

JUNE 2020 | 19th Year, Issue 6

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the Tide

OF MORICHES & MANORVILLE

2020 seniors make the most of year's end

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birthdays during
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Center Moriches junior starts campaign of hope

Stones of Strength, Rocks of Remembrance

BY GLENN ROHRBACKER

It starts out with a call for help, as many successful projects do. In this case, Center Moriches High School junior Isabella Reed set out to honor the essential workers on the front lines fighting the COVID-19 pandemic, and the community followed through.

Reed, who has spent several summers working as an intern at the Oasis Rehabilitation and Nursing Center in Center Moriches, set out to have people donate decorated stones to create a garden of support for essential workers.

"I have received a wonderful response from the community, and am grateful to the administrator, Dan Monahan, for allowing me to do this," Reed said. "We are now having the facility staff participate, now that they can see what the community has done in their honor. It's an emotional

time, and Oasis staff continues to show strength, compassion and care in these scary, dark times."

Reed is a junior who has committed to Monmouth College, where she'll play lacrosse.

"I'm just so proud," said Isabella's mother, Heather Reed.

Heather Reed explained that Isabella has been at the center for several years, getting to know residents, so the pandemic became personal for her. Isabella plans to pursue a job in the medical field after high school.

"This is not over, and while we start to resume our lives these health care workers continue the battle," Isabella Reed said. "It's than just wearing a mask. We are posting one more time on social media pages and then we will be installing the garden on Oasis' grounds, 'Stones of Strength, Rocks of Remembrance.'"

Reed is still accepting rock donations. A bin is set up in front of Helping Makes U Happy, at 1 Neville Street, Center Moriches. ■



Oasis administrator Dan Monahan and Isabella Reed are planning to install this garden at the Oasis Rehabilitation and Nursing Center.

Courtesy photos

Food drive and drop

Members of BSA Troop 29, East Moriches, donated items to Ernie's Place in Center Moriches. Ernie's Place is St. John the Evangelist's Pantry Ministry. Troop 29 members donated items to the food pantry separately over the course of the first full week of May.

Sean Brown, an assistant scoutmaster with Troop 29 and a health-care hero, initiated the concept for the donation from Troop 29. He recognized the need and Troop 29 responded to his initiative. Altering Troop 29's usual food drive techniques of soliciting donations at supermarkets, the scouts and their families drove independently to drop off food donations at Ernie's Place. Physical distance was maintained, even as members of Troop 29 moved closer to their community. Join the scouts, family and friends of Troop 29 and support the communities' local food pantries. There is a continual need for donations and the current pandemic has increased the severity of that need.

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Senior year during a pandemic

Center Moriches School District, families and community honor the Class of 2020

BY PATRICIA KALOSKI

On Friday, May 1, at precisely 8:20 p.m., car horns blared, fireworks exploded, and the clanging and banging of pots and pans amid shouting and screaming could be heard throughout the streets of Center Moriches. The onslaught of activity was part of a special tribute to the Center Moriches High School's Class of 2020, in response to the news that schools would not reopen for the remainder of the academic year due to the coronavirus pandemic, leaving a big question mark for graduating seniors.

Senior year is usually filled with a flurry of memorable activities, such as prom, senior picnic and a commencement ceremony, but this year is an empty calendar, as school officials grapple with how to handle these monumental events during a global pandemic.

In the meantime, administrators, teachers, staff, parents and community members have rallied together to plan a variety of tributes to the Class of 2020 – the Friday, May 1 tribute was just one of many. Jeremy Thode, associate principal, has been at the forefront of organizing several of these special tributes.

"The high school administration and staff are working tirelessly for the seniors in trying to provide experiences that are meaningful and as memorable for them as possible during this incredibly difficult time," Thode said.

Prior to the tribute, the school sent out emails, texts and made robocalls advising the community of the planned, surprise tribute, encouraging community members to participate. Seniors were told by their families to be outside at 8:20 p.m.

