



JCRC-LI PRESENTS LONG ISLAND'S

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY COMMEMORATION

In partnership with

New York State Senate and Assembly Members
Representing Nassau and Suffolk Counties

Student Biographies

This annual program honors the memory of those lost in the Holocaust and recognizes Long Island youth working to create a more civil society.

May 5, 2022

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Baldwin High School

Izabelle Eustache

Izabelle is aware of social issues and very accepting of others. This is evident in her kind and caring demeanor and her willingness to always help others. She is also compassionate and has spent time helping a four-year old member of her family transition to the United States. She continues to help her by teaching her Creole and English. Izabelle wrote in her college essay about helping her elderly uncle navigate the medical system as a person who does not speak English. This is something that comes natural to Izabelle and will certainly be an asset to her in the future.

Grace Notarstefano

Grace has been a member of the Girl Scouts Organization for the past ten years. As a Girl Scout, Grace participated in various inter-generational workshops. Her troop organized a workshop aimed towards helping the older generation with using/setting up their phones and teaching them how to use specific social media accounts to better connect with their family and friends. Grace also helped organize a virtual online event aimed towards the younger members of the Girl Scout organization that taught members how to recognize healthy friendships. She has participated in other organizations such as the Youth Collective and Youth for Change that promotes workshops aimed towards activism.

Derek Watts

Derek is polite, sincere, and both respectful to his peers and adults. He is a very motivated and responsible young man. Derek is not only an active member of his church, but volunteers every summer at the Vacation Bible School and is currently one of the advisors. He has been a volunteer at Sunrise Day Camp, a camp for children who have pediatric cancer. He volunteers year-round for the Baldwin Little League and Long Island Royals. He is also a member of the National Honor Society, Varsity Baseball (Captain for 11th and 12th grades), FIRST Robotics Team, and Athletes Helping Athletes.

John F. Kennedy High School (Bellmore)

Nicole Giordano

Nicole serves as one of the community service coordinators in the Kennedy Student Government. In that role, Nicole has worked diligently to plan service activities to benefit her community. In October, Nicole planned a Safe Halloween party for elementary school students

in the Bellmore and Merrick elementary school districts. In addition, Nicole coordinated the annual holiday food drive to benefit the Dr. Mara Bollettieri Community Cupboard located at the Brookside School. That drive raised \$7,000 to benefit the cupboard during the holiday season. She also helped plan other activities such as a 6-on-6 basketball tournament and a 3-on-3 basketball tournament to benefit Hope for Youth.

Beverly Kleinman

For the last two years, Beverly has led a fundraising team to benefit the Lymphoma and Leukemia Foundation. She has organized a variety of charitable events – an art class, a Bingo night, a candy fundraiser, and more. She has raised thousands of dollars for the organization. Beverly also organized a wristband fundraiser during Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month to benefit The Lustgarten Foundation and she organized a Candy Gram fundraiser in December to benefit Hope for Youth.

Rachel Oppenheim

Rachel is the chapter leader of Becca's Closet, a national organization that collects and distributes dresses to high school girls with financial need. Young girls who do not have the financial means to buy a prom dress will have the opportunity to select one from a large selection of dresses collected thanks to Rachel's efforts. Rachel has also nobly served her school community in planning a variety of school events. Rachel petitioned her U.S. senators this fall to get passage of the Equality Act, a bill that would prohibit discrimination on the basis of sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity in employment, housing, public accommodations, education, federally funded programs, and other areas.

Mepham High School (Bellmore)

Allison Alvarez

Everything Allison does is motivated by the injustice she sees in the world. There are many social issues near to her heart. As of late, she is president of the Gender and Sexuality Alliance at Mepham and has spent the past year working to make the school an accepting environment for all students. Issues of inequity are very close to Alli's heart since she has seen firsthand how prevalent antisemitism, anti-immigrant sentiments, and homophobia are in today's society and her own community. Alli has brought recognition to the club and has successfully led two fundraisers, one for Broadway Cares Equity Fights AIDS and Pride For Youth, and the other one for the GSA club by raising awareness about the correct usage of pronouns. She has created pronoun buttons for students and faculty to wear. Alli is also a member of Long Island Erase

Racism's student task force. During the pandemic, Alli also joined the Better Together program through her temple. She talked to an older congregation member (through facetime and calls) who was isolated due to the pandemic.

Sahara Partap

Instances of racial and social injustice happening in the community, sparked inspiration in Sahara to do something to encourage the celebration of diversity, inclusion, and equity within Mepham High School. She spoke to the principal about how she felt her peers were not being exposed to different cultures, especially since the school make-up, students and teachers, are predominantly white. She wanted to create a safe space for kids and adults in the building to be able to discuss a variety of racial justice issues and learn about different ethnicities and backgrounds. With help from other students and the principal, Sahara created a club at Mepham called Mepham Equity Alliance (M.E.A for short). In the club, Sahara and other students cover topics like Black History Month and Asian American hate. She is also collaborating with one of the elementary schools in our district, where she is making a lesson plan to talk about the windows and mirrors theory through picture books. She's hoping to spread awareness about how important representation is through books and media with a younger age group.

Morgan Schaefer

Morgan has made it her mission to create a safe space for students to address issues centered around negative body-image, confidence, stress, self-esteem, etc. With an aspiration to help adolescents surmount society's impractical suppositions determining what is deemed acceptable, Morgan has established the *Perfectly Imperfect* program at Grand Avenue Middle School and Wellington C. Mepham High School. Hoping to build a foundation of optimism and confidence during an already stressful time in one's developmental years, *Perfectly Imperfect* is a program that grants students the opportunity to share their struggles and find coping strategies to positively work through them with other students. Creating a community with over 20 middle school students, and 30+ High School students, Morgan has made it her goal to include every member and incorporate everyone's ideas and perspective into her meetings. Centering her Girl Scout Gold Award on this matter, Morgan has also designed a positive affirmations Instagram page (@beyoutiful_affirmations) and a website to reach more people out of her community.

