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Citizens Voices for Freedom

Queens County Beacon

Citizens Voices for Freedom

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May 2025

Pushback Against the Dept. of Ed. Did Not Begin with Trump

By Elena Chin

"Education is the principal responsibility of local school systems, teachers, parents, citizen boards, and state governments." — Ronald Reagan

Calls to reduce or eliminate the Department of Education predate President Trump by nearly two centuries. The role of the federal government in education has long been a highly debated topic. In fact, the establishment of the original Department of Education under President Andrew Johnson in 1867 sparked immediate controversy, despite the agency's limited authority, which focused solely on collecting statistics and sharing educational best practices nationwide. By 1868, the department was downgraded to the Office of Education and placed under the Department of the Interior, as many lawmakers and citizens feared government overreach and the erosion of powers reserved for the states.

In 1939, the office was transferred to the Federal Security Agency, and in 1953, it became part of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare. From the end of WWII through the 1960s, the government's role in public education expanded dramatically--despite continued resistance. Landmark legislation, beginning with the 1944 GI Bill--which funded college tuition and living expenses for returning WWII veterans--proved to be a catalyst for change that triggered massive federal spending in higher education.

Education became a battleground for the civil rights movement following the 1954 Supreme Court decision in **Brown v. Board of Education**, which declared segregation in public schools unconstitutional. During Dwight D. Eisenhower's presidency, the Cold War further shaped educational policy. The launch of Sputnik by the Soviet Union sparked concerns that the United States had fallen behind in science, math, and technology. As a measure to strengthen national security through education, Congress passed the **National Defense Education Act** in 1958, (NDEA), which provided significant federal funding

(cont. page 5)

Abolish the Dept. of Ed?



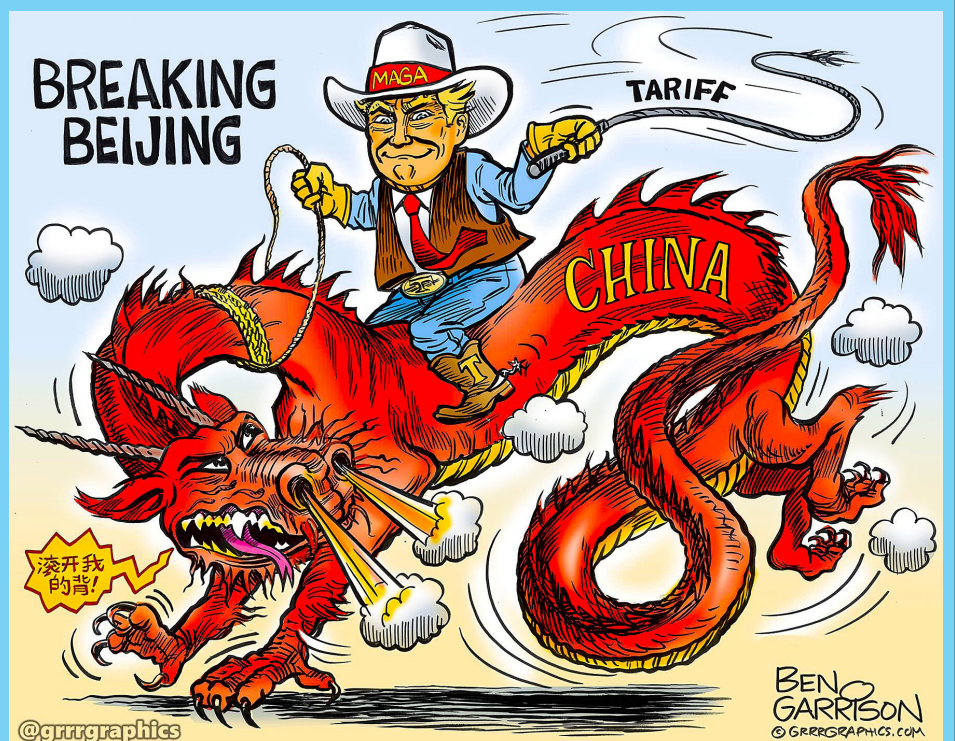
The Art of the Tariff

By Laura Schmitt

Trump is the mastermind of "The Art of the Deal." Through that lens, his unprecedented use of tariffs is genius. Those in the business of selling panic, aka "Panicans," claim an "unhinged" Trump is provoking trade wars, economic depression, chaos, and possible actual war. Reality is quite the opposite.

Trump, a Wharton School of Finance graduate and an experienced student of the "school of life," has spent the last 4 years contemplating the implementation of his long-talked-about tariffs. His tariffs are what 79 million Americans voted for. The pandemic underscored the vulnerability of an America dependent on adversaries for its PPE, pharmaceuticals, computer chips, rare earth minerals, and steel needed for military equipment. Giving China monopolies over needed goods gives them leverage to hold us hostage. At one point, China toyed with cutting off our medicines. Returning manufacturing to America is a national security necessity.

Are these Tariffs permanent? Are they intended to increase revenue,



Credit: Ben Garrison, Rogue Cartoonist. GrrrGraphics.com.

reduce taxes, or reduce the national debt? Are they purposed to create political leverage or protect national

security? Are they meant to promote U.S. manufacturing and bring back (cont. page 5)

Political Tidbits

TRUMP ADMIN TO CHARGE MIGRANTS \$998 A DAY IF THEY DO NOT SELF-DEPORT. 04/09/2025, MXM Exclusive. Illegal immigrants will be fined \$998 per day if they ignore deportation orders, refusing to leave voluntarily. These penalties will be applied retroactively for up to five years, with potential fines totaling over \$1 million. "Migrants are encouraged to use the CBP Home app to self-deport and avoid fines, property seizure, and ineligibility for future



legal immigration." The DHS is distributing a flyer which outlines the benefits and consequences of self-deportation. Migrants can coordinate their own departure allowing them to avoid fines, retain money they earned in the U.S., with possible eligibility for legal immigration in the future. Some qualify for subsidized flights to leave the U.S. This deportation rule took effect Friday, April 11, 2025.

MUSK SHOCKED BY LEVEL OF UNEMPLOYMENT FRAUD DOGE JUST UNCOVERED: 'THIS IS SO CRAZY.' 04/13/2025, WLT Report. The DOGE Savings Tracker has reported \$150 billion dollars saved, with a dollar savings per taxpayer of \$931.68. A

survey of Unemployment Insurance claims since 2020 reveal: 24.5k people over 115 years old claimed \$59M in benefits; 28k people between 1 and 5 years old claimed \$254M in benefits; 9.7k people with birth dates over 15 years in the future claimed \$69M in benefits. Also, someone with a birthday in 2154 claimed \$41k. The Labor Department confirmed through DOGE that millions of dollars in unemployment insurance went to fraudulent recipients. Labor Secretary Lori Chavez-DeRemer told FOX Business: "This is another incredible discovery by the DOGE team, finding nearly \$400 million in fraudulent unemployment payments. The Labor Department is committed to recovering Americans' stolen tax dollars. We will catch these thieves and keep working to root out egregious fraud – accountability is here."