Patty and Ryan Person, along with their son, Rylee, a sixth grader at Center Moriches Middle School, eagerly waited for 8:20 p.m. to arrive, at which time they enthusiastically took serving spoons to metal pots in honor of the Class of 2020. Despite not having a senior themselves, the Persons thought it was important to partake in the festivities.

"If my son was a senior during this time, I would want to know that the town was supporting him," noted Person. Her husband, Ryan, is a Center Moriches alumnus.

Another way to pay homage to the Class of 2020 is a video salute, organized by administrators, teachers and staff of the Center Moriches School District. The nearly 40-minute video, that is posted on the district's website, features administrators, high school, middle and elementary teachers and athletic coaches giving personal messages, handwritten notes, inspirational words and heartfelt congratulations to students, many of whom they themselves



have taught and known since they were young children.

Thode opens the video by telling seniors: "We are trying to put a smile on your face. Our hearts are heavy as we know your senior year has been interrupted by COVID-19. But stay strong and be patient."

School superintendent Dr. Ronald Masera continues: "We know this is not the senior year you thought it would be, but we hope that you can look back at all of your days at Center Moriches and have wonderful memories and a great sense of pride."

Some teachers, such as Clayton Huey Elementary School teacher Lisa DeFrese, took a stroll down memory lane in her video post. She served as both a kindergarten and fourth-grade teacher for many members of this year's graduating class, and reflected on events and popular trends from the years that she taught them.

DeFrese pointed out that in the academic school year 2007/2008, George Bush was the United States president; the Boston Red Sox won the World Series; and Webkins and Xbox 360 were popular toys. That year, her kindergarten students enjoyed a field trip to an apple farm and made leprechaun traps. Fast forward to 2011, when Barack Obama served as president and the ever-popular "Game of Thrones" premiered; her fourth graders weighed and carved pumpkins and participated in the traditional fourth-grade science fair; and ended the school year with a field trip aboard the Circle Line cruise around Manhattan.

When DeFrese reflects upon the current 2019/2020 year, she highlights the "hoarding of toilet paper and Lysol wipes" and "social distancing," but concludes by noting that she is confident that students will "succeed through it all."

For some teachers, their video posts hit close to home, as they have a son or daughter who will graduate. Longtime social studies teacher and soccer coach, Chris O'Brien, gave a special shout-out to his son Liam, a graduate and member of the boys varsity soccer team, calling him his "hero" and adding, "may you score all your goals."

Parents have also joined forces to acknowledge their senior sons and daughters as well as their classmates. A group of moms organized a pictorial tribute at Clay-

ton Huey Elementary School, where photo boards of each of the 138 graduates are proudly displayed along the lawn. Gillian Castiglione and Cara Hromada worked in conjunction to see the tribute to fruition. Castiglione's daughter Grace, and Hromada's son Danny, are both members of the Class of 2020.

Castiglione said she was motivated to do something special reflecting on her own senior year. "The second half of my senior were some of my best memories. I developed friendships and memories that I will always remember, and I hated to think that my child wouldn't get to experience that," said Castiglione.

Hromada felt the same way, but was equally disappointed that, as a parent, she wouldn't be able to enjoy the traditional activities that culminate a student's high school career.

"The senior events are just as much for the students as they are for the parents; we [parents] reached this milestone, too. It's incredibly disappointing not to be able to experience the celebrations that were planned for them at school," said Hromada.

Neither mom knew that the other was mulling over ideas to salute the Class of 2020 until each reached out to a local sign company, East End Sign Design, for help in creating the signs.

"I was told that another crazy mom was working on the same thing – it was a match made in heaven," Castiglione mused.

Castiglione and Hromada spent several weeks scouting out potential locations before deciding that the elementary school grounds were the perfect place for the pictorial tribute. They also collaborated on the designs for the placards.

"One of the events that seniors will not be able to do is the traditional walk through the hallways of Clayton Huey Elementary School in their caps and gowns," Hromada noted. "I wanted to figure out a way to get the community involved in the celebration since our seniors can't celebrate with their peers, teachers and staff at school. Putting the signs out front of Clayton Huey Elementary is perfect since it's where a majority of students started and will be seen by so many people."

