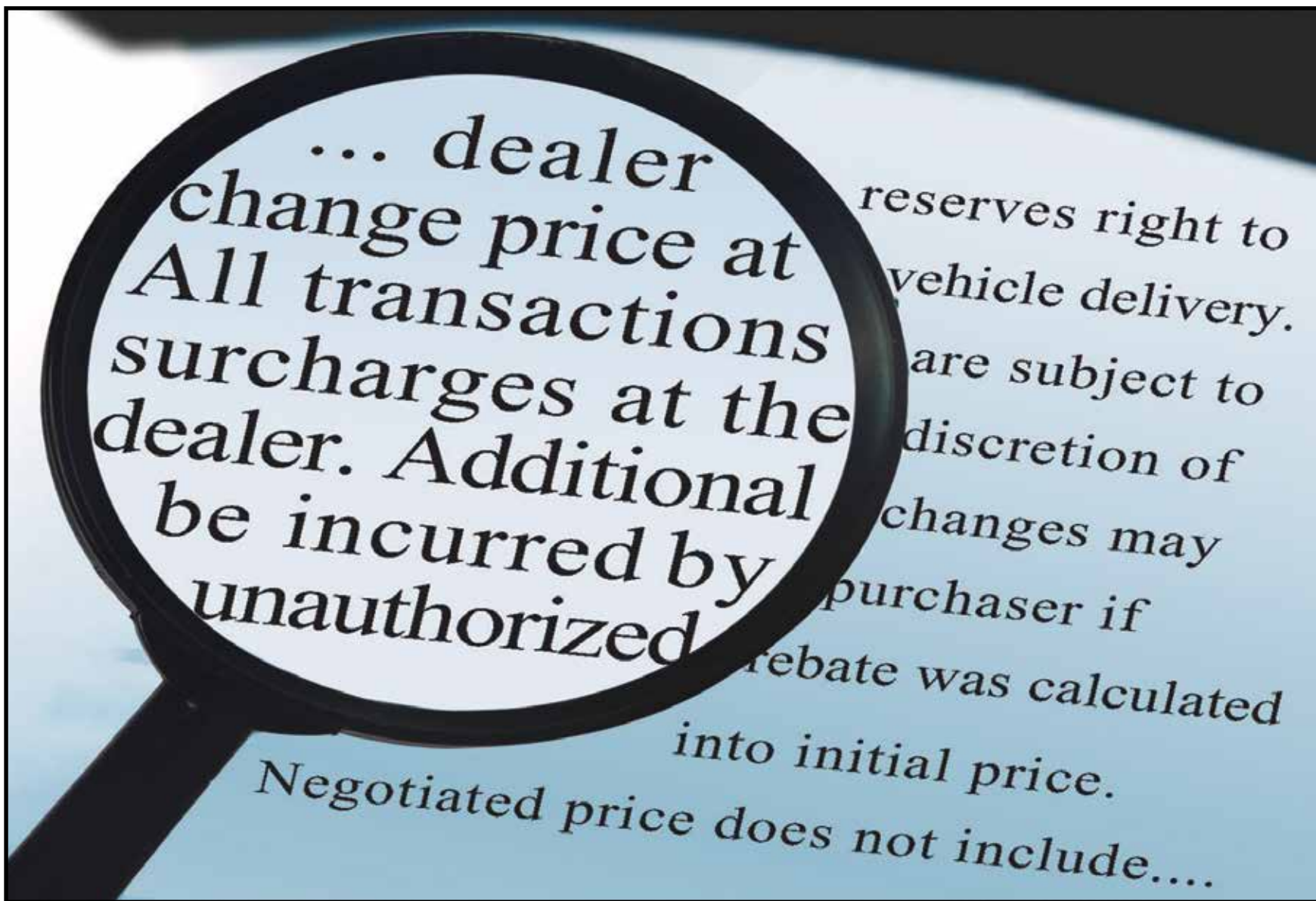
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Lots of fun on a chilly December Sunday

Moriches Chamber hosts Main Street Winter Wonderland

BY NICHOLAS GRASSO

On a chilly Sunday, street vendors, live music, and good eats lined Main Street in Center Moriches. The Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches hosted its second annual Winter Wonderland on Dec. 11, drawing locals to Main Street in time for the holiday shopping season.

While a few hundred people passed through the wonderland from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., some believed more people would have turned out if the temperature was not quite as frigid. A light snow also began to fall during the early hours of the festival.

"I wanted to spread Christmas cheer through the Center Moriches community," Melanie Grigonis, selling Swarovski jewelry, said. "It's freezing today; I don't think many people want to go out. It started snowing earlier and it's super cold."

Regardless of the weather, those who

attended had a great time. Grandparents Julie and Bret Blomberg brought their granddaughter Emerson Rottach to the event, where she received a candy cane from Santa Claus.

"Moriches is doing a good job; it's a nice little town," Bret Blomberg said. "We wanted to come support the town and the vendors here."

Some people came beyond the Moriches area just to see what all the fun was about.

"I was just looking up Long Island events and I found this really nice festival, so we decided to come out and

see what they had available," Kendra Snead, of Bay Shore, said after making the rounds through the vendors. "The soy candles smell really good, and we got some coffee at the library."

For the vendors, including newcomer Loide DiPippa, selling her Loide Candle Co. soy candles, the event was a great way to connect with the community.

"This has been really, really good; this is my first vendor event, and I love it," DiPippa, of Port Jefferson, said. "People are so friendly; everybody is so willing to support locals. I really love it. We did really well today." ■



Even grown-ups, including Gavin's Treasures owner Tova Keblish, enjoyed a visit from Santa.



Four-year-old Mya Howard dressed warm and enjoyed the festivities.



Emerson Rottach, of Center Moriches, joined by grandparents Brett and Julie Blomberg, of Farmingdale, receives a candy cane from Santa Claus.

All photos MT/Grasso

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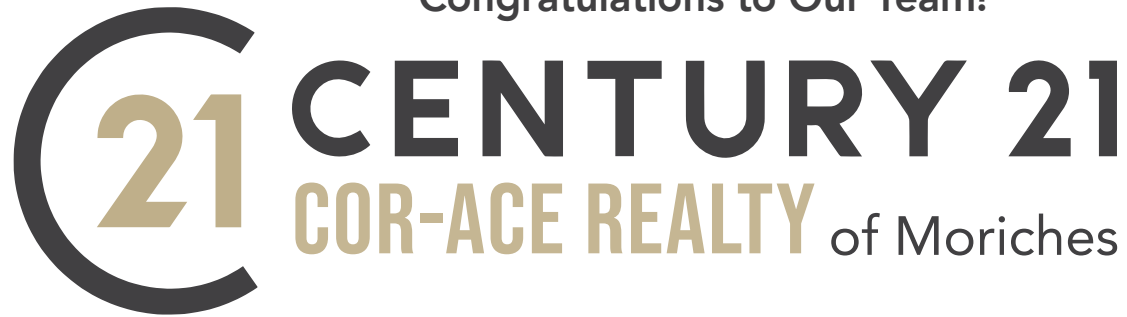
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LOVE OF COUNTRY: Meeting and recruiting veterans for the job

FROM PAGE 1

On Jan. 9, he and “The Patriot”—a retired military truck from 1990 he transformed into a blue behemoth, currently parked in the driveway of his Center Moriches home—are hitting the road.

“We’re taking The Patriot with the big trailer—an enclosed store—down to Florida, and we’re doing a country tour for 2023,” he said. “It’s going to go down to the Florida State Fair, the State Fair of Texas, Wisconsin, country music festivals, base exchanges at military festivals throughout the country. We’re expanding, we’re growing, and we’re excited for 2023.”