Brentwood High School

Joshua Castellanos

Joshua is a charismatic and caring young man who is a fellow in the "My Brother's Keeper (MBK)" program. As part of MBK, Joshua and administrative school staff, teachers, and his peers have collectively worked together to benefit young, minority males in their school and community. Joshua is a volunteer at Pronto of Long Island, a community outreach center located in the Brentwood community that serves families from minority households and people from low-income families. Most recently, he organized a large drive for the homeless within the Brentwood community on Martin Luther King Day. Joshua hopes to create a team that can help fulfill one of the organization's goals which is to assist individuals with mental health problems. Joshua uses his spare time at the Brentwood Public Library to network and take part in podcasts with his fellow peers.

Juan Carlos Delgado

Juan is an outgoing and bold young man who is a fellow in the "My Brother's Keeper (MBK)" program. As part of MBK, Juan and administrative school staff, teachers, and his peers have collectively worked together to benefit young, minority males in their school and community. Juan, along with his mentor at Brentwood Public Library, have collaborated to work with children and teach them financial literacy. He also volunteers at the Red Cross, going door to door to teach people about fire safety and install smoke detectors within the Brentwood Community. He is a youth board member on the Islip Town Environmental Council and a chapter president of Students for Climate Action. He is passionate about engaging elected officials to act on climate change.

Lutheran High School (Brookville)

Devin Moore

As a Humanity Rising Ambassador and founder of #RaceToSpeakUp, Devin was inspired to create the #RaceToSpeakUp organization after being racially cyberbullied in middle school. Devin believes that people should never be bullied and he is driven to make sure what happened to him does not happen to other kids. Devin is dedicated to getting a state anti-bullying law passed which will keep students safe in schools from bullying and implementing mandatory anti-bullying classes in schools. He has served as the guest speaker for Humanity Rising's Empowering Youth to Change the World Podcast and What Cause Inspires You? Voices Podcast educating viewers about the different types of bullying (cyber, physical, verbal, and social) and its devastating effects. Devin has spoken to elementary students about being an

“upstander” and to #RaceToSpeakUp against bullying. He also initiated an anti-bullying workshop at our school that educates students in 7th through 12th grades about the importance of speaking up and using their voice for bullying prevention.

Carle Place High School

Shannon Wagner

Shannon is a kind, dedicated, and humble student who has been actively involved in community service for her entire high school career at Carle Place High School. Shannon has been an active member of the Key Club for four years. She currently serves as the club’s Vice President. Shannon has volunteered at the INN Soup Kitchen, the Hicksville Boys and Girls Club, track or treat, and the Kiwanis Pancake Breakfast. Shannon has helped to organize the Carle Place Adopt-A-Family Toy Drive and Food Drive. The club carried out a volunteer service called “frogging” during her sophomore and junior years. This was a way to spread community pride throughout our town and fundraise for high school scholarships. Volunteers, like Shannon, moved the frogs from house to house around town in the evenings. It was a contactless and safe method of service. Shannon was always reliable and remained a constant volunteer during the pandemic. Shannon is currently organizing Battle of the Classes, Battling for a Cause, and the Key Club Fashion Show.

Commack High School

Stephen Gaughan

Stephen is an upstanding and mature young man who has an extensive historical background. He is an advanced student of Latin and enjoys political history and conversation. He sought involvement in the Political Activism Club from the time he stepped into Commack High School. He reaches across both sides of the aisle to provide for inclusivity. He brings people together by reaching out to politicians from both parties to speak to students at meetings. Stephen values students’ views and wants them to share their voice. On 9/11 Commack honored first responders with an oral history project. Stephen read, in front of over 2,000 attendees, one first responder's story in an evening Memorial Ceremony. That first responder was so moved by Stephen's efforts and was appreciative that his story could live on in the next generation.

Walter G. O'Connell Copiague High School

Paris DeFreitas

Paris has consistently demonstrated she has the drive, competence, and moral compass to be an effective leader among her peers and thus should be recognized as an upstander of her community. Because of her conscientious demeanor and the fact that she is reliable and trustworthy, she has been elected as Class President every year since the ninth grade and is the current president of the National Honor Society. The embodiment of a scholar athlete, Paris was recognized as a natural born leader on the soccer field and was thus entrusted to be the captain of both the JV and Varsity teams throughout her high school career. Paris was also selected as one of two students to represent our school district in the Long Island Forum. Inspired by her participation in the first forum, Paris enrolled in the leadership training offered by the organizers of the Long Island Forum and was selected as a student leader in a subsequent forum which took place in the spring of last year. As a member of the Key Club since ninth grade, she has participated in a number of charity and community service events. During the spring of 2020, she could not be silent following the killing of George Floyd, therefore, along with two of her peers, she organized a Black Lives Matter rally in the community which was attended by hundreds of people.

Adriana Jimenez Bonilla

An extraordinarily well-rounded individual, Adriana has proven that she is not only an exceptional student, she is also a leader and an active member of our school and the broader community and has significantly impacted both. Adriana is the type of student that wishes to effect real change in the world, and thus has been instrumental in leading our Gay Straight Alliance Club, Student Council, and the 2022 Class. Through these positions she has proven that she is a reliable, consistent, and conscientious individual as she has helped plan many events to create a better school community. Perhaps her biggest impact on the school climate is through her leadership in the GSA club which has allowed her to conduct multiple presentations to the group in which have resulted in a more harmonious school environment. As a cabinet officer in the Student Council, she has volunteered to help the advisors with multiple events and the organization of meetings.