Funds to help pay for the signs were collected from generous families and local businesses, said Hromada, to help pay for the signs including the Bernaths, Caputos, Castigliones, DeJohns, Hillers, Matos, Passaros, Sudanos and Walthers, Dockside Fabrics and Five Star Construction.

Senior Class advisor Laura Sandberg-DeJohn has known many of this year's graduates since they were in elementary school. A 1990 graduate of Center Moriches High School herself, and also the mother of a graduate, Hallie, Sandberg-DeJohn said, "I'm a lifetime resident and graduate, as was my father and his mother. This senior class has a very special place in my heart, and I have a special connection with them. Some of my fondest memories are my experiences in Center Moriches High School. Everyone was like family."

DeJohn noted that the senior class organized a food drive through Helping Makes U Happy as a way to thank the community for all it has done to acknowledge the Class of 2020. "I know that these students are resilient and will come through all of this even stronger," said Sandberg-DeJohn. ■

Photo courtesy Cara Hromada



CM seniors honored

Center Moriches seniors were put on display recently to honor them in lieu of the cancellation of traditional events due to the COVID-19 pandemic. First, Senior Day was held, where the graduating class could come to pick up a special sign with their high school portrait for display at their home. The signs were gifted to students by the district. Then, a group of parents and community members took it a step further, donating so that an array of senior portraits could be placed outside the district's Administration Building on Main Street. Faculty has also posted several tributes to the Class of 2020, and a virtual prom was scheduled for May 29.

-Glenn Rohrbacker
Courtesy photos

Pandemic birthday celebrations

BY PATRICIA KALOSKI

Across the country and around the world, people have been forced to find new and innovative ways to celebrate milestone events as the COVID-19 virus has found most people under mandatory quarantine.

Birthdays are just one of the occasions where traditional celebrations, such as dinners at a restaurant or a party at a communal play place, have gone by the wayside. Now, birthdays are being marked by virtual Zoom parties, where the birthday boy or girl blows out his or her candles in front of a laptop, tablet or cell phone. But one of the most popular trends to emerge during the pandemic is the birthday parade, a caravan of cars that drive by the celebrant's house to bid well wishes. Center Moriches is no exception, having had its fair share of birthday parades over the last several months.

Michelle Mitchell has two daughters who celebrated quarantine birthdays. Mitchell's daughter, Kayla, turned 17 on March 22 in the beginning of self-isolation; Mitchell pondered how her family could make Kayla's birthday special without a traditional party.

"Our last day of school was March 13, and I began thinking right away about her birthday," Mitchell recalled. "I decided to invite some close friends over for a



Lauryn Mitchell, for one, said her 14th birthday was one of "the best ever!"

Courtesy photo

surprise outdoor brunch, but then realized that the situation was more serious."

Mitchell changed gears and instead organized a surprise FaceTime call with Kayla's friends. In addition, many of her friends stopped by her house to leave gifts

and treats at the door.

Fast forward one month, and mandatory self-quarantine is still in place; Mitchell once again finds herself having to celebrate a birthday in lockdown. This time, it was her youngest daughter, Lauryn, who was turning 14 on April 30. Big sister Kayla stepped in and decided that a birthday parade would be a perfect way to honor her younger sister's important day, despite some hesitation from Mitchell.

"I thought, what if no one shows up?" she said. But to the Mitchell family's delight, Lauryn's birthday caravan was a "huge success," with a total of 24 cars joining in the fun.

"Lauryn was absolutely surprised to see the huge parade of cars coming to see her for her birthday," added Mitchell. "Some cars were decorated, some played birthday music... some people gave post-

ers or homemade cards, gifts and candy. The creativity and generosity of everyone's time and effort was so touching."

One good Samaritan has made it her goal to spread even more cheer during the pandemic birthday celebration by donating a large, blowup birthday cake to lead parades. Lenneke Symes invested in the inflatable some 15 years ago and has used it faithfully every year since to celebrate family birthdays.