Knoetgen’s revenue goal for this cross-country tour: \$2.3 million.

Focusing on this national offensive, he and his wife, Kristen Knoetgen, closed the doors to their Center Moriches storefront at 3 p.m. on Christmas Eve for the last time. The couple will continue to live in Center Moriches, and would like to keep a pop-up shop running in town when weather permits.

Working from home

On Dec. 18, Knoetgen wore white Crocs, comfortable footwear for a man on his feet 12 hours a day working screen printers and an infrared ink dryer. Like his time, the mammoth-sized machines take up much of his basement. Garments, print screens, and other supplies spill into a storage room, the laundry room, and his office.

In addition to the black coffee in his American flag mug, he relies on friends and family to help him print, transport, fold, and ship the thousands of garments that sit in boxes and on shelves—or any surface, really—in his basement. He and his staff work simultaneously on individual screen presses. While he stamps main designs on the backs of tees, others can press sleeve and chest prints, before loading them onto the dryer’s conveyor belt.

Once he takes off, Knoetgen’s team will also continue to hand-print garments from his house to fulfill online orders and keep The Patriot stocked.

Among his most valuable players is, of course, Kristen Knoetgen, his high-school sweetheart and wife of 24 years, who folded army-green American flag T-shirts behind the counter of the Center Moriches storefront that same Sunday. The back half of the store’s floor space was closed off to fit hundreds of those tees, folded and sorted to fulfill the Fox orders.

“With his being on Fox, it just kind of reassures you that people like it,” Kristen, who teaches second grade at Sunquam Elementary School in the Half Hollow Hills School District, said. “Here in town, people have been super supportive, but to put it in front of the whole country and have people respond so well, it’s just reassurance that this next step is the right way to go.”

Meeting and recruiting veterans

Florida is not just Joe Knoetgen’s first stop on his 2023 itinerary; he hopes to make it Love of Country’s second home.

He believes obtaining a large production warehouse in Florida is more economically feasible than continuing to operate out of New York.

Here on Long Island, he has a handful of veterans on his team, and hopes to recruit at least a half-dozen more once he heads South. Instead of using larger, faster, more expensive screen printers in Florida, he will replicate the individual hand-print production model underway in his basement, freeing up funds for more hires.

“We decided instead of investing all that money in expensive machinery, we’re going to invest the money in veter-



Love of Country’s Joe and Kristen Knoetgen at their store.

All photos MT/Grasso

ans,” Knoetgen said. “We’re going to buy the less expensive machines that they can hand-screen print with.”

“It’s keeping them active, it’s giving them a job,” he continued. “In my mind, I see combat-wounded veterans, somebody that’s in a wheelchair, that we can adapt the print press to.”

Until he acquires this permanent home for his passion project, he will drive across the country meeting new groups of supporters. Before taking up a permanent post in Center Moriches, he traveled to various festivals and concerts, and enjoyed explaining the historical significance or military meaning

behind designs people may otherwise wear without a second thought.

“That’s super cool, going to the shows, meeting people, discussing the history behind designs, what I’ve done in the military, meeting other veterans and talking to them,” he said. “That’s the meaning behind everything we do—that’s why we do it.”

Work-service balance

Joe Knoetgen has worn many hats in his day, from physical education teacher to air traffic controller. As he approached 40, there was one he was still dying to try on.

“My dad was in the Air Force back in the ‘50s, and I always wanted to serve,” he said. “My wife was my high-school sweetheart; we were dating at Port Jeff High School back in 1991. I wanted to go into the military, but then I met her and I fell in love, and wanted to stay local.”

“The age cutoff [to enlist] was 40,” he continued. “Right before the cutoff, I decided I don’t want to wish I did this or look back and say I should’ve.”

Coming up on a decade of service, Knoetgen remains contracted to the Air Guard through 2025. Guardsman drills and Love of Country festival appearances battle for the squares on his office calendar. In the event of an unplanned call to report to the 106th or a deployment, he’ll have to come back to Center Moriches, potentially losing a festival deposit, unless he can put together a steady road crew, another mission for 2023.

Knoetgen arrived at the 106th after serving four years as a medical technician at the 105th Rescue Wing in Newburgh, where he earned Airman of the Year in 2016 for his work on the base, as well as his outside volunteer efforts. At Westhampton Beach, he served two years as a drill status guardsman before taking up active duty from 2018 to 2021.

In 2021, just before his new contract for drill status, he was awarded the Air Force Achievement Medal for teaching the base’s medical group critical lifesaving knowledge: TCCC, or Tactical Combat Casualty Care.

“It’s preparing us for war; it’s next-level trauma care,” Knoetgen said of the course. “It’s real deal, stop the bleeding, save a life under fire.” ■



Joe Knoetgen with shirt with wet ink.



Kristen Knoetgen folds the merch.

A year in review 2022

Tide of the Moriches

BY NICOLE FUENTES

Out with the old and in with the new; let's all say goodbye to 2022. Now is a better time than ever to review the last 12 months. Here is to good health and prosperity in 2023!

JANUARY

During the start of the New Year as local officials made new plans, we printed photos from the annual Christmas Parade of Lights; there was also an old-time Christmas event at West Manor School, a successful Winter Wonderland on Main Street, and we continued to seek nominations for our Person of the Year.

FEBRUARY

This month, we celebrated our very worthy Inspiration Award Winners: Miriam Gillies and Gerry Sapanaro, who jointly won for all their community efforts. The chamber also announced their St. Patrick's Day grand marshal as Kenneth Johnson, and Arthur Gerhauser was selected as the new chamber president.

MARCH

This month, we expanded our paper for the first time, making it larger than it has ever been. We featured a local resident who makes maple syrup on the front page and recognized the grand marshal. We also featured the Moriches Field Brewing Co. for a grant they received and Helping Makes U Happy collected over 1,200 boxes of cereal.

APRIL

Kenneth Johnson made it to the front page with photos from the St. Patrick's Day parade; more land was preserved by the town; Eastport South Manor released their val and sal; and there was a small artisan market in the Moriches.

Grand marshal smiles at 19th annual St. Patrick's Day parade

More land preserved

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Pay it forward on Main PAGE 3 | Veterans Day grand marshal passes PAGE 21 | Get ready for planting your garden PAGE 18

MAY

As the weather began to warm, we featured a review on Ocean Day Spa; movie and concert nights made a return; and the chamber readied for the Memorial Day parade. Camp Zoo returned to the Long Island Game Farm, and we featured the annual Easter egg hunt.

Feel the benefits of the sea at Ocean Spa

Happy Birthday, Bobo!

Eastbay Builders Wishes All A Happy and Safe 4th of July!

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Movie and concert nights PAGE 3 | Memorial Day parade info PAGE 3 | Clayton Huey students learn about electrical safety PAGE 4

JUNE

This month's front page had Long Island marine farmers on the front page harvesting seaweed. We also featured Jimmy Osborne, who celebrated 25 years in business in the Moriches. The Boy Scouts cleaned up Kim Hardwick's legacy garden, and two more parcels were preserved in East and Center Moriches. Also, the Waterdrinker Family Farm's Tulip Festival attracted thousands.

JULY

At the Long Island Game Farm, it was the Bobo the giraffe's birthday and he graced our front page donning a birthday hat. Silly Lily had a commercial code change; the Honor Flight took off and the Memorial Day parade commenced.