Devonie Rhoden

Devonie, a senior, is dedicated to creating a more compassionate society. Devonie is a member of the Key Club, One Mind Club, National Honor Society, Student Council, Ecology Club, Bringing Unity Through Youth Club, and Independent Science Research Club. All of these organizations

have the common goal of improving society by teaching empathy and compassion to its members. Devonie has organized numerous community service programs such as annual blood drives for the Long Island Blood Center, food drives for Our Lady of Assumption Food Pantry, fundraisers for organizations such as UNICEF and the Leukemia and Lymphoma Society, clothing collections for Madonna Heights Family Service Clinic, and the Kiwanis Club of Copiague. She was instrumental in cultivating meaningful opportunities for her peers to engage with the community thus creating enduring benevolent relationships.

Half Hollow Hills High School East (Dix Hills)

Jaiveer Gujral

Jaiveer has always been a compassionate and empathetic student. Jaiveer's parents own a cell phone store in New York City that unfortunately suffered during COVID and was also vandalized. The store's windows were completely damaged and broken, and multiple items stolen. Jaiveer was grateful that most of his family's losses were covered by insurance but many stores and small businesses were impacted that did not have insurance and almost lost everything. Therefore, Jaiveer started a GoFundMe and website for these small businesses. He chose three small businesses near his Dad's store and by the end of August had raised a total of \$4,500 to help them cover the cost of rent, employee expenses, and loss of business. His website is called <https://www.raiseforreason.com/>. He is hoping to use the platform he created to continue to help people with current issues. Jaiveer was also an intern with Nassau County Legislator Josh Lafazan and he is a member of the Future Business of America Club and Business Honor Society.

Half Hollow Hills High School West (Dix Hills)

Emma Zoccoli

Emma is genuine, articulate, and mature. She sets strong, attainable goals and will undoubtedly always find a way to achieve them, even if it requires her to create an alternate plan to get there. She has played an intricate part in rebranding a club titled, One World Youth Club. The goal of this club is to empower a generation of global citizens by creating an international network of One World Youth Clubs that will link to one another and provide opportunities to communicate with, learn from, and gain understanding and insight about one another. The club's attendance has strengthened due, in part, to Emma's dedication and leadership. Emma ran an Island Harvest drive, where students collected over 630 pounds of food. Emma is a three-season athlete and was selected by our superintendent to be a part of our Half Hollow Hills Inclusivity and Diversity Committee, which aims to create a safe and welcoming

community for all students. Lastly, Emma is a member of the robotics team. She holds the position of head builder. She has been an asset to clubs and activities on campus.

East Meadow High School

Sarah Eisenberg

Sarah currently serves as Secretary of the Expressing Pride in Israeli Culture Club where she helps plan and run Jewish events for the school community to enjoy, as well as makes all of our social media posts and flyers. She is also a big part of BBYO where she joined regional and international Israel-focused committees and even took a modern Israel class led by an Israeli woman to learn more about the culture. She also serves as the Vice President of programming and Judaic affairs for BBYO and it's something she really enjoys. She is a wonderful leader with great knowledge of the Jewish culture.

Corey Schwartz

Corey currently serves as Vice President of the Expressing Pride in Israeli Culture Club where he helps plan and run Jewish events for the school community to enjoy. He also served as the treasurer of his chapter of BBYO where he held two greatly successful fundraisers, planned, and led an event that raised money for the Anti-Defamation League. He is now serving as the Shaliach of his chapter where he oversees preserving the Judaic elements of BBYO for his chapter. He is a wonderful leader with great knowledge of the Jewish culture.

East Rockaway Jr./Sr. High School

Michael Kilgus

Mike has been a three-sport athlete all throughout high school, earning the title "Captain" for the football team in his sophomore year. In addition, he is an active member of the National Honor Society due to his high grades and community service. As a member of Mock Trial, Mike sharpened his reasoning and critical thinking skills. Mike focuses on the activities that truly matter to him. He has built a strong rapport with the faculty and student body at East Rockaway High School and has become everyone's "right hand man." Mike is a natural born leader who will continue to work on building a better and brighter future for everyone.

Emily McLaughlin

Emily regularly stands out from her peers as a result of her poise, maturity, intellect, and leadership qualities. Not only has she challenged herself with AP, honors, and accelerated courses throughout high school while sustaining a 101.19 average, but she also finds the time to inspire and lead through a myriad of clubs and organizations. She is genuine, patient, organized, and dedicated. Furthermore, as Vice President of the National Honor Society, President of her class, Secretary of Mock Trial, and avid writer with the school newspaper, Emily has gained a prodigious perspective on what it takes to lead and inspire people. There have been many controversial issues in the media this year, and she has not shied away from them. She writes with passion and maturity, in a way that does not intimidate or offend other student opinions. She is a member of the badminton team, a Northwell Health Peer Aid educator, and a participant in Molloy College Summer Academy: Global Citizenship Seminar. Emily is truly a renaissance woman, she is smart, empathetic, and inquisitive. She shows resilience and gives her best all of the time.