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NO ONE KNOWS WHERE THE MONEY WENT. 02/18/2025, Daily Mail. "In the federal government, the TAS [Treasury Access Symbol] field was optional for about \$4.7 trillion in payments and was often left blank, making traceability almost impossible, DOGE POSTED ON X." The Treasury Department fields trillions of dollars' worth of government payments yearly; this was one of the first departments of DOGE that staffers accessed. "They have been granted entry to the department's highly sensitive payment systems, and Musk is now requesting access to a classified IRS system that contains the personal financial records of millions of Americans." This would grant DOGE sweeping access to IRS "systems, property, and datasets." The TAS symbol is now a required field, thanks to this finding. DOGE has pushed for other reforms at the Treasury, proposing "deleting paper checks" which could save taxpayers up to \$750 million per year. Millions of checks are processed each year, at about \$2.40 per check. DOGE reports "about \$25 billion in tax refunds were delayed or lost in fiscal year 2023 due to issues related to returned or expired checks." DOGE's efforts for efficiency are paying off.

NEW YORKERS REVOLT AGAINST TOXIC NEW NEIGHBORHOOD BATTERY STORAGE FACILITIES AS BACKLASH GROWS TO GREEN ENERGY LAW, 4/14/25.

The New York Post reported on a recent protest of a proposed NineDot Energy battery warehouse that would be located across the street from PS 128 and a daycare and pre-school.

"New Yorkers are lining up in opposition to dozens of new lithium-ion battery storage facilities planned across the Big Apple and beyond, over fears they could spark toxic infernos in residential neighborhoods." Middle Village resident Gerry Maticotta is leading the protest against the



proposed new lithium-ion battery storage facility in his neighborhood. "The batteries store energy, primarily from emerging solar and wind power, to help New York meet targets under the much-criticized Climate Act of 2019 approved by then-Gov Andrew Cuomo — now a mayoral candidate." The targets for New York include 100% zero-emission electricity by 2040, targets that are not only impossible to reach, but involve dangerous unintended consequences.

HOUSE PASSES BILL REQUIRING PROOF OF CITIZENSHIP TO VOTE IN FEDERAL ELECTIONS. 04/10/2025, NBC NEWS. With a vote of 220-208, lawmakers approved the SAVE Act (Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act) with four Democrats joining every Republican present. The four are: Reps. Ed Case of HI; Henry Cuellar of TX; Jared Golden of ME; and Marie Gluesenkamp Perez of WA state. This legislation was sponsored by Rep. Chip Roy, R-TX. States will be required to obtain proof of citizenship in person. States would also be required to establish a program to remove undocumented immigrants from existing voter rolls. Election officials that don't follow proof of citizenship requirements will be sued. Roy stated: "I am grateful that my colleagues answered the call and passed the SAVE Act, as this serves as a critical first step to ensure that we maintain election integrity throughout our country." Fighting to stop this bill is Rep. Joe Morelle, D-NY, who claims that women, military and people of color will be impacted. Federal law requires that those registering to vote must swear, under penalty of perjury, that they are citizens, thus eligible to vote.

RFK, JR. ORDERS HHS TO DETERMINE THE CAUSE OF AUTISM BY SEPTEMBER. 04/10/2025, Washington (AP). A "massive testing and research effort" will be undertaken by the nation's top health agency, led by Health and Human Services Secretary Robert F. Kennedy, Jr. "Research, including studies of twins, shows genes play a large role. No single environmental factor has been deemed a culprit. The National Institute of Health, which already spends more than \$300 million yearly researching autism, lists some possible risk factors such as prenatal exposure to pesticides, or air pollution, extreme prematurity or low birth weight, certain maternal health problems or parents conceiving at an older age." The studies have not entirely ruled out a link between vaccines and autism. "RFK Jr. says there is an 'autism epidemic'. About 1 in 36 children were identified with autism disorder in 2020. That's up from 1 in 150 children in 2000."

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WEALTHY DEMOCRATS SCREAMING THE LOUDEST ABOUT MUSK AND DOGE. DK@1Nidcar. This is a list of Democrats who pretend to fight for the 'little guy.' One wonders how these "public servants" have amassed such staggering net worth: Ilhan Omar-- \$83M; Chuck Schumer--\$75M; Elizabeth Warren--\$73M; Adam Schiff--\$60M; Jamie Raskin--\$20M; Hakeem Jeffries--\$17M; Cory Booker--\$14M; Jasmine Crockett--\$10M.



TOWER BEVERAGE USA HONORS THE LEGACY OF 9/11 AND ITS HEROES

Tower Beverage USA, led by founder and owner Bill Richards, proudly embraces the motto: “Never Forget.” That phrase isn’t just a tagline—it’s a heartfelt mission rooted in personal loss and a deep desire to give back.

“My wife Myrna and I were deeply affected by the events of 9/11,” said Bill. “We lost fourteen firefighters from our church, Saint Stephens in Warwick, NY. Many of our neighbors and friends lost loved ones as well. We’ve always wanted to give back in a big way.”



Myrna Richards, Frank Siller CEO Tunnel to Towers, and Bill Richards, Tower Beverage USA Founder

Today, Tower Beverage USA is fulfilling that commitment by supporting the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, an organization born from the tragedy of 9/11 that has since become a lifeline for America’s heroes. Since its founding, Tunnel to Towers (T2T.org) has provided mortgage-free homes to Gold Star families and the families of fallen first responders with young children. The foundation also builds specially-adapted smart homes for catastrophically injured veterans and first responders, works tirelessly to eradicate veteran homelessness, and keeps the promise to always remember September 11, 2001.

Frank Siller, CEO of the Tunnel to Towers Foundation, emphasized the importance of this partnership: “This alliance with Tower Beverage will help ensure people ‘Never Forget’ the sacrifices made on 9/11, and in the years that have followed.”