Silly Lily receives marine commercial code change

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Honor Flight takes off PAGE 3 | REVIEW: Coffee at the library PAGE 16 | Center Moriches val and sal PAGE 18

AUGUST

We had the annual Veteran Fishing Trip on the front page, and we also had photos of the Waterdrinker Sunflower Festival. We reviewed the Ultimate Ice Cream shop, which has a \$41.50 cone; and Eberhard Nurseries celebrated 80 years in business. This month, we also helped you back-to-school shop!

SEPTEMBER

School was in session and we did a story on Smile Farms, which started to sell hot sauce as a product of their pepper harvest. Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck had furry visitors from Paws of War, and we remembered the life of Chet Wilcox.

OCTOBER

Pumpkins made it to the front cover from Waterdrinker Family Farms, and Sonnie Betts, a local from East Moriches, performed in "Ragtime." There was a Mass rock dedication at the Clarke Homesite in Manorville, and we printed photos from the third annual Keith Romaine Memorial Snapper Derby.

NOVEMBER

Only a few months ago, we celebrated the huge draw of the Moriches Fall Festival; we met the Veterans Day grand marshal, Rev. Fred Miller; and we prepared for holidays in the Moriches. St. John's installed the new pastor, Fr. Patrick Riegger, and South Bay Bible went under new leadership with Matt Horne.

DECEMBER

Closing out the year of 2022, the Eagle Scout paver project took the front page, and our freelance writer Patricia Kaloski asked the age-old question: real or fake Christmas tree? We offered recipes compiled by the community and we had photos from the Veterans Day parade. ■

File photos



PAQUATUCK SQUAWS: Inspiration Award Winners

FROM PAGE 1



nese auctions, card parties and the local favorite, The Spooky Walk. The Spooky Walk began in 1989 and has since become the Squaws' greatest success.

"It's all about the kids when I moved here, I joined right away through an original member. I was very sad because I was leaving my home where my kids were born and I was crying my eyes out but she said don't worry get you involved and bring you up to the squaws from the camp from that day on I just stuck

with it," said one of the longest standing members is Jane Miller who currently serves as vice president.**

Another member Marcella Weiss, the camp board representative and Spooky Walk coordinator, has been a member since 1988. She noted that the unique thing about the organization is that it donates 100 percent of all the proceeds through 100 percent volunteer work. "We don't let anyone else make money," she said, noting that vendors are not

even permitted inside the Spooky Walk event and that everything is done internally. "Years ago, I was on the phone all the time trying to find volunteers, and now they find me. It's unbelievable; we have 200 to 600 volunteers!"

"They spend weeks putting together the most amazing, unusual, and scary exhibits," added Gillies of their hard work. "It is one of the best Halloween attractions on Long Island, and this year attracted over 10,000 people."

ABOUT THE CAMP

Camp Paquatuck is a Rotary-sponsored camp dedicated to the benefit of individuals with special needs. Each year, campers enjoy a session of summer fun at the 37-acre site on the shores of Kaler's Pond in Center Moriches. Campers experience the joys of boating, arts and crafts, music, adaptive sports and games, swimming, campfires and more, all while in a supportive environment. For more information or to help, visit SpookyWalk.com and camppaquatuck.org.

The Paquatuck Squaws meet monthly to plan, discuss, and then implement fundraising. Over the years, the Squaws have donated 100 percent of the thousands and thousands of dollars in profits they raise to help keep Camp Paquatuck operational. Though the number increases every year, this year they were able to raise about \$250,000.

"They are an incredible group of dedicated women who will go to all lengths to raise money for the camp," said Steve Kronman, camp board president, noting that without them, the camp's budget wouldn't go very far.

For more information, to donate, or to join the group visit: www.paquatucksquaws.com/. ■ Courtesy photo

Chamber readies for the New Year



Loaded with new and old events, Moriches Chamber of Commerce president Art Gerhauser and his team are prepared for 2023.

“This has been a busy year and we accomplished more than we anticipated,” said Miriam Gillies, chamber member and past president of 2022.

In 2022, the chamber hosted their annual St. Patrick’s Day parade, the summer concerts and movie series, awarded students of the month for the scholarship, hosted spring, fall and winter fairs, presented holiday gifts to the local food pantries, held their Veterans Day parade, Christmas tree and menorah lightings.

“We keep busy, that’s for sure,” she said of all the hard work of the chamber to make the year memorable for the community.

According to Gerhauser, in 2023, the chamber hopes to continue with their annual events while also furthering the interests of small businesses. He also hopes to bring in new members and create a sense of local-business community by encouraging collaborations between business owners.

For more information and to stay current on chamber happenings visit: <https://moricheschamber.org/>.

-Nicole Fuentes

Councilman Dan Panico’s resolutions



With his main goal of continuing to preserve property in the Moriches, councilman Dan Panico shared his brief goals for the area in the New Year of 2023.

“The three Moriches, Manorville, and Eastport benefit immensely from these efforts and preserve the character in the area,” he said of his ongoing

effort to continue to preserve land.

Additionally, he said that the town will be working to locate additional parks areas for pickleball courts. He hopes to partner with local school districts to help make better use of lands that are already being utilized by the residents.

File photo

SCHOOL NEWS

CENTER MORICHES



Center Moriches congratulated their new inductees to the Rho Kappa National Social Studies Honor Society and the Marvin Bell Chapter of the National English Honor Society.

EAST MORICHES

The fourth-grade Scrabble Club celebrated their last meeting. It was a smaller group, and they had a great game and learned a new word or two.



EASTPORT-SOUTH MANOR

Employee of the Month

Eastport-South Manor Jr.-Sr. High School student Erick Velasco earned the title of Employee of the Month in his career and technical education program at BOCES Technical Center for the month of November 2022. Erick received the title for excellence in carpentry, residential construction, and home improvement. The title of Employee of the Month was established by BTC to recognize students whom their instructors would want to hire. The title is not necessarily given to the person with the best skills, but to the individual who demonstrates professionalism and who has the desire to be trained in the field. Being selected Employee of the Month is a great honor, as these students, like Erick, serve as role models among their peers.



Thanking the vets!

Tuttle Avenue Elementary School first graders participated in a Thanksgiving celebration, which gave thanks to all essential workers in their school and the veterans from their community. It was a morning of poetry and song, as each of the grade’s classrooms donned turkey and pilgrim headdresses and took to the stage to perform a variety of Thanksgiving holiday music and to recognize the important work that the faculty and staff do each day.

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KEITH'S CORNER

Helping in 2023



After the hustle and bustle of the holidays, our thoughts turn to scholarships for students who will be graduating high school this year, and who have shown a commitment to community service by volunteering with Helping Makes U Happy. January is always the month for our scholarship fundraiser, the HMUH annual Super Bowl party raffle. Still only \$5 a chance, or six for \$20, gets you entered, and you have a chance to win a brand new 65-inch smart TV, food for 12 to 15 people from appetizers to desserts, a football, and decorations.

There will be two Super Bowl party

raffle winners drawn at the conclusion of our mini-basket auction, to be held at the Triangle Pub, Eastport, on Sunday Jan. 29 from noon until 6 p.m.

Please come down and support graduating seniors in local high schools. There will be awesome baskets, gift cards, and a 50-50 raffle. Food is available for purchase from the Triangle's menu.

Hope to see you there! For information on purchasing Super Bowl party raffle tickets only, please call 631-848-9008.