Symes's birthday float came in especially handy in May, when it was used to mark her father-in-law's 85th birthday.

"We planned his birthday for a year," she said, noting that they would have rented a hall and had more than 75 guests flying in from different states.

COVID-19 halted the festivities, so instead, Symes and family members decorated her father-in-law's porch and enjoyed a socially distance birthday, accompanied by the birthday cake inflatable.

"After leaving, we still had the balloon on the truck and drove it slowly through his 55-plus community. Many people waved and smiled as we passed by. I suggested to my husband that maybe I could do this in our town," said Symes.

She made a Facebook post to offer the service on several local community pages and the news soon spread like wildfire. Since then, Symes has participated in approximately 30 parades and has at least 30 more scheduled. Symes has provided the balloon and drives it herself completely free of charge, all while coordinating around her work schedule as a dispatcher for the Suffolk County Sheriff's Department.

"I am not looking to do this as a business," she noted. "Just trying to bring some cheer during these strange times. I enjoy doing it. It is a way to get out of the house and not feel cooped up and bored. It makes me smile to see so many people happy." ■

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MORICHES BAY GARDEN CLUB

Welcome back to the garden

It's June, and I'm happy to be back in Center Moriches and walk around my garden. We still have not had a regular meeting, but this month all members who feel comfortable are invited see to Paula Schmidt's daylily garden. We ask that everyone wear their mask, brings a chair and a box lunch.

Have you noticed that the Bank Street Park in downtown Center Moriches now has a Blue Star Memorial plaque installed? I want to give you a little history about these markers. After WW II, the National Garden Club wanted to do something to honor the service of all veterans. It started with the Jersey Project when Mrs. Lewis Hull, president of a NJ garden club, got approval from the NJ highway commissioner to plant 1,000 dogwood trees along a five-mile highway designated as The Blue Star Drive. It was named for the blue star in the service flag that hung in windows of homes to honor servicemen and woman. By 1947 the Blue Star Memorial Highway Program was adopted by all member clubs; it was the first program undertaken by garden clubs on a national level. The program has been extended to place markers in parks as well as highways, and the plaque reads, "A tribute to the Armed Forces of America."

Steven Rosche contacted our club last fall and said he would like to place a blue star marker in one of our parks as his Eagle Scout project. We were thrilled to sponsor him and gave him a guidebook from the national club and offered assistance. He made all the necessary contacts with the park commissioner, Moriches Chamber of Commerce, etc. Along with Troop 414, Steven did fundraising and made flower boxes for park. The MBGC agreed to plant perennials around the marker. Betty Ronston, Eileen DeRicco, Lillie Brown and myself did that last month. A big thank you to Bay Gardens of East Moriches for donating five 'blue star' juniperus squamata and a bag of organic fertilizer. Also, a big thank you to Steven Rosche and BSA Troop 414.



The Banks Street Park is a lovely, quiet place; it has several tables and is nicely landscaped. The park is dedicated to Keith Romaine, a Brookhaven councilman who passed away in 2009. Take a minute to sit a spell in the park.

The Banks Street Park is a lovely, quiet place; it has several tables and is nicely landscaped. The park is dedicated to Keith Romaine, a Brookhaven councilman who passed away in 2009. Take a minute to sit a spell in the park.

-Maureen Pollack

A push for reopening equity

Moriches chamber and Brookhaven Town support same rules for businesses, regardless of size

BY RANDALL WASZYNSKI

The Town of Brookhaven formed a business recovery task force in order to help local businesses as the state follows through with Phase 1 of Reopen NY. Local officials and chambers are pushing for equity in reopening businesses — the same rules regardless of the size of the business.

The Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches purchased advertisement space for its business members that wanted it. Arthur Gerhauser, the chamber's vice president, is a member on the town's task force and has been keeping the chamber's general body up to date. Gerhauser said the task force has drafted a proposal to the town that would, among other things, allow for applicable businesses to operate using a service window.

"It is not just for restaurants. It allows any business to do a service window," Gerhauser said. "Whether you are a pizzeria or a shoe store, you can do a service window."