Tower Beverage is also proud to have true 9/11 heroes on its board of advisors - individuals who embody courage and resilience. Among them is retired FDNY firefighter Louie Cacchioli, of Engine 47. On that fateful day, Louie was trapped in an elevator on the 24th floor of the North Tower. After forcing the doors open, he became separated from another firefighter in the smoke. Louie went on to lead approximately 40 civilians down the stairs to safety - just before the



9/11 Hero Firefighter, Louie Cacchioli



tower collapsed around him. He survived, caked in dust and debris, a living testament to bravery under unimaginable circumstances.

Tower Beverage’s mission extends beyond the boardroom. Across the nation, its team of distributors—many of whom are firefighters and first responders themselves—share a unified purpose: to give back, to serve, and to honor those who protect us. Together, they carry forward the spirit of service and devotion and to Never Forget 9/11.

To learn more about Tower Beverage USA and its mission to support American heroes, visit TowerBeverage.com.

March with the Queens Village Republican Club in the Little Neck Douglaston Memorial Day Parade



Every year the Queens Village Republican Club proudly marches behind our banner in the Little Neck-Douglaston Memorial Day Parade. Join us for a great experience of patriotism and love of country on Monday, May 26th to remember those who paid the ultimate sacrifice defending our freedoms. Held annually since 1927, join the largest hometown Memorial Day Parade in America and march to honor our veterans, active-duty troops and fallen heroes this Memorial Day. Line up is at 1:00 pm at Starbucks, 55 Northern Blvd., Great Neck, NY and the parade kicks off at 2:00 pm.

Memorial Day closing ceremonies and free food and refreshments are available for all parade participants at the end of the parade at St. Anastasia’s schoolyard at 245th Street. You may park your car near the school yard at the parade end and walk or take a shuttle van to Starbucks for the parade start. Wear your red club golf shirt and bring sunscreen! Bring your kids, your flags, and your mighty spirit!



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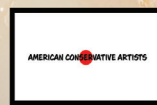
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FROM CABARET TO CAMPUS: ECHOS OF A DANGEROUS PAST By Arlene Schlesinger

I recently saw Cabaret, and I left the theater deeply unsettled. The depiction of growing hatred, antisemitism, and racism in 1930s Germany felt alarmingly relevant to the world we're living in today. During the song "If You Could See Her Through My Eyes," the Emcee leads a gorilla across the stage, ending with the jarring line: "She doesn't look Jewish at all." The audience laughed, until Adam Lambert, who is himself Jewish, broke character to admonish them. That moment has always been part of Cabaret, in the original stage production, the film, and now this revival. The show hasn't changed. We have! And as antisemitism rises again, it's a chilling reminder of how close we are to repeating history.

Words like Nazi, racist, and antisemitic should have no place in this country. Yet they are reemerging—in our streets, in our politics, and most disturbingly, on our college campuses, in ways that should alarm every American. The burning of our American flag has become disturbingly normalized. What was once a rare and shocking act is now met with indifference or worse, applause. It's not a protest of policy anymore; it's a rejection of the very ideals that bind us as a nation. Just like the rising tide of antisemitism, this erosion of shared values should alarm us all.

Our choices in the upcoming election include Zohran Mamdani, a candidate whose toxic, vocal opposition to Israel, and an antisemite, only fuels the rise of antisemitism in education. How is this even possible? Sadly, echoes of our past once again. Listen carefully to the candidates for Mayor and who is going to speak out for us, not divide us further.

After 9/11, our country was attacked and had every right to pursue those responsible. So why is it different when Israel is savagely attacked by Hamas on October 7? Why is that horror minimized—or worse, justified? Why is Israel's response framed as aggression, when it is clearly self-defense?

Let's remember: 9/11 was carried out by Saudi nationals, not Palestinians. Yet America never questioned its right to respond. Watch the documentary "October 8th." See what really happened. Then ask yourself—how can we excuse or ignore that level of brutality?

Calling Hamas's actions "resistance" is no different than calling Russia's invasion of Ukraine a "liberation." We cannot twist the truth to suit a political narrative. Murder, rape, hostage-taking—this is not resistance. It is terrorism. Hamas declared war. That should unite us in horror.

What troubles me deeply is the normalization of hate in places that should know better. On campuses across the country, students chant for violence while institutions stay silent or worse, enable it.

Antisemitic demonstrations are permitted without consequences for the students or faculty promoting hate. When did we stop teaching tolerance? Instead of acceptance and appreciation, we are teaching fear and hate.

We honor so many communities with nationally recognized holidays, heritage months, school curricula, festivals, and media representation. These efforts are essential and should include the Jewish community fully.

Yes, New York City schools observe Jewish American Heritage Month in May. But it doesn't teach the Holocaust. It focuses on cultural contributions, leaving

students without the necessary context to understand modern antisemitism. It's time to teach both the history and the contributions of the Jewish people.

New York has always been a haven for Jews—a place of safety, community, and pride. But that feeling is fading. The silence is deafening. The fear is real. Even more disturbing is the growing number of people who deny that October 7 even happened. These deniers are no different from those who deny the Holocaust. To deny these atrocities is to deny truth, decency, and accountability.

I urge anyone who has doubts to watch "October 8th." See the truth for yourself.

We must speak up for truth, for decency, and for a world where Jewish lives are not discounted, where no one fears walking in their identity, and where hate has no home.

IS PRESIDENT TRUMP'S TARIFF WAR FAILING? By Stan Norwalk

Many Americans are afraid that the tariff war started by President Trump will be a disaster, but let's look at the facts. The tariff war is temporary, and the stock market will recover. Already 3 trillion +/- foreign dollars have been committed in less than one week by foreign corporations to move and build their operations here in the United States because of President Trump's tariff war where he wants parity with each country that slaps tariffs on us. 70 countries already capitulated as of today April 9th and are coming to the negotiation table. The European Union of 27 nations has indicated they are ready to negotiate.

President Trump said the only way he will negotiate with the EU is if the European Union wipes out the American debt of 350 billion dollars by buying American oil and gas and not from Russia. If that happens and it looks very clear that it will, then that would bring the total number of countries succumbing to President Trump's tariff war to 97.

This will make us more competitive in the world, lower our international balance of trade payments, bring hundreds of thousands of jobs back home, increase American wages, increase the security of our national defense, make us less dependent on our friends and enemies, and enable us to lower, or as Trump hopes, will eliminate the income tax like pre-1913 when revenue was generated by tariffs and not the American people.

The tariffs are a tax on the American people and the destruction of American manufacturing that exported our jobs overseas over past decades. Since 1994 under "NAFTA" the North American Free Trade Agreement took place, America has lost 90,000 plants.