Wishing you all a happy and healthy New Year! ■

Cow missing for months captured



The cow that escaped a Manorville farm in September was recently found safe on a golf course nearby. According to the Strong Island Animal Rescue, which had been searching, the cow had been loose for four months and was likely in the woods the entire time. The cow, which was a pet of the farm, will now head to the Skylands Animal Sanctuary and Rescue in New Jersey. The sanctuary, rescue, and Suffolk County Police Department aided in her rescue.

The farm originally signed the cow over to the rescue, which then worked with the sanctuary to establish a relationship with the Pine Hills Golf Course to find her. She was located within a day, but the next challenge was catching her. They set up cameras and a feeding station, with countless cold nights trying to lure her into a corral. ■

-Nicole Fuentes

Courtesy photo

EDITORIAL

People of the year!

With two amazing nominations this year, it was nearly impossible to choose. Though we went with the women of the Squaws, we would be remiss if we didn't mention our other nomination: Danielle Dench.

Dench has been a member of the Center Moriches community since 2002. In that time, she has worked diligently and passionately to make Center Moriches a better place, the nomination read. She has been a Girl Scout leader who

helped bring a community garden to Center Moriches; she helps serve Meals on Wheels; she has also served on the PTA board, and most recently served on the board of education.

A wonderful person, indeed. In fact,

our entire Moriches-Manorville community is loaded with deserving people. Please remember those nominations for next year!

the Tide

OF MORICHES & MANORVILLE

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J. TERRY TUTHILL
Publisher, 2018-Present

It is not our aim to tell readers what to think, but to provide them with food for thought and to make interpretive editorial comment on the news

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Letters policy: Letters to the Editor are always welcome. Letters must be 300 words or less, in good taste and not libelous, signed and include a daytime telephone number for confirmation of authorship. Our email address is ADVletters@optonline.net.

AROUND TOWN

Tuesday, January 10

Caregiver Support Group – ADRC Support group for those providing care for someone with Alzheimer's Disease or other dementia disorder at Center Moriches Library, 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Group meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month. For registration and meeting details, call Charon Reichman, LMSW, at 631-580-5100, ext. 302.

Saturday, January 21

Defensive Driving – Empire Safety Council Course at Center Moriches Library, 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. Fee: \$30 due on the day of class via cash or check payable to Empire Safety Council. Register online or call 631-878-0940.

Sunday, January 22

New Sermon Series – The South Bay Bible Church's new five-week teaching series, "Fake News: Exposing God For Who He Is," will be presented Sundays, 9 and 11 a.m. or Saturdays at 5 p.m. Visit www.southbay-churchli.org or call 631-909-8241.

Sunday, January 29

Coin and Stamp Appraisal – Stamp and coin expert Frank McAlonan will be at Center Moriches Library to provide free appraisals, 1-5 p.m. Registration with appointment time required. Register in person or call 631-878-0940, ext. 5.

Of Note ...

Tell Us About Your Event – We print local events free of charge for the towns of Moriches, Center Moriches, East Moriches, and Manorville, for our "AROUND TOWN" section. For inclusion, please submit information by no later than the 15th of the month prior to the event.

Body-Mind Recovery Sessions – Join the Moriches Community Center for virtual wellness sessions with activities like yoga, meditation, mindfulness and more. Visit Yoga for Health LI on YouTube: www.youtube.com/channel/UCqcnLJTwsJ8y5zshQXrMGBQ.

Brookhaven Veterans – Those needing information regarding VA compensation, pensions, health care, employment or other benefits can call Sam Stahlman at Town Hall, between 9-10 a.m. at 631-451-6574.

Project Warmth – Program assists eligible families and individuals with heating emergencies. For more information or to apply for the program, dial 2-1-1 (or 1-888-774-7633) or visit www.unitedwayli.org.

Free Food – Word of Life Ministries opens its food pantry every Tuesday at 6:30-8:30 p.m. for those in need. Sunday service is at 11 a.m. Bring photo I.D. for your first visit. Pantry located at 15 Frowein Rd., Bldg. F4 in Center Moriches. Call 631-208-4050 for more information.

Retired Seniors – RSVP helps partner volunteer adults 55+ with local organizations that need help. To find out what opportunities exist, call 631-979-9490 or visit www.rsvpsuffolk.org.

DVDs for Military Personnel – AMVETS Task Force DVD is an appeal to patriotic Americans to donate their new and used DVDs to be shipped to our fighting men and women overseas. If you have a family member and/or friend deployed anywhere around the world, AMVETS will send them a box of DVDs for their personal and/or unit's use. You may make your request by providing their complete military mailing address, name, APO, etc. in an email addressed to thilton@amvets.org.

Sunday Worship – Join the Presbyterian Church of the Moriches Sundays for worship and Sunday school at 10:30 a.m., and teen class at 9:30 a.m. Call 631-878-1993.

County Pass Discount for Veterans – Veterans can purchase a Suffolk County Green Key Card at a reduced rate with state driver's license and 2 additional proofs of residency. For more information, visit www.suffolkcountyny.gov.

Boating Classes – The United States Power Squadrons offers classes, free vessel safety checks and more. Visit www.WeBoatSafe.org or call 800-341-8777 to find

a squadron location near you.

Extreme Weather Safety – Be prepared for extreme weather. Save PSEG's 24-hour electric service number: 1-800-490-0075; follow PSEG Long Island on Facebook and Twitter for updates before and after storms; and make sure everyone in the family knows what to do in the case of an emergency. Visit www.psegliny.com/page.cfm/Home/Safety for video tips from YouTube, Sesame Street and more.

Tech Help – The Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Community Library offers free, one-on-one assistance to you get started or solve specific concerns with smartphones, tablets, eReaders or laptops. Call 631-399-1511, ext. 240 to schedule an appointment.

Skillport Online Trainings – Dress for Success® Brookhaven offers comprehensive e-Learning with a library of over 8,000 courses, available 24/7. To register, call 631-451-9127 or email brookhaven@dressforsuccess.org.

Volunteers Tutors Needed – Colonial Youth and Family Services Community Volunteer Corps is seeking volunteer tutors to spend one hour per week to help an elementary school student in the Mastic-Moriches-Shirley Community Library. If interested call Gary at 631-281-4461.

YEARS AGO

75 Years Ago

JANUARY 1948

The Moriches Tribune was adjudged one of the "Better Weekly Newspapers in America," according to **John T. Tuthill Jr.**, publisher, from the Community Research Bureau, which just completed an analysis of the weekly newspapers of the state for the American Weekly Newspaper Publishers Council.

Double recognition came to **Alice Beck**, of Manorville, senior at Center Moriches High School, for her oratorical superiority, which not only placed her first among the five contestants in the local contest, but also gave her a third place in the Suffolk County semifinals in the American Legion Oratorical Contest. Ms. Beck's topic was "The Necessity of a Constitution in a Democracy."

John Schaffner and **Alfred Lement** were reelected noble grand and vice grand, respectively, of the Warratta Lodge, I.O.O.F., at a meeting held at Goldsmith's Hall, Center Moriches.

Boy Scout Troop 121, of Mastic Beach, boasted of its first Eagle Scout, after **Paul Fuelling Jr.**, of Locust Drive, completed final merit badge requirements for the coveted rank before a board of review at the East End firehouse.

Mrs. Jean Oakes, of East Moriches, has been appointed chairperson of a series of hymn sings to be held in the Center Moriches Presbyterian Church. Choirs from various churches in both East and Center Moriches are encouraged to participate, and a soloist will be featured each evening.

Edward B. Bristow, a member of the Eastport Board of Fire Commissioners for several years, was elected its chairman at the annual organization meeting held in the Eastport firehouse.