John H. Glenn High School (Elwood)

Abigail Rothleder

Abigail is a true leader and role model among her community. Abigail is a member of the Community Service Club, Italian Club, Kickline, Mock Trial, and Natural Helpers. She is also the National Honor Society President and has been able to help coordinate and initiate many community service projects. For example, she was a driving force behind our Adopt-a-Family Program that helped families in the Elwood community during the holiday season provide gifts to each other that they would be unable to buy on their own. Additionally, she is a Girl Scout who organized a district wide book drive for the Book Fairies. Abigail has also created cards for veterans and made meals for the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative. She is a member of the Trinity Episcopal Church where she volunteers in the church nursery and as an acolyte. Abigail is active in the Huntington Youth Court which is a program that is run by youth and sponsored for the NY Bar Foundation. It allows for youth offenders, who have committed their first misdemeanor crime, to have their case heard by a jury of their peers. Abigail was a volunteer juror and attorney for the program.

Floral Park Memorial High School

Madison Lewis

Madison involves herself in a myriad of extracurricular activities with an emphasis on the science field. She has competed in science fairs (Long Island Science Congress, Molloy College

Science Fair, and the Northwell Health Medical Marvels Competition). Madison has spent time researching at the Cold Spring Harbor lab studying the DNA of ants. She has also explored her passion for the law field by joining the Mock Trial Club where she served as a lawyer during simulated trials. Showcasing her leadership skills, Madison was voted in as Secretary for the National Junior Honor Society and since last year, serves as the Vice President of the National Senior Honor Society. She was selected to serve on the Superintendent's Advisory Council. Furthermore, Madison participated in the Long Island Leadership Conference hosted by Erase Racism. The goal of the conference was to educate Long Island students about historic and ongoing structural racism on Long Island. Lastly, Madison was selected for the Junior Achievement HS Heroes program. As a student teacher for the past three years, Madison was assigned to a kindergarten through second grade class where she teaches the class financial literacy concepts.

Great Neck North High School

Ariel Baron

Last year, Ariel participated in Names, Not Numbers©, a yearlong Holocaust documentary program. Ariel was given the biography of his survivor and worked in a small group to come up with 50 questions for the interview. He was an active participant in filming and editing a documentary that has been archived in many Holocaust museums. Because Ariel's generation is the last generation to speak face to face with a Holocaust survivor, he is the bridge between the survivors and generations to come. Ariel showed maturity, respect, and emotional stability throughout the duration of the project.

Nabi Nabavian

Last year, Nabi participated in the Names, Not Numbers©, Holocaust documentary program, a program that documents the first-hand experience of Holocaust survivors and is archived in museums. Instantly, Nabi took upon himself to lead his group in the steps needed to prepare for interviewing the Holocaust survivor. Nabi was an active participant during our Holocaust educational sessions, and shared a beautiful testimonial at the closing of the film. Nabi was very hands on in crafting interview questions and editing the documentary. Nabi is a bridge between the survivors and generations to come.

Harborfields High School (Greenlawn)

Jacob Siegel

Jacob has been an active member of the Harborfields Alliance for Community Outreach (HACO) club for 4 years. He is currently the president and was the junior president last year. Jacob is always looking to help the less fortunate members of the community through his help with the outreach club. Each month, he prepares food for deliveries and has been instrumental in fundraisers to collect food. In addition to Jacob's work with HACO, he along with a classmate, co-founded, planed, and hosted the first Huntington Anti-Bias concert in partnership with the Town of Huntington to raise money and awareness of bias that many community members face daily. He raised a few thousand dollars and he was able to give out t-shirts that they still occasionally see around town.

Marshall Singer

Marshall's hard work and dedication to his academics have earned him consistent placement on the school's Honor Roll and membership in the National Honor Society. Outside of the classroom Marshall is just as impressive. As a four-year member of the varsity tennis team, Marshall has been able to showcase his ability to work with others to reach a common goal and has learned the value of using criticism constructively in order to develop and grow. Additionally, Marshall's leadership potential and his willingness to help others shines through with the work he does with our Athletes Helping Athletes program where he serves as a role model and mentor to elementary and middle school students in the district. Marshall volunteers with Habitat for Humanity and the Stand Up to Cancer clubs within the school and he also volunteers his time with B'nai B'rith Youth Organization, the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative, the Gurwin Jewish Nursing and Rehabilitation Center, and the Adopt-a-Child program. He is also a member of the school's choir, participates in the Math and Environmental clubs, and is the founder and president of the Chess Club.

Aliyah Steinberg

Aliyah's goal in life is to make someone else's life a bit easier. She is always inclusive of others, no matter their race, gender, or beliefs. Aliyah is extremely involved with UJA-Federation of NY where she is a member of the Witness Project. Aliyah meets with a Holocaust survivor biweekly to talk about her story and experiences. Aliyah loves speaking with her and really enjoys the opportunity to keep her story alive! During quarantine, Aliyah also got involved with Black Lives Matter. She created a short documentary with her friend which was then turned into an article written by Steve Israel and published in The Hill. Aliyah is also working on creating a Jewish Awareness club at school.

Hewlett High School

Mara Riegel

Mara is a 15-year-old activist from Long Island. Mara has been expressing a love for civil rights and equity for all since a young age. Last July, Mara participated in the ACLU National Advocacy Institute where they studied free speech, data privacy, racial profiling, and participated in affinity groups to promote more diverse narratives. Following the Institute, they attended French Woods Festival for the Performing Arts where they developed a project dedicated to promoting self-esteem among kids and teens with a group of friends, followed by two individual speech and research projects surrounding education in the United States. Mara will be attending the Brown Leadership Institute where they plan to study Gender and its relationship with power and politics. Mara plans to continue their work following all of this and become a civil rights attorney, specifically hoping to work for the ACLU.