Additionally, the proposal outlines a relaxation for certain signage in order to promote business. Thirdly, the proposal discusses that when restaurants are able to seat customers that patios, parking lots, and other outdoor areas can be used in order to maximize capacity while abiding by social-distancing mandates.

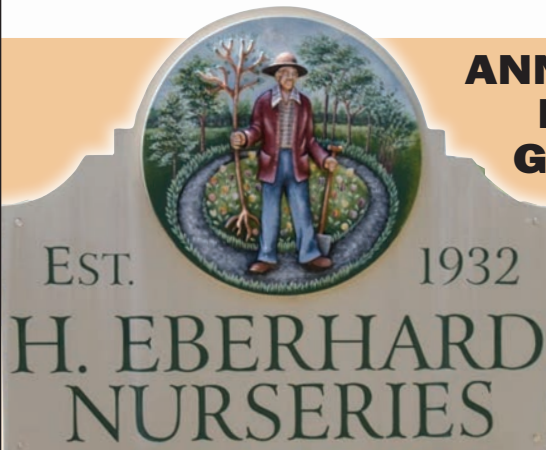
The Town of Brookhaven is holding a press conference on Thursday at 11:30 a.m. in front of the Bellport Firehouse on the corner of South Country Road and Woodruff Street to discuss reopening equity, regardless of a given business' size. The town board members as well as the task force will be present and encourage anyone attending to remain six feet apart, wear facemasks, and regularly sanitize high-touch surfaces. ■



The Chamber of Commerce of the Moriches offers its business members free advertising while Phase 1 of Reopen NY kicks off.

File photo

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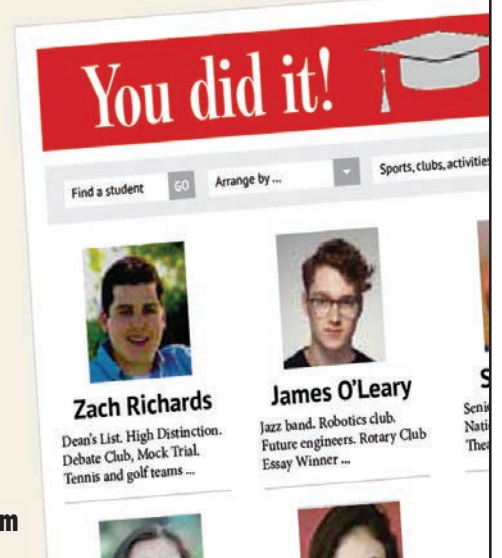
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The best part is that it's all easy. Just fill out a simple form at

.thetideofmoriches.HonorMyGrad.com



KEITH'S CORNER

The weather is warming up!

We at Helping Makes U Happy can't believe June is here already! The weather is getting nicer, there are many momentous occasions happening, and we are still doing what we can to stay safe and well, and encourage others to do the same.

June is always a busy month for us, and this June is no different. Helping Makes U Happy and the DQ Sisters at Medford Dairy Queen will be partnering up to help local children in need (sent to us by referral) celebrate their birthdays with a DQ ice cream cake and balloons. If you know a child who would benefit from this, please encourage the family to have their school social worker, religious organization or other helping organization reach out to us. We'll be starting off with five referrals per week.

June 1 is the first day of our month-long "June Boom" fundraiser. If you're not familiar with the June Boom, you can go to our website www.helping-makesuhappy.org or give us a call at 631-848-9008 and we'll be happy to explain it. But call early as the clock is ticking down. This is a fundraiser to help people affected by the COVID-19 crisis.

Also, in early June our scholarships will be awarded at four area high schools. Such awesome students with such creative, helping ideas! We are also very happy to be able to donate to the Little Flower Senior Class Send-Off so that their 12 senior class students can each celebrate their graduations in spite of the pandemic!

On the evening of June 5 and all day on Saturday, June 6, we'll be partnering with some members of the CMHS 2020 senior class for a drop-and-go food drive to benefit our community: the families referred to us who we'll be feeding again this summer, and the food pan-

tries. There'll be eight drop-off locations around town and there'll be flyers to tell you where we are all collecting. So please, if you are out shopping or online ordering, pick up an item or two and help our neighbors in need.