Seven members of Center Moriches' Girl Scout Troop 13 took a sightseeing trip to New York, under the leadership of chaperones **Mrs. John Hean** and **Mrs. John Newham**. The girls visited Radio City Music Hall, went on a television tour,

and saw the toy show at the New York Museum of Science. Scouts making the trip were **Arlene Makransky**, **Jane Burwell**, **Janet Schoener**, **Joyce Lindley**, **Louise Russell**, **Marilyn Davis** and **Winifred Seale**.

Stockholders of the Eastport National Bank reelected **George Frey Sr.** as their president at the 20th annual meeting held in Eastport, at a dinner and reception at the John Duck Hotel, Eastport.

East Moriches students who participated in the spelling bee at the Center Moriches High School were **Ray Borrill**, **Helen Geiger**, **Vincent Amy**, **Frank Robinson** and **Virginia Howell**.

Mr. and Mrs. Curtis Chapman, of East Moriches, attended the Motor Boat Show in New York.

Doris Johnson, of Manorville, graduated from Browne's Business School in Jamaica, Queens.

William (Duke) Ellington was unanimously reelected mayor of Teen Town, Center Moriches Youth Club, and will hold office for another period of three months.

Hudson Darrow, of East Moriches, returned from Boston, where he exhibited poultry at the recent poultry show held there. He received two first-place awards; two second-place awards; and two fifth-place awards for his "Black Giants."

Playing in January at **The Center Moriches Theatre**: Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in "Gone With the Wind"; Dennis Morgan in "My Wild Irish Rose"; Joan Crawford and Henry Fonda in "Daisy Kenyon"; Lucille Ball and Franchot Tone in "Her Husband's Affairs"; and Esther Williams and Jimmy Durante in "This Time For Keeps."

50 Years Ago

JANUARY 1973

Moriches area Firemen of the Year who were honored by F & M Schaefer Brewing Company at the Knights of Columbus Hall, in Quogue, were **Bruce Rumph** of the Center Moriches Fire Department, **Herbert Reeve** of the East Moriches Fire



January 1973: These members of the William Floyd High School senior class are going through final rehearsals of Thornton Wilder's Pulitzer Prize-winning play "The Skin of Our Teeth." Some of the cast and the roles they will play are (left to right) Gary Dreniel as Harry Antrobus, Mitchell Mandell as Mr. Antrobus, Mary Buffa as Gladys Antrobus and Joanne Cuomo as Mammoth; (back row) Vivian Castellano as Dinosaur, Donna Konstant as Mrs. Antrobus and Elaine Baltzer as Sabina.

Department, and **Carl Nagle** of the Mastic Beach Fire Department.

Diane Quinlan, of Bay Street, Center Moriches, found a letter that was given to her father, William Quinlan, when he was 9 years old by **Ms. Sue Robinson**, daughter of the late Sen. **W.E. Robinson** of New York. The letter, dated Sept. 7, 1849, is a letter of recommendation signed by **Horace Greeley**, publisher of the *New York Tribune*, recommending the nomination of Robinson for the office of U.S. senator under the Whig banner.

Adele Roberts, a student at William Floyd High School, received a Student Incentive Award from the Paragon Oil Company for outstanding scholarship and citizenship.

David DeBatto, of Washington Avenue, Mastic Beach, is playing the role of

Linus in the Albuquerque Music Theatre production of "You're a Good Man, Charlie Brown." He is a drama major at the University of New Mexico.

Matt Rosso, of East Moriches, was elected chairman of the Moriches Narcotics Guidance Council, which works with the Center Moriches School District on drug abuse prevention programs in the school system.

A group of residents have been meeting regularly every Wednesday at the Center Moriches Public Library to play chess. Among them are **John Penney**, **John Gibs**, **Ray Dumont** and **David Lehner**.

Playing in January at local United Artists Theatres: Clark Gable and Vivien Leigh in "Gone With the Wind"; John Voight and Burt Reynolds in "Deliverance"; and "The Last House on the Left."

Compiled by Vanessa Graniello

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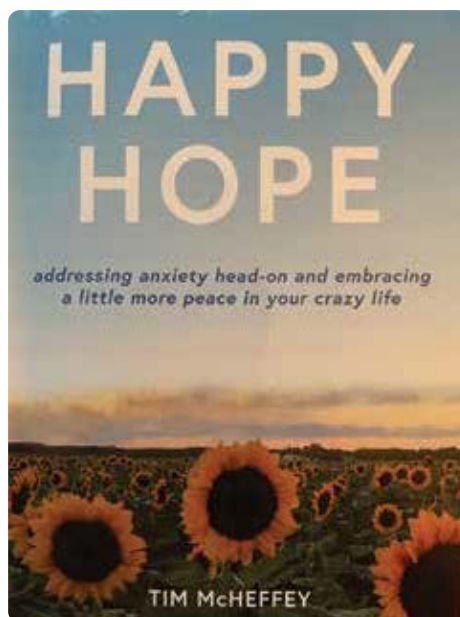
It's the most wonderful time of the year! Are you sure?!

The familiar melody likely just popped into your head—we've all heard it so many times this past holiday season, and we want to believe it, because we all want to be, well... happy. Yet, it is no secret that this season is even tougher for many in our own neighborhoods. For decades, folks have been using the phrase "holiday blues." And just because we have reached the New Year does not mean we are all over it. It is still very much a part of January and February.

"The holidays are usually viewed as a time of happiness and rejoicing," according to verywellmind.com. "But for some people, it can be a period of painful reflection, sadness, loneliness, and depression." Holiday blues is not officially recognized by mental health clinicians as a diagnosis. But it feels quite real for those who say they experience it.

Many therapists agree that for us New Yorkers, the holidays coincide with a very cold winter. "Entering what should be a joyous time may be challenging and overwhelming for those dealing with seasonal sadness or any mood disorder," according to a clinical social worker (who preferred to remain anonymous). "Holidays are cheerful for many, but painful for others who might not have close families or friends to celebrate with. Hope is essential," she continued. "It keeps us going. It's what gets us out of bed in the morning. Being kind is essential." "Happy Hope" is a great start.

"Happy Hope... Addressing Anxiety Head-On and Embracing a Little More Peace In Your Crazy Life," makes no bold promises, according to Center Moriches author Tim McHeffey. He says we are all searching for peace in a wacky world, and some of us just make it look easier. "But we are all trying to cope," according to McHeffey, "and the optimal method for this is hope." There is a powerful ingredient in this recipe for hope. That is to be happy. "Most people are not happy," says Tim McHeffey. "It is supposed to be our



natural state, but it eludes us most of the time." This is where "Happy Hope" begins.

"Happy Hope" (the initial, softcover edition) is only available at Waterdrinker Farm in Manorville, which will reopen in the spring. (The e-book release date was Dec. 10). Waterdrinker owner Marc Weiss did the artwork for the book. "Marc is one of the best graphic guys in the business," said McHeffey. "And when he suggested using a Waterdrinker sunflowers photo for the cover, I knew we had simpatico."

"Tim has a great message," shared Weiss. "It was a pleasure to collaborate on this worthy project. So glad we are offering it for sale in our Gift Barn, both for Christmas and again in tulip season!"

