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IS LYING
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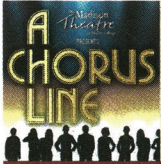
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That 'singular sensation' at the Madison Theatre
Page 19



Mepham student shines in the arts
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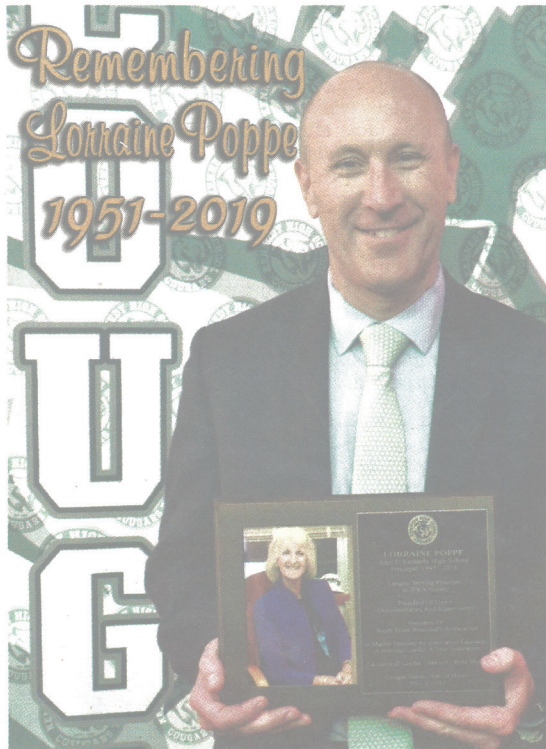
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\$1.00

Poppe, 16 others inducted into Cougars Hall of Fame

The John F. Kennedy High School Alumni Association held its annual Hall of Fame ceremony last weekend in Baldwin. Alumni, former faculty members and friends of the school were honored, and the night took on a special significance as a remembrance of former Principal Lorraine Poppe, who was due to be inducted but who died on April 16. Current Principal Gerard Owenberg was one of many to honor Poppe at the ceremony. More photos, Page 9.



Christina Daly/Herald

Chabad keeps hope alight in the darkness

By **ANDREW GARCIA**
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The shots that killed Lori Kaye in San Diego's Chabad of Poway on April 27 were felt on the other side of the country as well, in Merrick's and Bellmore's Jewish communities.

Members of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life, which serves Merrick, Bellmore and Wantagh, gathered at the Merrick-based center last week to mourn as one. While their Cooking for Hope event, on May 1, and a Shabbat candle lighting, on May 3, were somber affairs, hope still shone in the South Shore Jewish community.

The attack left Kaye, 60, dead, and Almog Peretz, his 8-year-old niece, Noya Dahan, and the Chabad's spiritual leader, Rabbi Yisroel Goldstein, injured. A 19-year-old entered the temple and allegedly opened fire with an assault-style weapon.

Via video chat during the May

1 memorial, Mendy Rubinfeld, the Chabad of Poway's assistant rabbi and children's director, offered messages of solidarity during a time of fear, with anti-Semitic acts of violence and intimidation on the rise in the United States. From the location where bullets flew just days

Life is not about the amount of breaths you take; it's about the amount of moments that take your breath away.

MENDY RUBENFELD
Chabad of Poway

prior, Rubinfeld reflected on the lost congregant. "Lori squeezed so much out of life," Rubinfeld said. "She lived twice the life of an average person."

Rubinfeld recalled visiting Kaye's home after her death and being greeted by Jewish memorabilia and framed quotes, testaments to her deep faith. One, which defined Kaye's outlook, stood out to Rubinfeld. "Life is not about the amount of breaths you take," he told the

room of teenagers and adults, "it's about the amount of moments that take your breath away."

Talking about tragedies with

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School elections in the Merricks are competitive

By **ERIK HAWKINS**
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Heated Board of Education elections in North Merrick have become the norm in recent years, and with five candidates running for three at-large seats — including one former trustee who lost his seat in a close 2018 race — this year is unlikely to be an exception.

In the Merrick School Dis-

trict, three candidates — a newcomer and two incumbents — are vying for two seats on the Board of Education.

North Merrick

Following last year's close election in North Merrick, in which six-year Trustee Steve Enella was ousted by a narrow margin, longtime Trustee John Pinto resigned abruptly.

That race was fraught with

social media sniping and unfounded allegations, and, after Pinto's resignation, the board was split for months on how to fill his seat. Board and community members who supported Enella's candidacy lobbied for him to be appointed, while others wanted to accept applications. Megan Ryan was appointed in October, and with Pinto's term expiring this year, she is run-

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young children and teenagers, such as the shooting, is challenging, Rubinfeld said, and the message must be blunt: "The world is not perfect, yet the resolve must be even stronger," he said. "The world is improving."

The Chabad of Poway's leaders' response has been to stand taller than those who would wish Jews harm. "Never before was a country founded on the ideals that all people are created in God's image and that all people deserve freedom and liberty," Goldstein, reflecting on the United States, wrote at the conclusion of an opinion piece published in The New York Times. "We fought a war to make that promise real. And I believe we can make it real again. That is what I pledge to do with my borrowed time."

Their leadership has led to similar confidence in their congregation, Rubinfeld said. The Poway Chabad's preschool opened three days after the attack, and every student attended. Peretz, 34, who was shot in the leg and continued to usher children to safety, was back at the Chabad during the call.

"They know that we're not alone," Rubinfeld said.

He also noted that in addition to security increases, the temple will also open up more frequently, giving the Poway community time to grieve.

On Long Island, congregants joined efforts for the Chabad's Cooking for Hope initiative, a program in which members cook meals for people in need, according to Rabbi Shimon Kramer. The donations reach community members suffering from illness who cannot provide for themselves.

On May 3, a Shabbat candle-lighting ceremony was held to honor Kaye. Dozens of congregants were in attendance, lighting candles, sharing prayers and posting positive messages.

At the evenings' close, Kramer led the groups in a final, unified prayer: "Coming together helps people cope with the loss," he said, adding that "we will not duck — we are not going to hide; we are going to stand up for ourselves and be proud."

Everyone feels the aftermath of such a tragedy, he added.



Christina Daly/Herald Life

ON MAY 3, the Chabad Center for Jewish Life hosted a candle-lighting ceremony in honor of Lori Kaye.



Andrew Garcia/Herald Life

ASSISTANT RABBI MENDY Rubinfeld, from the Poway Chabad, called in to speak with members of the Chabad Center for Jewish Life, offering a message of hope. He showed congregants the hundreds of flowers left outside and notes of love posted all over the walls.



Christina Daly/Herald Life

CHANIE KRAMER PREPARED the candles for the lighting ceremony.



Christina Daly/Herald Life

RUBINFELD SHOWED THE memorial for Lori Kaye at the Chabad of Poway.



Andrew Garcia/Herald Life

CHANIE KRAMER, RIGHT, showed Jordan Novak how to work the lemon juicer.



Andrew Garcia/Herald Life

THE CHABAD COMMUNITY gathered in Merrick to mourn after the shooting in Poway, Calif. Here, Casey Ostrow, left, and Alana Rubensohn prepared the cookies for Cooking for Hope on May 1.