Huntington High School

Sophia Segal

Huntington High School Junior, Sophia, clearly sets the bar high in terms of building bridges. She is involved in a wide variety of clubs and activities. She is the Vice President of the Spanish Honor Society, and is a member of the English Honor Society, Science Honor Society, Tri-M Music Honor Society, and the National Honor Society. She holds key positions in our Habitat for Humanity and Key Club as well. Sophia is part of the Key Club's Global Relations Committee, where she interacts with other Key Club members from all over the world to discuss the importance of diversity and inclusion in all settings. Sophia is a shining example for others to follow at Huntington High School and she plans to pursue a career in either politics or public health while also continuing her study of Spanish, which has been ongoing for 12 years.

Walt Whitman High School (Huntington Station)

Keira Conlon

Keira is a well-rounded student who has been an active member of the South Huntington Community since she was a freshman. During her freshman year, Keira showed her leadership abilities as well as community service through her position as Freshman Class President. Freshman year was just the beginning of what would become four dynamic years for Keira. Over the next three years, Keira stayed keenly involved within the student government to lead her peers in stewardship. She has been an active participant in leadership roles in student government and school clubs such as Natural Helpers and the World Language Honor Society.

She has been an integral part of other clubs such as the Interact Club, Women in STEM Club, Students Together Against Racism, and Natural History Day.

Jordan Logue

Jordan is talented, hardworking, reliable, and most importantly, kind. Jordan pursues all endeavors with an open mind and heart. She mentors young actors and dancers, supporting them emotionally and creatively. Jordan has an extraordinary ability to work with all people and create connections that are meaningful and productive. She is a leader that generously serves others. She leads with love and her innate kindness and commitment inspire her peers to follow. Jordan is the president of the Theatre Honor Society and an active leader in the Dance and Theatre program at Walt Whitman High School.

Aniya Nicholson

Aniya is passionate about connecting communities. She actively works in the Walt Whitman High School community to discuss intersectional topics related to identity. She is also a leader in the Social Justice Ambassador program. In this group, Aniya collaborates with other local high schools to delve deeper into various topics, such as genocide, racism, LGBTQIA+ issues, and bystander intervention. Aniya strives to implement a school-wide initiative to create a more inclusive, just, and culturally responsive community.

General Douglas MacArthur High School (Levittown)

Chelsea Koelling

Chelsea is an amazing young woman who is always looking for ways to better her community. She grew up in a group home with eight developmental disabled adults. Through AHRC, she volunteered her time at their summer camp, assisted in running their field day, and helped with clerical duties in the office. Chelsea is also an active member of Wantagh Fire Department's Junior Explorers. Through Junior Explorers, she has completed training and volunteered at different functions including helping at the Jones Beach Air Show and assisting at EMT classes. Chelsea plans to be an active firefighter when she turns 18.

Scott Molina

Scott is an exemplary student, two-season varsity athlete, but equally important; Scott is a socially conscious individual. Scott continues to be a passionate volunteer for both MacArthur High School and the Levittown community. However, he is most proud of the many community

service projects he has been involved with and also spearheaded as Troop Leader for his Boy Scout Troop 330. One most recent project was rebuilding and cleaning the gardens at Temple Beth-El and building a “take a book leave a book” structure at all the Levittown community pools. Additionally, his awareness of the social isolation and access to resources for senior citizens, encouraged initiating a food drive for families in need and delivering them as well as adding personal messages and notes to the senior citizen. This simple action served in letting the senior know that the troop is there to assist in any way necessary during this pandemic. Scott is in the process of working toward his Eagle Badge.

Aidan Prescott

Community service is very important to Aidan. He is a young man who has been a scout since he was in first grade. He wrote, “Being a scout has taught me independence, survival skills, teamwork, and above all, service to others.” Some of Aidan’s community service activities include assisting with building a cat “condo” for the Town of Hempstead Animal Shelter; rehabilitating a garden space for a local Jewish temple; participating in a Knights of Columbus food drive; renovating a church basement and cemetery; and participating in beach clean-ups. Aidan is currently an Assistant Senior Patrol Leader which involves him planning and organizing troop activities for younger scouts. He is currently working on his Eagle rank and project and plans to have it completed this year.

Locust Valley High School

Josephine DeBono

Josephine has experienced far more adversity in her life than that of the average teenager. While most kids spent their summers having fun at camp or at the beach, Josephine spent her days indoors recovering from one eye surgery after another. Josephine, who wears a prosthetic eye, has endured much physical and emotional pain. When Josephine sees a need she fills it. As a Hispanic-American living in a homogeneous community, Josephine has been motivated to get involved in a way that creates a bridge between our non-English speaking student population and our more traditional student population. Josephine created Estudiantes Para Estudiantes, a club whose purpose is to help assist our ENL students with the transition to school in the United States. As the group’s leader, Josephine coordinates peer-led English language tutoring and social guidance. Josephine is an active participant in the Diversity and Inclusion Committee meetings, advocating for and serving as a voice for the underrepresented. As President of the Model U.N, Vice President of Mock Trial, and Communications Director of the New York chapter of the High School Democrats of America, Josephine has begun to carve a career path for herself that involves advocacy, politics, and law.

Tess Delaney

Tess was one of the original club members of the Acts of Kindness Club when it began in January 2021. She was actively involved in the club and her insight as someone who is mindful and inclusive of others was very well received in all the club activities. Tess assisted in the coordination of "P.S. I Love You Day" which is dedicated to bringing awareness to the importance of mental health. Tess was also a tremendous help with our Women's History Month celebration and did a book reading for the elementary students about Ruth Bader Ginsberg. Tess is a dynamic and caring person who makes all the students feel welcome and included.