Just as people "make their own good time," "Sometimes we make our own bad times as well," said McHeffey. "Misery loves company" is an age-old adage. If people have problems (and we all do), the human, inherent condition is to take some solace in knowing we are not alone. It's actually a little sad, but it makes people feel a bit less

lonely if they know that others share their woes." McHeffey shared another whimsical passed-down quote that he often shares in his talks: "Don't complain. Eighty percent of people don't care, and the other 20 percent are glad you have the problems that you do." In presenting Workplace Communication seminars for decades, McHeffey speculates why this might be so. "Mostly when folks ask how each other are doing, the answers are 'not bad' or 'doing okay.' If the common answer was 'Doing great!! I can't believe how terrific life is!,' well, that person might not have too many friends. It would be perceived as obnoxious, and jealousy is a frequent feeling, too." But McHeffey believes there is an even deeper reason: "If we show great happiness and demonstrate it with big emotions, and we keep ourselves on that high... all that is fine until something bad in life happens. And then people feel like they have a lot farther to fall. And that is a scary sentiment. So most folks keep themselves on the lower end of the emotion scale: not bad, doing okay, hanging in there."

"Happy Hope" does not fall into a

religious category. McHeffey believes that many have been turned off by this genre. But statistically, readers are craving spirituality. The small volume approaches questions like: Why are we really here on earth? What does goal setting and resetting have to do with happiness? Why are some people so mean? Why are so many of us afraid of everything? Is God (whatever you conceive Him to be) nice? Is competition good or bad? Is magic real? The author believes that when people pose provocative questions, we can work out our own answers—and ultimately become just a bit happier.

Life is full of interesting connections, and McHeffey and Weiss's meeting was serendipitous. McHeffey started helping out at the farm originally as a hayride entertainer. Weiss often shared his observations of what the outdoors could do for the soul. During the thick of COVID, when we were all trying to go about our lives, one of these reflections was "how seeing a field of tulips brought hope to so many people," according to Weiss, "when the world seemed a little crazy." Lady Bird Johnson said back in 1965: "Where flowers bloom, so does hope..."

Experts conclude that we can alleviate some of our own holiday and wintry blues by breaking up daily routines (like getting out of the house). Thinking about what you might want to accomplish in the New Year can help as well. And allow additional time to rest and reset. "Towards the end of a long, cold span of months," Weiss added, "it's easy to start feeling like Bill Murray in 'Groundhog Day.'"

McHeffey, who is a full-time business professional, is careful not to mix spirituality with his marketing and management courses. "But being positive and friendly and just continuing to do the right thing is perennial," McHeffey shared. "And we could all agree that feeling a bit more hopeful in every part of our lives can't hurt. You gotta hope to cope," McHeffey concluded. "It's a start, anyway." ■

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In 1946 a group of Moriches Rotarians came up with the idea to develop a special camp for special needs children. Since those early days when campers slept in tents under the stars, we have evolved into a state-of-the-art facility for children with disabilities. Every summer approximately 450-500 campers benefit from the generosity of other Rotary Clubs, service groups like Lions, Kiwanis, Knights of Columbus, Camp Paquatuck Squaws and many other Long Island individuals, charities and organizations.



Our anniversary is a celebration of people. People like you who care and help the special people who will remember Camp PaQuaTuck for the rest of their lives.

WE COULD NOT HAVE DONE IT WITHOUT YOU!



Deborah Brown Volkman - **President**

Peter Traina - **Vice President**

Matt Crennan - **Treasurer**

Dina Aponte - **Secretary**

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Geraldine Sapanaro
Muriel Corcoran

Maureen Klisey
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Anniversary Dinner Party

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Moriches Rotary History Update 2023



December 27, 1937 first meeting of the Moriches Rotary Club

1947: Redistricting DISTRICT 174: Westchester, New York, Bronx, Richmond Kings, Queens, Nassau, Suffolk and Bermuda

1949: Rotary International renumbers the districts and we are now Bermuda, USA – New York

1954: District 258 was created USA_NEW YORK only LONG Island

1957: District 725 and our District Governor in 1968-69 was Gus Stout Jr. a charter member of the Moriches Rotary.

Gus Stout was President of the Board of Director of Camp PaQuaTuck till he passed in 1978.
He was also President of Moriches Rotary in 1942-43.

1941: Moriches Rotary sponsors a picnic at the ocean for handicapped children on a journey into summer recreation for the physically handicapped children.

July 8 1948: the first camp session on the existing grounds of Camp Paquatuck opened for 26 children with disabilities. It was named after the creek (Paquatuck Creek) which runs into the Moriches Bay. This creek became known as Kalers Pond in 1802.

1960: the summer was extended for 2-4 weeks for about 120 campers.

1963: a 20-ton LIRR caboose was donated to the camp by a "friend" and moved onto the camp grounds at no charge to the camp.

1968: 18 additional acres of land was purchased at the camp for \$9000. The original property was donated by the Chapman family.

1972: small group of women called the Camp Paquatuck Squaws organized themselves with the sole purpose of raising money for the camp. Without question, the Squaws are the prime fund-raiser for our summer season. Everyone knows SPOOKY WALK it's their main fund raiser, This December they gave the camp a check for \$285,000.

1975: the Suffolk America Legion donated the new cabin, now known as LEGION. The Squaws donated the swings and a slide.

1977: our 25th year our annual budget was \$34,264.36

1978: Westhampton Rotary started the barn for the camp animals.

July 1 1978 Ray Batt was elected District Governor of District 7250. He was able to get the International President of Rotary to come to the camp. Over 1000 people, mostly Rotarians from Long Island attended.

1981: the construction was completed on the Gus Stout Recreation Building and on September 12 it was dedicated in his honor and memory. The budget that year was \$89,839.00

1984: The Italian American Club made it possible for the future site of the new cabin to be cleared and would later be called the Fuoco Building.

1988: the first women, Dorothy Payne was transferred into the Moriches Rotary from the Islip club. The same year Joe Maag invited Muriel Corcoran to join and she was sworn in January 1989 on that night Gary Nagle, the third future District Governor from our club, was also sworn in. Muriel is still a member of the club and is now joined by at least 10 other women Gary Nagle has since passed away but there is a memorial in his honor at the camp. The Moriches Rotary also has memorials for Dave Rogers and Joe Maag at the camp.

1990: because of the medical care provided to the campers over many years by Dr Lou Foster, the nurses station was dedicated in his honor.

2005: Julie Pratt, the President at the time, started STUFF-A BUS which runs September- June with our Interact Students.

2008: we started Kris Kringle with our member Laura Dunathan and raise money to adopt local family who might be experiencing financial problems during the holidays.

2012: thanks to our past president Peter Traina, we began our Oktoberfest for 3 nights. We have German bands and all kinds of German beer and food. We hope you'll join us in 2023 September 29, 30 and October 1. It's always held at the camp's front entrance.

2011: we broke ground in 2011 and we completed our million-dollar expansion of the Chapman building dining room in 2012.

2018: we replaced the playground at the camp and dedicated it to the Camp Paquatuck Squaws to honor their dedication to help raise money to continue the operation of the camp. The playground cost over \$250,000.

COVID interrupted the camp operation for the past 3 years. We did the best we could offering a daytime on-line program for the campers we serve. Staffing and overseas councilors were a major problem.

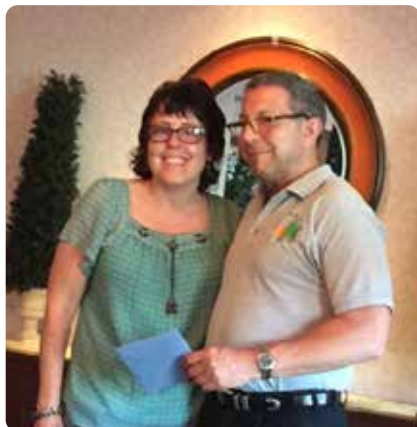
During the past 2 years we have spent over 2 million dollars in upgrading the cabins and the grounds.