The government in Washington D.C. was and is run by career politicians who never signed a paycheck, never ran a company; don't understand profit and loss and what going out of business means. Now we have a businessman in the White House who wants to show a profit, not a loss and give relief to the American taxpayer. The tariff wars are just weeks in the making, and we are already making great progress. The stock market will recover stronger than ever and hopefully President Trump will be able to minimize income taxes or perhaps eliminate them like in pre-1913 America.

America First.

PRESIDENT TRUMP THE DEAL MAKER By Frederick R. Bedell Jr.

Grand Knight of St. Anastasia Knights of Columbus Council #5911

President Donald Trump proves it again, he knows he understands the art of the deal. Many people thought the tariffs were going to bankrupt our great nation, but he suspended for 90 days from many countries, the large tariffs. It looks bad and could bring the world into a recession. President Trump did a turnaround, and the Stock Market rebounded. Who knew that would happen? President Trump, he knew what he was doing and proved a good gambler, and his tariffs did work for the good of the country. Our nation is truly lucky to have President Donald Trump as our president. As a member of the Queens Village Republican Club, I believe he cares for the American people and will make America great again. I say, Bravo President Trump.

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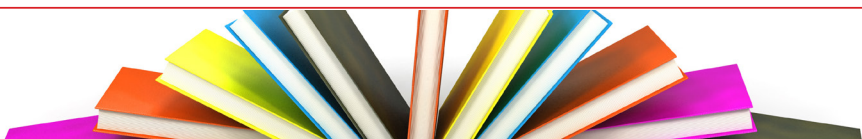
**The Queens County Beacon contributors love to read!
Take a look at what they recommend:**

The Children We Left Behind
by Adam B. Coleman

Weapons of Mass Instruction
By John Taylor Gatto

*An Abundance of Caution:
American Schools, the Virus, and a Story of Bad Decisions*
by David Zweig

Nexus
A Bried History of Information Networks from Stone Age to AI
by Yuval Noah Harari



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American Sovereignty First

By Francis O'Hara

The introduction of tariffs came not a moment too soon—America was teetering on the edge of no return. Our superpower status, once unshakable, was unraveling before our very eyes. Yet the full extent of the nation's decline remained obscured—until President Donald J. Trump stepped forward.

On the rally stage, with unwavering conviction, he warned the American people: if elected again, he would take bold, uncompromising action to restore this nation to its former greatness. His plan was clear—shut the border, halt the unprecedented surge of illegal immigration, and put American sovereignty first.

Within just one week of his return to the office, the border was sealed. Despite fierce resistance from Democrats and activist judges, deportations of criminal aliens began in earnest. Federal funding was stripped from Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion (DEI) programs across educational institutions, signaling a shift toward merit and accountability.

He ordered the immediate release of January 6th prisoners—men and women who had been held in legal limbo for four long years for daring to demonstrate at the United States Congress. And through the implementation of DOGE, a sweeping initiative targeting government Waste, Fraud, and Abuse, the bloated Washington bureaucracy was finally being brought to heel.

Since January 20th, the scale and speed of promises kept have been nothing short of historic surpassing that of any modern president, perhaps any president in the history of the Republic.

Controversy has never been something this president shies away from. In fact, he meets it head-on. His recent proposal to impose sweeping tariffs on nations across the globe has sent shockwaves through the international community.

After World War I, the United States, as the newly crowned global superpower, allowed trade surpluses to flow into war-torn nations, especially in Europe, to help them rebuild from the ashes. After World War II, again trade surpluses continued, additionally this economic aid came with a military commitment—through NATO, the U.S. shouldered nearly 80% of the defense costs for the continent.

Across the globe—in Japan, South Korea, Canada, and around the world—American military bases were established to guarantee the safety of nations that lacked the capacity to protect themselves. And while many presidents before having made bold campaign promises to rebalance trade and demand fair contributions to mutual defense, none had the will—or the courage—to follow through. Until now.

Arguments will be presented—primarily by elites and special interests—that tariffs are dangerous or counterproductive. However, these claims do not serve the interests of the American middle-class working-class



individuals who have little to no stake in Wall Street. They do not address the hollowed-out heart of our nation—the Rust Belt towns that once thrived on manufacturing but have since been left to rot

Among the worst offenders in global trade is China. Since the 1980s—and especially after China's admission into the World Trade Organization in 2001—U.S. manufacturing has been siphoned overseas at an alarming rate. The result? A massive and growing trade deficit. China exports four to five times more to the United States compared to what it imports from the US. It steals our technology, manipulates its currency, and undermines us at every turn.

Meanwhile, China grows richer by the day. Its Gross National Product is on track to surpass America's if the current status quo is allowed to continue. President Biden had dismissed them as

mere "competitors," but that illusion is crumbling. China's sprawling Belt and Road Initiative is not charity—it's a global power play. And if left unchecked, it will erode America's standing as the world's preeminent superpower.

For years, we were told to believe a fantasy—that, over time, wages in countries like China and India and other third world countries would rise, leveling the playing field and making true free trade possible. But that belief has proven to be nothing more than a pipe dream.

To this day, workers in China and India are paid shockingly low wages—often as little as \$300 a month. And in China, there are growing concerns about forced labor camps, particularly for those who dare to speak out against the Communist regime. In India, roughly 90% of the population earns around that same meager amount, with little sign of

significant change.

Meanwhile, the United States is staggering under the weight of a national debt that has now surpassed \$37 trillion—and is on pace to reach \$50 trillion within just a few years. At that point, this nation will be at risk of collapse. That is why we cannot wait. The time has come to establish a new world order—an order that puts America first, before it is too late.

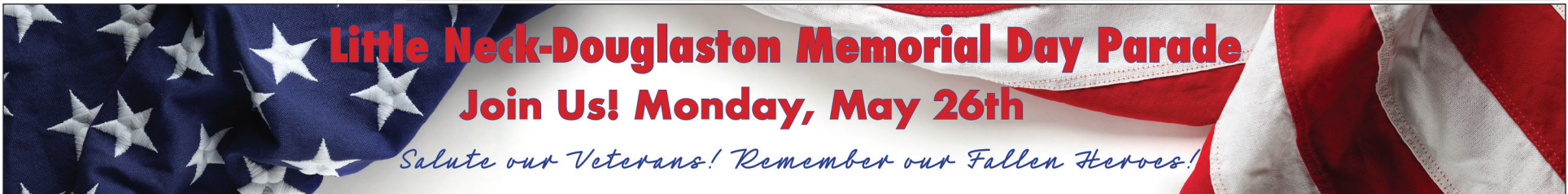
Only President Donald J. Trump has both the strength and the vision to lead that transformation. Our country has been sold out—piece by piece—by corrupt politicians and multinational conglomerates who serve global interests, not the American people.