Giavanna Villella

The best part of Giavanna or Gia as she is known around the halls of Locust Valley is her authentic self. Everything she does is sincere and out of the goodness of her heart. Gia has a magnetic personality and you can't help but smile when you are with her. She is engaging in conversation and fully takes into consideration all possibilities before making a decision. This is such a refreshing quality to see in a young person. Gia helped develop an after school club for high school girls that focuses on positive self-talk and learning to build each other up instead of tearing each other down. The name of the club is called "Sisterhood Group." This is the first year that "Sisterhood Group" has run and they have 28 active members. She saw a need for young girls to have a space where they can openly express themselves and build one another up.

Sanford H. Calhoun High School (Merrick)

Nickolas Mascary

Nickolas stands out at Calhoun High School as a leader who works to create a more civil society. As the president of the Racial Equity Club, he leads meetings where he fosters conversations about race to help create a nurturing, inclusive school that is sensitive to people's differences. Additionally, he has planned meetings with the Merrick Avenue Middle School's Pride Club where he spoke about his experiences racially and regarding his sexual orientation. Through his involvement in DECA, he coordinated a project with the Racial Equity Club which resulted in the creation of an 18-page business manual on why an 'Open Forum' is necessary, especially in Merrick, and how it can be spread to other schools. Nick is also an active member of the Gender Equality Club, where he is involved in discussing gender-related issues such as sexual assault, misogyny, transphobia, etc. Furthermore, Nick is working to reduce religious, cultural, and racial intolerance and he is on the school's site-based committee where he provides a

student perspective on issues in Calhoun High School. Nick has been selected for the Nassau County Youth Wellness Summit.

Mineola High School

Urja Patel

As a longtime member and current Co-President of the Mineola High School Student Service Center's many community outreach programs, Urja has proven to be a dedicated and compassionate individual. She volunteers at Sunharbor Manor, working on crafts with the residents. Urja also helps senior residents improve their skills and understanding of technological devices such as tablets, smart phones, and laptops. These are vital skills help to combat isolation and fulfill daily necessities. Since she could not meet senior citizens in person during the pandemic, Urja dedicated many hours to creating tutorial videos. She has also reached out to the younger generation, volunteering at the Nassau Bar Association's Gingerbread University and Children's Festivals each year. The Ronald McDonald House dinner project was another way Urja reached out to those in need, cooking dinner for families staying at the Ronald McDonald House while a loved one gets care at the hospital. She has been a member of the Junior Leadership Council at Cohen's Children's Hospital and contributed to an anti-vaping campaign to raise awareness to fight adolescent use.

Julia Therassi

Julia is a motivated, diligent, and compassionate volunteer. Julia is Co-President of the Mineola High School Student Service Center, an organization dedicated to community outreach. In the Computees program, Julia helped senior citizens in our community embrace technology while teaching them the ins and outs of their iPads, iPhones, and laptops on a one-to-one basis. Even throughout the pandemic, Julia found ways to give of herself and impact others. Through peer tutoring, Julia has spent many hours helping her fellow students master the rigors of their course work. As a recent immigrant, she is able to bond with students and provide the necessary support to help students who are learning to speak English find success. In addition, she has participated in events that promote the value of education globally by loading hundreds of boxes of books into shipping containers through a program that sends books to Africa. Julia also has been involved with the many community service endeavors of the Key Club and National Honor Society.

Herricks High School (New Hyde Park)

Jasmine Feng

After learning about the historical plight of Asian-Americans in AP American History, as well as staying current on the news (which sadly included weekly attacks on Asians in America), all the while simultaneously being the president of the Asian American club at Herricks, Jasmine decided to act. Jasmine created the Herricks Stop Asian Hate Rally/March. Nearly 200 people signed up to attend the event. She has held several leadership positions in clubs while concurrently winning numerous academic accolades along the way. Jasmine is going to change the world. While most students rest idly upon their knowledge of America's history and politics, Jasmine sought to apply the lessons of history in order to make the world a better place.

Plainedge High School (North Massapequa)

Amanda Marinace

Amanda is an integral part of the fabric and culture of our community at Plainedge High School. She routinely volunteers her time to work with intellectually disabled students as both a Peer Coach during the Adapted Physical Education classes and as a peer buddy in the Best Buddies club. She is an amazing role model for her fellow classmates as her positivity and energy is infectious and helps to create such a warm and nurturing environment for her peers. In her Peer Coaching class, which she has been a part of for the last two years, Amanda can be heard singing and seen dancing across the room as she leads her classmates in "getting our party started." She allows her classmates to be themselves and encourages them to come out of their comfort zones. As a Best Buddies Member, Amanda will soon be visiting our elementary schools to put on a preview for our first ever Best Buddies Fashion Show. With her Best Buddies club members, Amanda will show our youngest students how having an intellectual disability doesn't have to limit you socially or creatively and certainly doesn't stop you from having fun.

Oceanside High School

Carolina Rosciglione

Carolina is a young woman of exceptional character, both as a student and a member of the Bridges program. She shines a light on issues that affect her while also being mindful of her civic duty to be a change agent for the community at large. Through Bridges, she has worked to build relationships with neighboring school districts and create dialogues about social justice with others. Despite the challenges of lockdown, Carolina sought out ways to make our program

better and more inclusive and facilitate it as an online experience. Outside of Bridges, Carolina displays an interest in continuing to learn and express herself through her writing, both as a creative writer and someone able to discuss issues at a journalistic level.