2023: we can't wait to truly serve those children who need a summer break "SUMMER IS FOR EVERYONE"
Our major project for 2023 is replacing the in-ground pool.
Because it must be built to specific guidelines it will cost over one million dollars.





Moriches Rotary & Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck



Moriches Rotary Past Presidents



- *1937-38: Harry B. Abramson
- *1938-39: Dr Lewis F Foster
- *1939-40: Frederick H. Muller
- *1940-41: Walter I. Whitman
- *1941-42: H. Chester Swezey
- *1942-43: August Stout, Jr.**
- *1943-44: Louis A. Lukert
- *1944-45: Lawrence H. Smith
- *1945-46: Dr. Roland W. Jones
- *1946-47: Joseph F. Zingale
- *1947-48: Harold L. Chapman
- *1948-49: William Dranitzke
- *1949-50: Delbert W. Wesche
- *1950-51: Edward F. Snedker
- *1951-52: J. Wesley Sinneckson
- *1952-53: Herschel B. Davis
- *1953-54: P Jack Rudnetsky
- *1954-55: Byron W. Leek
- *1955-56: Herbert S. Sorrell
- *1956-57: Fredrick Muller
- *1957-58: Zollie W. Privett

- *1958-59: Edward B. Bristow
- *1959-60: Harold R. Lukert
- *1960-61: Harold Lieb
- *1961-62: Edwin A. Arnzen
- *1962-63: Stanley Abrams
- *1963-64: Charles B. Sullivan
- 1964-65: Josef A. Lemmen
- *1965-66: Henry Leuthardt
- *1966-67: John B. Strabuk
- *1967-68: James A. Hallock
- *1968-69: Murray Stark
- *1969-70: Raymond Batt**
- *1970-71: George R. Schott
- *1971-72: Albert A. Nooger
- *1972-73: Herbert Gerthrie
- *1973-74: John Newhouse
- *1974-75: D. James Dineen
- *1975-76: J. Haskell Warner
- *1976-77: Herman Heller
- *1977-78: Rev.Lloyd Dunlap
- *1978-79: Stewart L. Worby

- *1979-80: William Koob
- *1980-81: David B. Rogers
- *1981-82: Gordon H. Lind
- 1982-83: Terrance Cowley
- *1983-84: Robert L. Walker, Sr.
- *1984-85: Roy Palladino
- *1985-86: Joseph G. Maag
- *1986-87: Erol Copyinar
- 1987-88: Steven B. Kronman
- 1988-89 Peter DiSario:
- *1989-90: James T. Gilmartin
- 1990-91: David Saft
- 1991-92: Dr. Devendra K. Singh
- 1992-93: Walter W. Stockton
- 1993-94: Robert L. Walker, Jr
- 1994-95: Muriel Corcoran
- 1995-96: Dr. Garrett S. Nagle**
- 1996-97 Edward Wesche
- 1997-98: Paul Cuddy
- *1998-99: Guy J. Malone
- 1999-2000: Rev. William Smith

- 2000-01: Newt Homan
- 2001-02: Thomas Chieffo
- 2003-04: Kevin Spellman
- 2004-05: Julia Pratt
- 2005-06: Dale Wedell
- 2006-07: Robert L. Walker, Jr
- 2007-08 Steven B. Kronman
- 2008-09: Muriel Corcoran
- 2009-10: Robert Dovale
- 2010-11: William LeMaire
- 2011-12: Peter Traina
- 2012-13: Barbara Caldwell
- 2013-14-15: Thomas Chieffo
- 2015-16-17: StevenB.Kronman
- 2017-18 Janice Graf
- 2018-19-20 Maureen Klersy
- 2020-23 Deborah Brown


**PAST DISTRICT GOVERNOR





Moriches Rotary & Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck





In Memoriam

I would like to remember the following Rotarians who showed us all about
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These members belonged to the Moriches Rotary
during my 35 years in the organization:

**Stanley Abrams, John Anastasi, Erol Caypinar, Daniel James Dineen,
Lloyd Dunlap, George Eagan, John Foley, James Gilmartin,
Joseph Maag, Guy Malone, Gary Nagel, Dorothy Payne,
Will Phraner, Robert Walker Sr. and John Whitaker.**

To all past Rotarians who made a difference in our community and the world.
THANK YOU ALL and REST IN PEACE

Muriel Concoran
(The first women member asked to join the Moriches Rotary in 1988)



Congratulations & Happy Anniversary to Moriches Rotary Club & Camp Pa-Qua-Tuck from your friends at

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Camp Paquatuck SQUAWS



In 1972 a group of woman, formerly raising money for Bayview Hospital in Mastic Beach, decided to use all their energy to raise money for the children of Camp Paquatuck. Since they organized 50 years ago, they have raised millions of dollars to help keep Camp Paquatuck Open. The new playground at the camp is dedicated to them to honor their commitment to the children.

Their biggest raiser is the Annual SPOOKY WALK that is held the last 2 weekends in October. The 2023 season will be their 30th year for this event and will be even more spectacular, we're sure. In the future whenever you see an event sponsored by the Camp Paquatuck Squaws please support their effort. You can be sure that every dollar raised goes to the children.



Fuoco Family Golf Outing



There are many people over the past 75 years we should and do thank but the Fuoco family is special. First, they have a connection to the camp as one of their family members, many years ago was a camper. She always praised the summer week spent there as special and fun filled. Her Dad and now her brother has a special interest in supporting the camp and its efforts to help children with special needs. This year they raised over \$180,000 at their annual golf tournament. BRAVO!! MUCH APPRECIATED!



A hearty response to Dr. Lewis Foster's stethoscope is given by camper Bethann Fuoco of East Patchogue.