On June 19, the amazing Girl Scout troop 1659 will also be helping us by hosting a drop-and-go food drive on Evergreen Avenue, East Moriches, from 2-6 p.m. These girls have been busy donating to our front-line workers at PBMC, and we are honored that they want to help us!

If you or your family are rock painters, please consider painting and donating a rock to Bella Reed's "Rocks of Respect for Oasis" for the rock garden she's making at Oasis Rehab to honor front-line workers there. There is a rock collection box and another for rocks to take for painting at the HMUH Building on 1 Neville Street, Center Moriches. Congratulations and best wishes to all the 2020 graduates—we are all so proud of you! ■



Keith says he wears a mask to keep others safe, as well as himself. Sometimes it's hard to recognize who's behind the mask, but Keith thinks this will do the trick for him.

HMUH's Cassy Caputo named Woman of Distinction

Center Moriches resident Cassy Caputo has been selected by Legis. Rudy Sunderman as the local "Woman of Distinction" for his legislative district. Sunderman recently gave Caputo a proclamation marking the honor with a socially distant presentation in front of her home.

The Suffolk County Legislature's "Woman of Distinction" honor is usually bestowed upon extraordinary women in March during Women's History Month. As per Suffolk County Resolution 786-2002, each legislator is given an opportunity to recognize a "Woman of Distinction" within their district and honor her for all of her efforts to improve the community. Due to the outbreak of COVID-19, Sunderman was not able to honor Caputo with a formal ceremony; however, he felt it was important to take the time to recognize her for this accomplishment.

"I was honored to have the opportunity to recognize Cassy as the 3rd Legislative District's Woman of Distinction while still being able to practice our social-distancing protocols," Sunderman said. "Cassy goes above and beyond for our community, its residents, and her family."

Caputo is a longtime resident of Center Moriches and is the proud mother of three children, Keith, Briana and James. She retired in 2012 after working for 32 years and was the director of purchasing for the Town of Brookhaven. As her children

were growing up, Caputo volunteered her time with many local organizations, including serving as a board member of the Moriches Community Center. In 2015, she helped her eldest son, Keith, establish Helping Makes U Happy, a 501(c)(3) non-profit corporation aimed at demonstrating how every human being is capable of making a difference through volunteering. Caputo is not only the co-founder, but also serves as the organization's chairperson.

"While Keith Caputo is the founder of Helping Makes U Happy, his mother works behind the scenes as co-founder ensuring the success of all of their charitable endeavors," Sunderman said.

Helping Makes U Happy runs many events, such as a Memorial Day breakfast for our veterans, Prom Impact Project, Summer of Feeding the Families, school supplies and backpack collections, annual Halloween costume giveaways, Thanksgiving food boxes, winter coat drives and toy drives, as well as providing a free holiday boutique at the local nursing home where residents can shop for free.

"Cassy inspires others to make a difference in their community with the belief that doing good not only helps the lives of the less fortunate, but their own lives as well," Sunderman said. "Cassy truly encompasses everything that defines a Woman of Distinction." ■



Center Moriches resident Cassy Caputo has been selected by Legis. Rudy Sunderman as the local "Woman of Distinction" for his legislative district.

Courtesy photo

the Tide

OF MORICHES & MANORVILLE

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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.

Tuesday, June 9

School Board Elections – Due to state orders, all annual district budget votes and school board elections have been scheduled for June 9 and will be held by absentee ballot only. Qualified voters will be sent a ballot with postage-paid return envelope with instructions on how to complete. To be counted, all ballots must be received in the Office of the District Clerk by 5 p.m. on June 9.

Sunday, June 14

Flag Day – A day for Americans to raise the flag and fly it proudly. Use #NationalFlagDay to post on social media.