Ariella Rukhlin

Ariella is a young woman of exceptional character, both as a student and a member of the Bridges program. She shines a light on issues that affect her while also being mindful of her civic duty to be a change agent for the community at large. Through Bridges, she has worked to build relationships with neighboring school districts and create dialogues about social justice with others. She has led discussions with groups distinctly different from her own and sought opinions that challenge her worldview. Through her podcast, Curious Minds, Ariella seeks out experts to grow her knowledge of the world and better serve society at large. Outside of Bridges, Ariella pursues academic goals that are both scientific and creative, always looking to better the people around her.

The Wheatley School (Old Westbury)

Lital Farahnik

Lital is committed to volunteering - she is an engaged and active member of Luv Michael - a nonprofit that raises awareness for Autism. They raise money to support, train, and educate adults with Autism to gain employment at a bakery in NYC. Lital is also involved with DoSomething.org and was very active in three of their campaigns to support those in need. Lital is a gifted musician (piano and trumpet) and talented Soccer, Tennis, and Lacrosse player. Lital is a kind and gentle soul who gives 100% to all that she gets involved in both in and out of school.

Kayla Kokura

Kayla is an extremely engaged and motivated young lady. As a sophomore, she is known as an effective and dynamic leader. Kayla is the President of the Junior Board of Key Club, Editor in Chief of one of the school magazines, Secretary for Yearbook Club, and Attendance Coordinator and Supreme Court Judge for School Within A School. Additionally, Kayla is a member of Mock Trial, Student Senate, and the Cultural Initiatives Committee. She has the soul of a musician and is a gifted clarinetist.

Hallie Packin

Hallie is an outstanding student at The Wheatley School. She is a compassionate young lady, a dedicated student, and an energetic contributor to our community. Aside from Hallie's superior academic standing, her resume is quite impressive as it highlights her love of learning, willingness to lend a helping hand, and outstanding desire to make a difference in the world. She is a valuable leader within our school building serving as the Vice-President of the Connections Club and Vice-President of Communications for the Key Club. Hallie has also devoted countless hours to the "Luv Michael" a foundation that assists adults with Autism to find jobs. Through Temple Sinai, Hallie has taken on leadership roles in "Hand through Hand" and "Havdalah for Hunger", as a Public Relations & Vice President. Horseability is fortunate to have Hallie volunteer her time and bond with children with special needs while they participate in riding therapy.

Plainview Old Bethpage JFK High School

Julia Powers

Julia participated in Witness Project, an intergenerational program where teens meet with Holocaust survivors throughout the year to create friendships and hear the survivors' stories of trauma and triumph. After the program, Julia shared the survivors' stories with others by speaking publicly at select forums. Additionally, she advocated for more government funding for survivors' needs by widely circulating a petition that gleaned increased support thanks to her efforts that was ultimately shared with legislators. Witness Project inspired Julia to volunteer and visit homebound seniors by bringing food and hearing their stories to help ward off isolation. In Julia's role of serving on the BBYO Board, she oversees community service. She recently organized a fundraiser for Sunrise Day Camp, a free camp for children with cancer and their siblings, that raised \$1,000. This idea emanated from Julia's efforts to raise funds to provide kits that contain educational and fun activities for kids in a local shelter escaping domestic violence. In lieu of birthday gifts during COVID, Julia created an online fundraising campaign where she matched dollar for dollar every gift donated; she raised \$1,500. With the funds, she purchased the items for the kits and involved 15 friends at an outdoor setting to assemble 108 kits that Julia delivered to the shelter. Julia has also been an active member of the Teens As Leaders program at the Mid Island Y JCC for the last 3 years where she's volunteered at dozens of community events.

Riverhead High School

Jon Vazquez Ayala

Jon has been a part of the Council for Unity program for three years. Jon has grown into a dedicated young man who takes the initiative of being a leader. During class, Jon will talk with his classmates and inspire them to do amazing things with their lives. Jon's positivity is impressive because as a young man sometimes it is difficult to look at things from a positive perspective, but he always somehow does that. Jon's kindness and acceptance of others are admirable. Jon is going to continue to inspire others in our community.

Beyonca Bryant

Beyonca is a senior and is one of the most motivated students. Beyonca has enlisted with the military and plans to have a career in law enforcement. Beyonca has been a part of Council for Unity for this school year and she has been an active participant in class. Beyonca has also been a part of the Law Enforcement program at BOCES. She is always willing to help others and encourage them to do their best. Beyonca is going to succeed in all that she puts her mind to in the future. She will continue to help others and make a difference in our community.

Tiffany Perez

Tiffany is the type of student that gets involved in school clubs and activities to help out and make a difference. Tiffany has been a part of student government for the past two years. She is also an active participant in Council for Unity, Class President, Key Club, Blue Masques, Youth Court, and more. Tiffany puts her all into everything that she does. Tiffany is not only motivated, a leader, and dedicated, but she is also kind hearted and goes above and beyond for every task that she is given. Tiffany has helped in many community service functions that the school has organized; whether it be creating posters for P.S. I Love You Day or a food drive, Tiffany will do whatever she can to help.

Roslyn High School

Samantha Schilling

Samantha was chosen to take part in the Witness Project. She became extremely close with Mrs. Lena Goren, a 91-year-old Holocaust survivor from Salonika, Greece. As an advocate for social justice, learning Lena's journey inspired her to use her voice to stand up for others. Her relationship with Lena has taught her that as much as the elderly population needs us, we need them. Her experiences with Lena reinforced her desire to study gerontology to help improve

the lives of our aging population. In addition to the Witness Project, Samantha is a founder of several school initiatives including Advocacy Agents, Bulldog Buddies, and Vax Helper.