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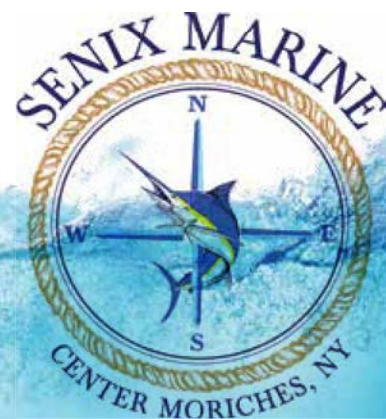
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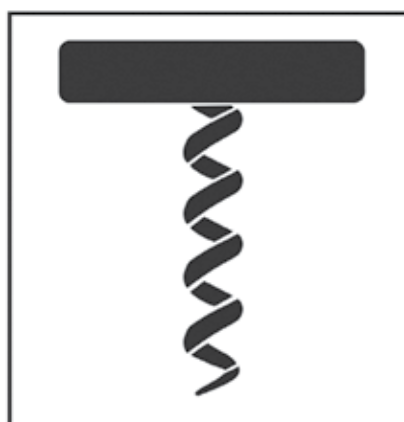
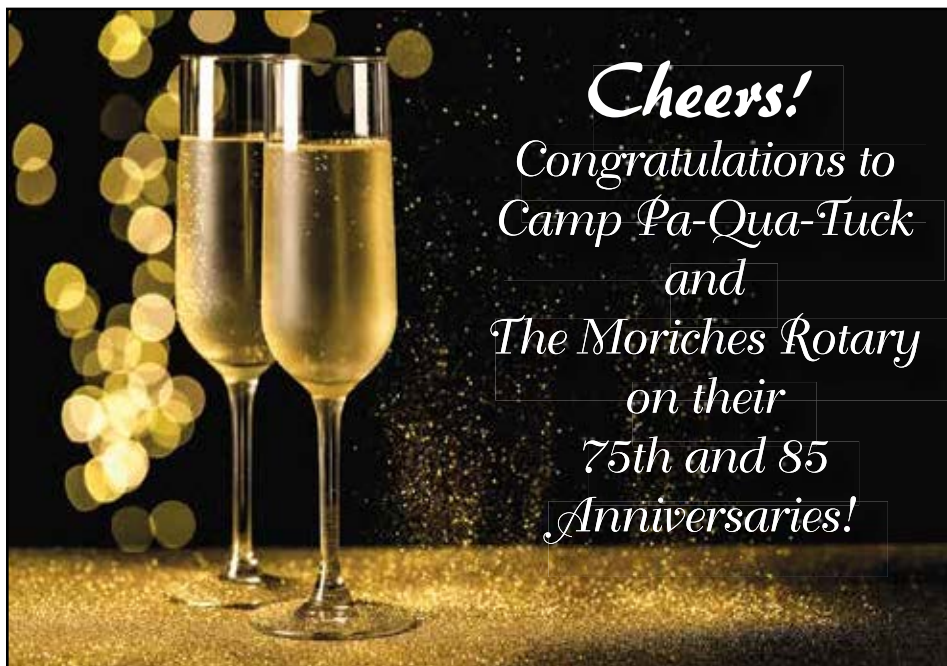
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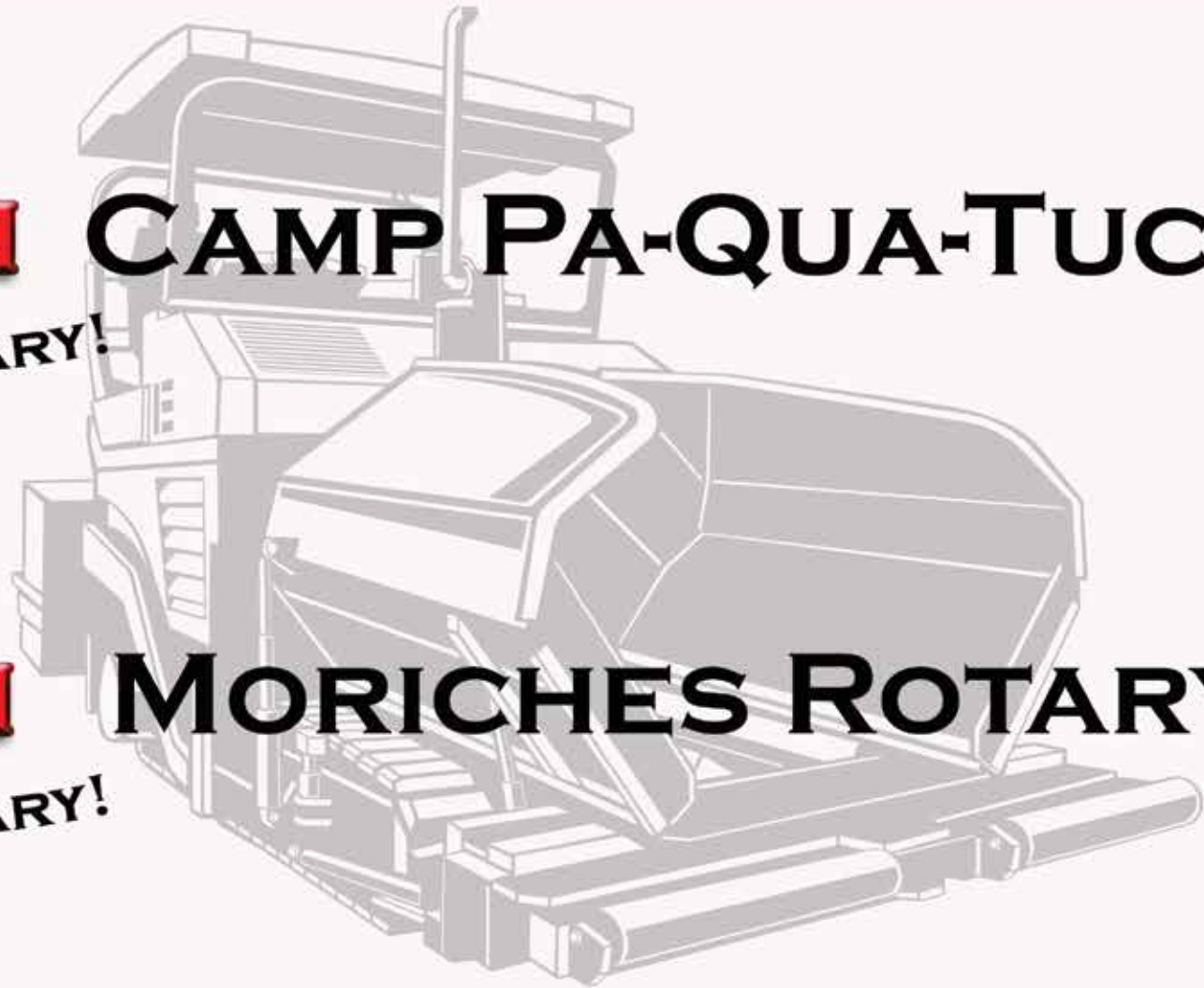
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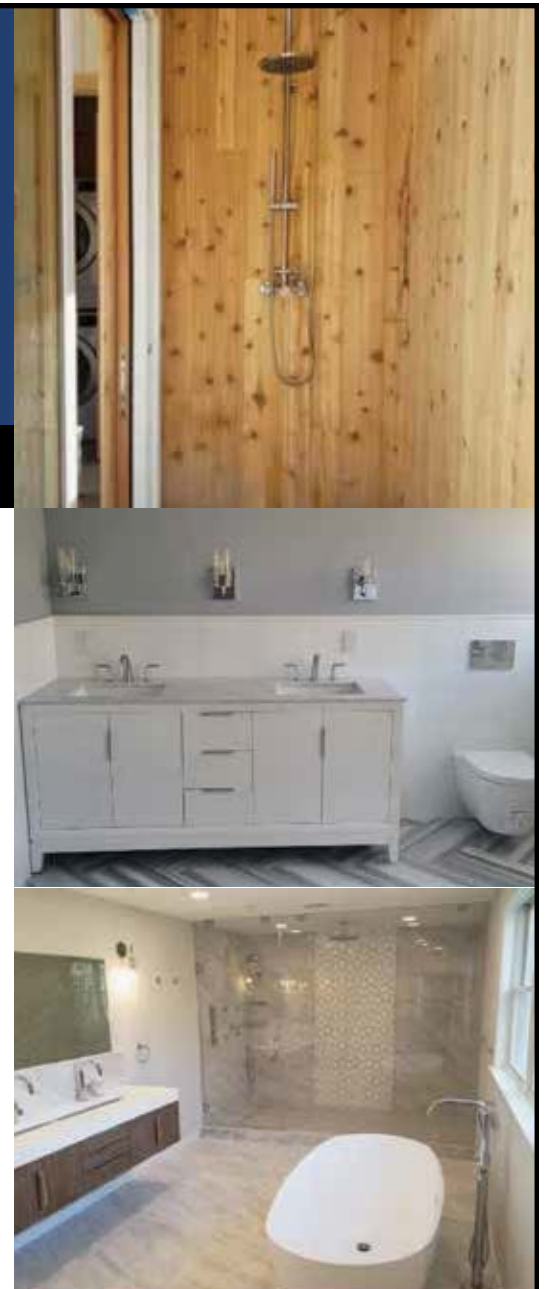
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