Saturday, June 20

Virtual 5K – Local nonprofit Girls on the Run Long Island will be holding its first Virtual 5K run for free, open to all who wish to participate. With options to complete the 3.1-mile distance at “your place, your pace,” kids and adults alike are welcome to participate at no cost. By registering for the run at www.gotrlongisland.org/5k, participants will receive free downloadable goodies, such as a race bib to decorate and a finisher’s certificate. GOTR Long Island prize packs will also be raffled off, chosen from those who have registered.

Summer Solstice

Sunday, June 21

Happy Father’s Day

Of Note ...

Mastics-Moriches-Shirley Community Library – The Library has a free online center for adult learners called Brainfuse Adult Learning Center. Access the center online at www.communitylibrary.org. Live online help available from 1 to 11 p.m. weekly. On the website, select Learn New Skills: Academic Assistance Online. Brainfuse Adult Learning Center features test preparation (including GED and U.S. citizenship preparation), writing assistance, and study tools for math, reading

and writing. Live, online one-on-one interaction with a tutor or job coach is available. Live sessions can be conducted in English or Spanish.

BAFFA Art – Virtually view the art of Long Island student’s during the gallery’s High School Art exhibit at www.baffa.org.

Virtual Screenings – The Plaza Cinema & Media Arts Center in Patchogue offers a couple of new films to their virtual release selections: “Lucky Grandma,” “The Painter and the Thief,” and “Diana Kennedy: Nothing

Fancy,” along with several other films and “Kid Flix,” the very best of short films from the New York Children’s International Film Festival. To select, rent and stream any movie, visit www.plazamac.org.

Flag Disposal – Have a torn or faded United States flag? Boy Scout Troop 800 will dispose of it properly with flag disposal protocol. Email the troop at TroopPack800@aol.com or call Pat at 631-874-0531.

Food Pantry – The Presbyterian Church of the Moriches serves the community each Mon-

day night, 6:30-7:30 p.m. Volunteers welcome. Call 631-878-1993 or visit www.pcusacm.org.

Pay Your Taxes Online – Brookhaven taxpayers can now access their Real Property Tax Statements. View, print and/or pay taxes. Choose online credit card or checking account payment. Visit <http://brookhaven.org> for details.

Send Us Your Events – The Moriches Tide prints community events for Moriches, Center Moriches, East Moriches, and Manorville in our “AROUND TOWN” section, free of charge. For inclusion, please submit event via email to: LIAProduction@optonline.net by the 15th of the month prior to event.

Domestic Violence – Is a loved one attacking you physically, verbally or emotionally? Contact the L.I. Against Domestic Violence. 24-hour hotline: 631-666-8833. Tell them, they’ll listen. For more information, visit www.liadv.org.

Pet Supplies Needed – RSVP Inc. Animal Welfare & Rescue Group is in the need of wet and dry dog and cat food, chews, blankets/towels, pens and crates, and flea/tick preventatives. Please call 631-533-2PET (2738) or email info@rsvpinc.org to arrange a pickup.

YEARS AGO

75 Years Ago

JUNE 1945

An old-fashioned taffy-pull was held by members and friends of the East Moriches Methodist Church at the home of **Mrs. Erick H. Lemmen**. First the taffy was cooked with corn syrup and flavoring; then, the children enjoyed several games and the taffy was pulled and consumed. Those participating included **Elva Moore, Rose Austin, Ruth Petzschke, Ella Lemmen, Frank Robinson, Miriam Zilli, Roberta Martin, Elizabeth Lemmen, Janet Knight and Patricia Lukert**.

First Lt. Fred W. Hancock of the Army Air Forces left for India after enjoying a furlough with his parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Edwin J. Hancock** of Woodlawn Avenue, East Moriches.

Mrs. John Hickey, of East Moriches, a graduate nurse of the Mary Immaculate Hospital in Jamaica, is attending “Baby Day” there this weekend with her five babies.

Elizabeth T. Brooks, of Center Moriches, has been promoted from second lieutenant in the Army Nurse Corps to first lieutenant. She is one of the nurses in the 24th General Hospital of the Peninsular Base for the Fifth Army and for the ground forces of the Air Corps and Navy in the Mediterranean Theatre of Operations. She has been awarded the European Theatre ribbon with two

Battle Stars.