And yet, all is not lost. The United States remains the single largest consumer market on the planet. The leverage is in our hands. This is our moment—and we must not waste it. Yes, there will be a period of transition. Yes, we may face economic turbulence. But we've endured recessions before—roughly every ten years throughout modern history. We will endure it again.

And when the dust settles, America will rise—not as a nation dependent on hostile foreign powers, but as a renewed manufacturing powerhouse. We must be willing to pay a little more, if that's what it takes. We must commit to buying American. Because the alternative is unthinkable—and the cost of inaction is the end of the American dream.

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My January 6 Story: Still Seeking Answers



By Sara Carpenter

I am a lifelong resident of Queens, NY—President Trump’s hometown. I graduated from Christ the King High School and earned a BA in Studio Art from Marymount Manhattan College. In 1992, I began a nine-year career as an NYPD Police Officer, retiring as a 9/11 First Responder. I’m a proud mother to my 21-year-old son and share my home with a beloved German Shepherd.

I’m passionate about art, volunteering to teach classes at a local public school and hosting an annual 9/11 Art Memorial. I’ve also contributed to my community by caring for the elderly, teaching religious education, and tending horses at a local stable.

Politically, I helped unseat Anthony Weiner by volunteering for Congressman Bob Turner’s campaign but stepped back

after witnessing local corruption. Before January 6, 2021, I was working on an art project, still in progress.

In 2020, government mandates on vaccines and masks felt like creeping tyranny. I was stunned by the indifference of my neighbors, parish, and family. My rejection of media-driven hysteria—especially over masks—drew hostility. I was labeled a “grandma killer,” while Governor Cuomo’s nursing home policies and abortion laws caused real harm. As a Christian, I couldn’t stay silent.

When President Trump called supporters to DC to protest election interference, I initially hesitated, fearing the violent opposition I’d already faced from neighbors and online. But reflecting on veterans’ sacrifices for our rights, I overcame fear and left for DC on January 6, 2021.

The rally at the Ellipse was a beautiful outpouring of patriotism, a stark contrast to the division we’d endured. As we walked peacefully to the Capitol, I noticed no police or media presence. The crowd was calm, yet unguarded doors and absent officers raised questions. Inside, I was awestruck by the Rotunda when chaos erupted. Police actions defied protocol, escalating tensions. I prayed with them, but we were assaulted. Leaving was chaotic, with no guidance amid a growing crowd.

Returning home, I was heartbroken. The peaceful event was twisted into a violent narrative by Pelosi’s “J6 Committee.” When I tried to share the truth, people dismissed me, saying, “I saw it on TV.”



On January 28, 2021, the NYPD Terrorist Task Force and FBI questioned me. Months later, my home was raided, and I was arrested, framed by the Biden administration to paint Trump as an insurrectionist. My 2023 trial in DC, under Judge Boasberg, was a sham. He denied a venue change despite his and the jury’s bias, withheld exculpatory evidence, and sentenced me far beyond guidelines. My own lawyers lied, claiming Trump influenced me—a falsehood—and blocked me from testifying.

Sentenced to two years in prison and one year of supervised release, I served a

year before receiving a pardon for crimes I didn’t commit. Now, I seek justice from the DOJ, FBI, and Capitol Police. With faith in God, I trust in vindication. Meanwhile, I continue my art, hoping to bring joy amid our nation’s challenges.



The Bridge to Life Celebrates 33 Years of Service at Annual Gala

On April 5, 2025, The Bridge to Life celebrated its 33rd Anniversary Gala at Leonard’s Palazzo in Great Neck—an unforgettable evening with 600 guests in attendance. The room was filled with love, gratitude, and purpose as supporters, families, and friends gathered to honor the sacred gift of life and raise essential funds to support women and families in need.

The Bridge to Life is more than a pregnancy center—it’s a women’s support center that empowers mothers to choose life and walks beside them through birth and beyond. From baby items and maternity supplies to ongoing emotional and educational support, we provide hope and practical help when it’s needed most.



Pictured above are the Board of Directors, Lourdes Petrino, Monsignor Sean Ogle, Mark Cipolla, Ralph Cefalo, Julia Chitos, Catherine Donohoe, Pam Menera, Francesca Yellico- Executive Director, Don Cavanaugh Deacon Micheal Chirichella, and Michael Conigliaro.

To learn more about how we serve the community—
or how you can get involved—visit us at www.thebridgetolife.org.

We’re always looking for compassionate hearts
to join us as volunteers, donors, and advocates for life.

Together, we are building a future where every woman feels supported,
every child is cherished, and every life is celebrated.



Pictured above with the honorees.
Francesca Yellico, Robert Pape, Monsignor LoPinto,
Very Reverend Patrick Keating, Anthony Ippolito
and Catherine Donohoe.



Mark Cipolla, Phil Orenstein- President of the
Queens Republican Club, Catherine Donohoe
and Lourdes Cipolla.

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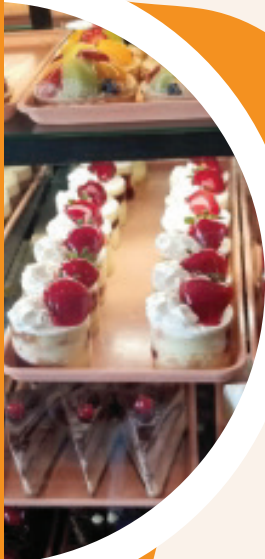
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Attacks on South Korean President Yoon

By Jennifer Moon and Robert Schill

Last December, political turmoil erupted in South Korea when President Yoon Suk Yeol declared martial law, then rescinded that order a few hours later. Following the USA’s Mainstream Media (MSM), you might have gotten incoherent fragments of the story, but nothing that made sense. Then, the MSM dropped the story, and failed to report on the millions of people who have been attending massive protest rallies in support of President Yoon ever since. What happened?

This is important for us to follow because “they” are using the same techniques in South Korea that they use here in the USA. I describe who “they” are below.

On Tuesday, December 3rd, 2024, at 10:28 p.m., President Yoon declared martial law during a televised address. His position was that leftists, working with North Korea and China, were subverting Korea’s elections. Less than three hours later, on Wednesday, December 4th, at 1:02 a.m., the National Assembly passed a motion to lift martial law. Three hours after that, at 04:30 a.m., Yoon disbanded the Martial Law Command.

The event lasted six hours, from start to finish. The important question is, what did President Yoon do in those six hours? Was he undermining liberal democracy and the rule of law, or was he defending them?