Smithtown High School East

Matthew Dowd

Matthew consistently demonstrates a desire to be an active member of the Leadership program. He routinely gives up evenings and his spare time to help run events. He has volunteered at various school events including East's Trunk-or-Treat and the annual Blood Drive. He works to raise money for local groups such as the international "PS I Love You" organization, which raises money for suicide awareness. He also co-planned and organized this year's "PS I Love You" week, which was a huge school-wide success. Matthew has been tasked with various large research projects in which he needed to demonstrate the ability to multitask and understand time management. Some of his research includes ways to unify the school and incorporate non-traditional learning environments into classroom space.

Aman Mistry

Aman is a leader among men. He is one of the most academically talented students to grace the halls of Smithtown High School East. Most importantly, he is very down to earth and extremely humble. He is a dedicated member of the Academic Quiz Bowl team and helps to lead his team to many victories in competitions. He currently serves as the team's president. Aman also was instrumental in reviving the Science Olympiad team at High School East. He is also a Simons Summer Research Fellow, working with Stony Brook University conducting research and working on numerous experiments, all while maintaining a rigorous course load. During the pandemic, Aman, with some of his peers, founded Peer Lab Tutoring. It is a free, virtual tutoring nonprofit that coordinates tutoring between high school tutors and struggling students. Aman is also the co-founder and co-president of the Science Club at Gayatri Gyan Kendra of Long Island. He and his colleagues work to make science more accessible to elementary students by exposing them to science experiments and concepts at a young age with the hopes of building their confidence so they can one day become leaders in science.

Shriya Patel

Shriya is a bright, kind, and compassionate young woman who constantly looks to better the lives of those around her. Additionally, she is a positive role model in the classroom and always exhibits great character and a strong work ethic. Shriya exemplifies what it means to actively make her community a better place. Her actions continue to enrich the lives of people in all

different facets of life. Shriya partnered with Bake Back America and created her own non-profit organization with a friend called *Art For Awareness*. They teach young children in shelters about important people and engage them with a craft to go along with it. Her aim is to provide learning opportunities in the arts and other topics to homeless youth. Other examples of her community-based efforts include volunteering at Luxor Nursing Home and playing recreation games with the Senior Citizens. She also serves as a mentor at Inclusive Sports and Fitness in Holtsville, where she helps children with autism, down syndrome, and other disabilities improve their motor skills. Lastly, she educates children in her temple about their Hindu religion and culture. Shriya is an incredible young woman who dedicates her time and energy to improving the lives of under-served individuals in the community and society.

Smithtown High School West

Maria Caputo

Maria has been instrumental in the establishment of the Power of a Pebble club at Smithtown HSW. She is a co-president who has created an organization which endeavors to transform our community by educating, inspiring, and mobilizing students to create real change. One project specifically that they have worked on was in helping to establish a community food pantry which serves the Smithtown community. They have also worked tirelessly to create a climate of helping others through the establishment of an initiative called Giving Fridays. Each Friday at Smithtown HSW, students and staff alike are asked to donate items to the pantry to give to other organizations who are seeking to help others in need. This program has been extremely successful.

Jensen Herbst

Jensen is involved in any and everything: perhaps most notably, Jensen spent her time at the beginning of the COVID-19 quarantine 3D-printing face shields and tension relief bands for essential workers. This incredible effort led to Jensen receiving the 2021 Presidential Volunteer Service Award, the 2021 Prudential Spirit of Community Service Award, and the 2021 Suffolk County Legislature Youth Award. In addition, Jensen has contributed significantly to a multitude of other volunteer projects, including her work with the Smithtown Historical Society, and her involvement in various Honor Societies. Recently, Jensen won an essay contest sponsored by the National Society of Colonial Dames of America; as a result, she has been awarded an all-expense paid trip to D.C. for a weeklong civics workshop. Jensen was a pivotal member of the Smithtown HS West InvenTeam, which was one of 13 teams in the nation to be awarded a Lemelson-MIT grant to further their invention of building a personal distance monitor to help improve social interactions for children with autism. This impressive achievement clearly reflects her sense of empathy and eagerness to help others.

Stephen Hunt

Stephen has been instrumental in the establishment of the Power of a Pebble club at Smithtown HSW. He is a co-president who has created an organization which endeavors to transform our community by educating, inspiring, and mobilizing students to create real change. One project specifically that they have worked on was in helping to establish a community food pantry which serves the Smithtown community. They have also worked tirelessly to create a climate of helping others through the establishment of an initiative called Giving Fridays. Each Friday at Smithtown HSW, students and staff alike are asked to donate items to the pantry to give to other organizations who are seeking to help others in need. This program has been extremely successful. Stephen helped tremendously with the school blood drives and he has helped with several fundraising projects to raise money for various charities and non-profit organizations.

St. John the Baptist Diocesan High School (West Islip)

Ashley Blum

Ashley has an incredibly positive outlook, even after losing her father about 6 years ago. She hosts her own YouTube show that deals with teenage life situations. Ashley is very public about her dealing with and overcoming anxiety due to her father's long illness and subsequent death. She also was a victim of bullying in her previous school and because of her confident outlook on life, she tries to create an atmosphere where bullying will no longer exist. St. John's is a Catholic High School, where all faiths are welcome. Ashley embraced this, as she is both Jewish and Catholic. Ashley volunteers for many events and is one of St. John's most distinguished ambassadors. She warmly greets prospective students and their parents and takes them on a thorough tour of the campus. Many comment on her friendly demeanor and say meeting her was a factor in their decision to enroll. Ashley is an excellent student and is on our Summa Cum Laude Honor Roll where she challenges herself with AP and College-Level courses.