Col. Josiah Smith Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution, held its monthly meeting at the Patchogue Hotel with a luncheon, where **Mrs. Edna Kaler Gracey**, of Center Moriches, sang a group of songs.

The Faculty Club of Center Moriches High School held its final meeting of the year at Webbie’s Beach. The picnic arrangements and menu were in charge of **Mrs. Vincent Gillen, Beatrice Coblenz, Carrie Husak, Arthur Bowditch and Benjamin Goldsmith**.

The children of Center Moriches Grade School presented the operetta “Children of Buttercup Commons,” a story that depicted the plight of the children that were always a nuisance to their elders. **James Raynor** in the leading role stole the show with his antics, and the production was expertly directed by **Mrs. Mary Mueller, Mrs. Gladys Soper and Mrs. Ethel Havens**.

The Eastport Women’s Club elected **Mrs. Eleanor Crouse** as president at its annual meeting.

Cornelia Raynor of Woodlawn Avenue, East Moriches, is a member of the 1945 graduating class of State Teachers College, New Paltz. While in college, Ms. Raynor was a member of the Theta Phi Sorority, Glee Club, Book Club, Epsilon Delta Chi Honorary Teaching Society and Ushers Guild.

Seventy combat missions is the mark made by **T/Sgt. Donald W. Hulse**

of Moriches, radio operator with a veteran B-25 Mitchell bomber group in the Mediterranean Theatre. The group bombed enemy targets in support of the Allied advance in northern Italy.

Mrs. Charles Chapman, Mrs. William Hudson, Mrs. George Schacht and Mrs. Louise Lukert, the Grey Ladies of Center Moriches, received their caps at a ceremony at Camp Upton.

Mr. and Mrs. George Podlaski, of East Moriches, announce the engagement of their daughter, **Miss Florence Podlaski**, to **George Herrmann Jr.**, son of **Mr. and Mrs. George Herrmann**, of Center Moriches.

Eastport High School was victorious in a hard-fought baseball game against Center Moriches. Eastport’s pitcher, **Wilmer Foskey**, struck out 14 in a fine display of pitching to earn his team’s 3-2 win.

Lt. Marvin Tannenbaum of the U.S. Army Air Forces has been visiting his wife, who is the athletic director at the Center Moriches School. Lt. Tannenbaum has just returned from Germany, where he spent 10 months as a prisoner of war.

Lt. Dorothy M. Koegel of the Army Nurse Corps has returned to Fort Dix, N.J., after enjoying a 10-day leave at the home of her parents, **Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Koegel**, of Center Moriches.

Catherine Kostuk is valedictorian of Eastport High School’s Class of 1945, and **Everett Crouse** is salutato-

rian.

Mrs. Clara Mae Crouse Ryder, of Eastport, received a Bachelor of Arts degree at the 101st annual commencement exercises at New York State College for Teachers, Albany. Ms. Ryder, who majored in mathematics and minored in French, will teach mathematics and science this coming year at the Center Moriches High School.

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O’Connell, of East Moriches, celebrated their 30th wedding anniversary with a party for 50 guests.

Local schools held their graduation ceremonies for their senior classes: **Eastport High School** graduated 16 students, with two in the military; **Center Moriches High School** graduated 31; and **East Moriches High School** graduated eight.

Lily Lukert, a student at Cornell University, arrived home to spend the summer vacation with her parents, **Mr. and Mrs. John Lukert**, of East Moriches.

Playing in June at the Center Moriches Theatre: Gary Cooper and Ingrid Bergman in “**For Whom the Bell Tolls**”; Judy Garland and Robert Walker in “**The Clock**”; Marjorie Main and James Craig in “**Gentle Annie**”; Greer Garson, Gregory Peck and Lionel Barrymore in “**Valley of Decision**”; and Joan Fontaine and George Brent in “**The Affairs of Susan**.”

Compiled by Vanessa Graniello

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