First, some legal background. Although an armistice was signed in 1953, North and South Korea are still technically at war. Related to that, under the S. Korean constitution, the President has the authority to declare martial law. That authority is granted for the purpose of responding quickly to hostility from China and North Korea, but can be rescinded by the Legislature, as occurred in this instance. Nothing illegal occurred.

Second, some historical background. China treated the various kingdoms of the Korean peninsula as vassal states for two thousand years. That only ended in the early 20th Century, when Korea was conquered by Japan and then occupied by the U.S. Military. China is now covertly trying to subvert Korea’s democracy to return it to the status of a vassal state.

In those six hours of martial law, President Yoon attempted to seize I.T. servers from the NEC - National Election Commission, with the intent of uncovering voter fraud. It doesn’t seem that he was successful. Those servers may be in the hands of the NEC, with corrupt investigators concealing evidence in the same way

way that our FBI and intelligence agencies concealed Hunter’s laptop.

During the six hours of martial law, Yoon did not arrest Koreans and hold them without trial. He did not send soldiers into the streets to suppress the citizens of South Korea. Regardless, South Korea’s MSM reacted with a level of hysteria and exaggeration equivalent to TDS – Trump Derangement Syndrome. They treated the incident like the Gwangju Uprising of December 18, 1980, the Korean equivalent of Tiananmen Square.

Yoon was impeached by the National Assembly on December 14th and suspended from office pending a final ruling by the Constitutional Court. Attempts to arrest Yoon were blocked by his millions of supporters. In order to prevent the conflict between his supporters and the police from escalating to violence, Yoon surrendered on January 15th, 2025, and was indicted for leading an insurrection.

Does that sound like insurrection to you? Like all the outlandish accusations they’ve hurled at Trump, Yoon didn’t do anything illegal. Of course, some Korean-Americans will deny this. In much the same way that some Americans still deny that the USA’s 2020 election was stolen and Trump’s convictions were politically motivated.

Yoon was released on March 8, 2025, and was greeted by a massive rally of passionate supporters, but he must still stand trial. On Friday, Korea’s Constitutional Court confirmed his removal from office and referred Yoon for prosecution for insurrection.

Meanwhile, in France, Marine Le Pen, the front runner in France’s elections, has been sentenced to two years in prison and banned from running for public office for five years. In Germany, the established political parties are attempting to ban the AfD (Alternative for Germany) party, claiming that anyone who disagrees with them is “far right”. MAGA allies like Javier Milei in Argentina and Victor Orbán in Hungary have achieved some success, but the forces of evil are trying to crush both them and our Korean ally Yoon Suk Yeol.

This is an international power struggle. So who are we fighting? Who are “they”, the forces of evil? Here in the USA, we are under constant attack by Cultural Marxist who are trying to “deconstruct” both Liberal Democracy and Western Civilization. One of the worst aspects of this has been the corruption of our judicial system, including both prosecutors and judges. The situation in South Korea is much the same, if not worse due to their proximity to North Korea and China.



They are actively trying to crush President Trump and all his supporters, including Elon Musk, Rudy Giuliani, Roger Stone and Peter Navarro in the USA and allies like Milei, Orbán and Yoon overseas. They must be stopped.





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Republicans Must Unite and Organize to Win

By Phil Orenstein

March was a month of action, energy, and grassroots engagement for Queens Republicans. We completed a successful petitioning campaign for County and State Committee candidates, as well as Republican candidates for public office. As always, petitioning season revealed both the dedication and the tensions within our party. It's a competitive time — and that's okay. Primaries are a healthy part of democracy. They shine a spotlight on important issues, energize our base, and give Republican voters more meaningful choices. Let's remember: it's politics, not personal.

Together, we walked countless miles, handed out our newspaper, the *Queens County Beacon*, discussed local concerns, and inspired our neighbors. We knocked on thousands of doors and gathered signatures to nominate County and State Committee candidates — our neighborhood representatives and the voting core of the Republican Party.

Congratulations to every candidate who stepped up to petition in the 2025 election cycle. Some of you will face primaries on June 24th — and we wish you the best of luck. Your job is critical: to energize Republican voters in your districts and help build a winning movement from the ground up.

County Committee members are the boots on the ground, the link between Republican voters and the party. You are the face of our values, the voice of local concerns, and the messenger of truth in a city overrun by failed Democrat policies. You are the ones who will help rebuild a Republican Party strong enough to reverse the decline of our city and state.

Every two years, this grassroots political process gives Republican County Committee members in New York a chance to reshape our future at the Republican Reorganization. County Committee members are the party's frontline representatives in Election Districts (EDs)— small geographic areas sometimes only a few blocks wide. Each one might include as few as fifty to a few hundred Republicans. But make no mistake — that's where victory begins. As a County Committee member, you are the party's voice in your community, and your neighbors' connection to a movement for change.

You can learn more in the **County Committee booklet at www.QVGOP.com.**

The Time to Organize is Now

President Trump has issued a clear call to action: **organize the Republican Party at the grassroots level.** Across America, half of the 400,000 Precinct Committeeman seats — the lifeblood of the party — are vacant. Here in Queens, that number is even higher: **75% of Republican County Committee seats sit empty.**

Trump has championed what's called **The Precinct Strategy** — what we call County Committee in New York — as the key to restoring our Republic. As he put



it:

"It's a great way to restore our Republic by transforming our Party from currently at less than half-strength at the precinct level into a full-strength Get Out The Vote powerhouse — as it should be."

Getting involved as a County Committee member isn't time-consuming or costly. It's simple, meaningful civic action. If you can spare an hour a month to talk to neighbors, share information, bring them to a club meeting, and help others get involved — you're already doing the job.

We cheered when President Trump won — but here in New York, the battle is far from over. Our city, the capital of the world, is in rapid decline under Democrat rule. We cannot sit back and leave the future to the proverbial "three men in a room" who continue to run the Republican Party from the top down. That's not how change happens. **We the People must be the voice of the party.**

New York City has no strong opposition to challenge the Democrats' one-party rule, which is collapsing under the weight of radical progressivism. Just look at the fractured Democratic field for mayor: even their own candidates can't back the front-runner.

Andrew Cuomo, now the likely

Democratic nominee, is widely condemned by members of his own party. One rival called him, "a corrupt, contemptible human being, who should not be allowed anywhere near City Hall." Others are splintering off into independent or Working Families Party campaigns — opening the door for a Republican win in the General Election.

Curtis Sliwa: A Republican of the People Fighting for New York City

Curtis Sliwa is no stranger to New Yorkers. As founder of the Guardian Angels and a beloved WABC radio host, he has spent his life defending and uplifting this city — from the streets to the suites. Sliwa is fearless, genuine, and committed to protecting the people of New York. He is the Republican candidate for mayor who can break through the noise and chaos.

But to win, Republicans must turn out. That's where County Committee members come in. Your job is to **fire up every Republican voter in your district** and get them and others to the polls. Abraham Lincoln's timeless election strategy from 1840 still holds true today:

"So divide the County into small districts and appoint in each a committee... Make a perfect list of the voters and ascertain with certainty for whom they will vote... Keep a constant

watch on the doubtful voters and have them talked to by those in whom they have the most confidence... On Election Day, see that every Whig is brought to the polls."

This strategy worked in 1860, when the Wide Awakes — a youth-led Republican group — organized rallies, parades, and voter drives that helped Lincoln win. By Election Day, they had 500,000 members across the Northern states.

Let's Do It Again

Now that our County Committee members have been nominated, it's time to act. The mayoral election is approaching fast — and we have a real shot. All five Republican county organizations in New York City are united behind Curtis Sliwa. That unity is our strength.

President Trump is calling for peace abroad. Here at home, we must also call a ceasefire — among ourselves. No more infighting. No more splintering. It's time to **unite, organize, and fight together for victory.**

Let's build a strong, united Republican front behind Curtis Sliwa. Let's bring back a safer, freer, and more prosperous New York City.

Victory is possible — if we stand together.

The New Jersey Hall of Fame

By Ankush Bhandari

Believing that “everyone needs a hero,” The New Jersey Hall of Fame (NJHOF) inspires people of all ages by honoring outstanding individuals from New Jerseyans who have made remarkable contributions in the fields of Arts & Letters, Education & Science, Enterprise, Performing Arts & Entertainment, Sports, and Science, Business, Performing arts, Public Service, and Sports.

Since its establishment in 2005, the NJHOF has honored over 230 numerous distinguished New Jerseyans. As a designated 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, the NJHOF is governed by a dedicated Board of Trustees. It was created through Public Law 2005, Chapter 232, after this bipartisan legislation was passed unanimously in the New Jersey Senate on May 13, 2005, approved in the Assembly on June 30, 2005, and signed into law by the governor on September 22, 2005.

In June 2013, the NJHOF launched a ground-breaking “Mobile Museum” designed by Michael Graves and Ralph Applebaum, which successfully toured the state and engaged over 300,000 people in just three years.

In 2021, NJHOF worked with the Murphy administration to rename and redesign nine Garden State Parkway service areas after its inductees.

In June of 2024 the New Jersey Hall of Fame opened its 10,000 square-foot Entertainment and Learning Center at the American Dream complex in East Rutherford, New Jersey.

As with any impactful non-profit organization, the New Jersey Hall of Fame (NJHOF) has assembled a network of esteemed sponsors.

At the forefront, Hackensack Meridian Health serves as our lead sponsor, showcasing a strong commitment to its mission. Major partners include the PSEG/PSEG Foundation and the State



of New Jersey, both of which play a pivotal role in supporting their efforts. In addition, NJHOF Media Sponsors amplify their reach and impact. This diverse group includes reputable outlets such as 101.5, 1010 WINS, Applegreen, Battleship New Jersey, Comcast, etc.

The NJHOF is guided by a distinguished Board of Trustees, responsible for selecting and honoring outstanding inductees. Under the leadership of Chairman Jon F. Hanson and President Steve Edwards, this esteemed board includes accomplished individuals such as Tony Armlin, Tom Bracken, and many more.

To ensure that only the most deserving candidates are recognized, nominees must typically have resided in New Jersey for a minimum of five years. The selection process is meticulously designed and unfolds in four phases.

In Phase I, a distinguished panel of experts, appointed by the New Jersey

Hall of Fame Board, carefully curates a list of 120 remarkable individuals in each category by late January. Phase II ballots will be sent to the New Jersey Hall of Fame Voting Academy to narrow the potential nominee list down to 60 by the end of February.

Phase III allows the public to cast votes online or via manual ballots between March 15th and April 15th. Once Phase III concludes, the New Jersey Hall of Fame Board determines and honors the inductees based on the top vote-getter in each category, as well as other individuals they deem worthy of recognition. In Phase IV, Inductees are announced in June or July.

In an exciting development, the NJHOF is renewing the Areté Scholarship Fund, which will award four outstanding students graduating from New Jersey high schools in 2025 with prestigious Areté Scholarships. Each recipient will receive a generous \$5,000 scholarship,

investing in the leaders of tomorrow. These inductees serve as beacons of hope for those grappling with their own challenges and inspire young American dreamers to aim high, despite the odds.

They foster a profound sense of pride among New Jerseyans, exemplifying the unwavering “Can-Do” spirit and resilience that define our great state.

Through cutting-edge, interactive exhibits, the NJHOF showcases the remarkable achievements of New Jerseyans who have made significant contributions to diverse fields. These thoughtfully designed exhibits ignite curiosity, cultivate creativity, and empower students to envision their own potential to effect meaningful change. Educators who bring students to the New Jersey Hall of Fame will have the unique chance to motivate and inspire their young learners. The lessons not only encompass core subjects such as Science, Math, English Language Arts (ELA), Social Studies, and the Arts, but also integrate essential life lessons in Social Emotional Learning (SEL) and civic responsibility.

The NJHOF instills a deep sense of pride in local heritage and encourages students to reflect on how their own communities shape their aspirations and growth. The exhibits are

- Hometown Tour
- Fly Me to the Moon
- The Great Hall
- Everyday Heroes Exhibits
- Karaoke Exhibits
- Late Night TV Exhibits
- NJ Proud Theatre

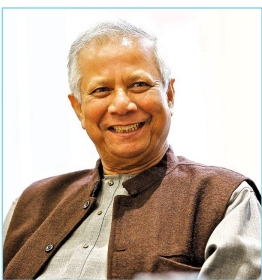
Moreover, the exhibit champions perseverance and resilience, celebrating how inductees have triumphed over challenges on their journeys to success.

This powerful experience not only inspires the next generation but also cultivates the leaders of tomorrow.

Read the complete article at [QVGOP.org](https://www.qvgop.org)

A Muslim American Perspective on Freedom, Reform, and Dr. Yunus

Bridging Worlds: Dr. Muhammad Yunus, a Visionary Leader and the Future of Bangladesh-American Relations



By Syeda Arufa Yeasmin, CEO, Resilience USA Foundation Inc.

As a Bangladeshi American, a Muslim woman, and a community advocate here in Queens, New York, I carry both deep love for my heritage and a deep respect for the promise of American values—liberty, enterprise, and democracy. In these times of global uncertainty, we need visionaries who can bridge divides and inspire reform. One such figure is Dr. Muhammad Yunus, Nobel Laureate and a pioneering economist who has transformed global conversations on poverty, entrepreneurship, and justice.

Dr. Yunus, often hailed as the “banker to the poor,” founded Grameen Bank in Bangladesh to provide microloans to women in rural villages—those

overlooked by traditional financial institutions. His model of microfinance has empowered millions and been replicated globally, including right here in the United States. But beyond economics, Dr. Yunus represents something larger: a vision of self-reliance, innovation, and bottom-up change that aligns strongly with core American conservative values.

While not aligned with any political party in Bangladesh, Dr. Yunus has often been at odds with ruling establishments. His quiet resistance to corruption, dynastic politics, and authoritarianism has made him a symbol of moral integrity. He speaks less of left or right, and more of right versus wrong—a mindset familiar to American patriots who believe in duty over division. His belief in individual responsibility and the dignity of work reflects the conservative philosophy that solutions often lie outside big government.

Today, Dr. Yunus faces increasing scrutiny from the current Bangladeshi regime. He has been vilified, dragged into legal battles, and publicly humiliated for challenging the status quo. The political establishment, threatened



by his popularity and global standing, seeks to silence him. This should concern all Americans who believe in the sanctity of democracy and civil society.

As a proud Muslim and a naturalized citizen of this great country, I see in Dr. Yunus a bridge between Bangladesh’s democratic aspirations and America’s global leadership. His values echo the founding principles of the United States—freedom, opportunity, and human dignity. In this polarized world, we need to support voices that strive to uplift communities through empowerment, not dependency.

There is also a strategic dimension to this. Bangladesh, a Muslim-majority country with over 170 million people, is becoming an increasingly important geopolitical player in South Asia. Its relationship with the U.S. will shape regional stability, trade, and counterterrorism. Supporting reform-minded leaders like Dr. Yunus aligns with our national interest. It also sends a message to millions of moderate

Muslims that America stands with justice, not just power.

Here in Queens, we are home to one of the largest Bangladeshi communities in the country. Many of us fled political persecution, religious intolerance, or economic despair. We have found in the Republican Party a platform that values family, faith, entrepreneurship, and freedom—values that Dr. Yunus champions through his life’s work.

As we approach the 2024 and 2026 election cycles, I encourage our party to build stronger relationships with South Asian voters, especially those disillusioned by failed promises of progressivism. Let us spotlight leaders like Dr. Yunus, not because he’s perfect, but because he reminds us of what politics should be about: people, principles, and purpose.

I write this not only as the CEO of a nonprofit advocating for the vulnerable but as a mother, a Muslim, and a citizen who believes in the power of conscience-driven leadership. Let us not wait for history to judge us kindly. Let us act—by raising our voices, building coalitions, and standing for those who stand for others.

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Residents Protest a Link5G Pole Planned Outside PS 144

“More Risks than Benefits”

By Julie Mardin

April 1, 2025, Forest Hills. On a bright and windy day, residents gathered to spread word of a Link5G telecommunications pole which the city plans to install in front of PS144, an elementary and pre-kindergarten school. The pole is to go up in front of the pre-K playground.

These 32’ foot pole communication towers, with five slots, one for public WiFi, and four for commercial carriers’ 4G and 5G wireless services, are the city’s new public pay phone system, which the city claims will also provide much needed broadband access.

And yet the massive towers have been causing some consternation among New Yorkers about where our technology is leading us. Queens Community Board 6 has questioned the location and need for the pole since there have been no reported gaps in broadband access.

As school let out, Emily Otalora kicked off the rally. She grew up across the street, and had also attended PS144. She spoke of the impact this tower would have on the quiet residential

character of the neighborhood, most of the houses built over a hundred years ago.

“I’m just angry that we are living in a society where anything goes,” said Bernard Otalora, Emily’s father, a former physical education teacher at the Lycée Français, who had helped clear up a drug-dealing problem in the playground some years earlier.

Young-ah Hur, a retired registered nurse, has lived on the street for thirty-five years. Her son had graduated from the school. As a health care professional, she shared her concern over the myriad problems that European studies have shown for those living near 5G towers. Sleep disturbances, headaches, fatigue, memory problems, cardiovascular issues, depression and anxiety, were just some.

Odette Wilkens, technology attorney for over 20 years, and founder of Wired Broadband, Inc., a local non-profit that advocates for safe technology, spoke of cancer clusters in schools. In Ripon, CA., a cell tower was removed after four children ages 6-11 came down with liver, kidney and brain cancer, and four teachers came down with breast cancer.

Ms. Wilkens also spoke of Colonel Jeromus Remsen, an officer in the

Revolutionary War for whom PS144 was named, who had fought to protect the area. Wilkens’ organization led the submission of comments of disapproval to the State Historical Preservation Office (SHPO) in November of 2024. She was joined by others in the community as well as the Van Court Association, a home-owners association and preservation group representing 300 members. And yet SHPO went ahead with its approval, triggering this protest in the streets.

Assembly Member Hevesi (also alumnus of PS 144) has written to the city’s Chief Technology Officer, Matt Fraser, to relocate the tower away from the school, and to SHPO Commissioner, Erik Kulleseid, to give full consideration on the tower’s potential impact on the historic nature of the location.

Another participant with deep ties to the area, Samantha Wolner, is a lifetime resident of Forest Hills whose son attends school nearby. She has worked in the science publishing industry for over a decade. She spoke at length about the different types of research in the literature, and touched on two books: The Anxious Generation: How the Great Re-Wiring of Childhood Is Causing an Epidemic of Mental Illness, by

Jonathan Haidt, and Overpowered: The Dangers of Electromagnetic Radiation and What You Can Do About It, by the late biophysicist Dr. Martin Blank, of Columbia University. Regulatory agencies tell us that wireless radiation is safe, but Dr. Blank discovered that it can create a cellular stress response that can lead to damaged DNA.

Wolner related how their children’s use of technology was all parents talked about—the psychological impacts as well as the privacy implications—but “what demands just as much attention is the infrastructure that supports this widespread technological change and its potential biological effects.”

The big pole seems all the more unneeded as Governor Hochul has called for a ban of cell phones in schools, which has gained support among legislators, the Schools Chancellor and Mayor Adams.

The group is asking SHPO to reverse its decision and calling for the city to prohibit installations near schools and quiet residential streets.

To sign their petition and for more information, please visit: <https://forms.gle/JdTZCKi3XcphwLRY8>