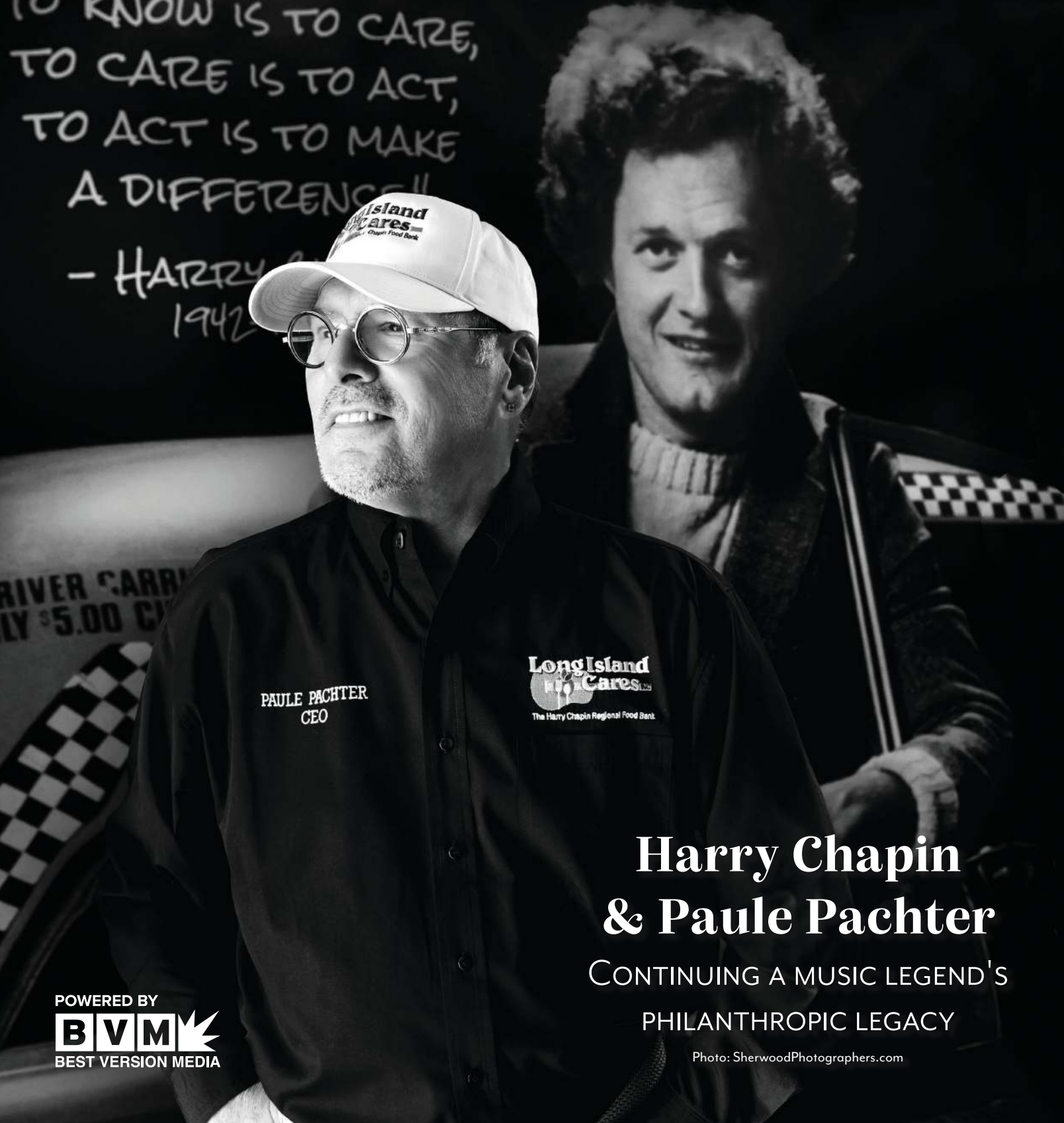


HUNTINGTON

village life

FEBRUARY 2025

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TO CARE IS TO ACT,
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A DIFFERENCE!!
- HARRY CHAPIN
1942



PAULE PACHTER
CEO

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Cares
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Dr. Ocasio is a board-certified Anesthesiologist and Pain Management Physician. He received his medical training at Weill Cornell Medical College, Memorial Sloan Kettering Cancer Center, The Hospital for Special Surgery and The Icahn School of Medicine at Mount Sinai. He is the Division Chief at Huntington Hospital.

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Midwinter Greetings!

Dear Village Neighbors,

As February's winter chill settles in, I'm excited to share with you the latest issue of Huntington Village Life. We've curated a selection of stories from our community to warm you up even in the coldest months.

Our cover story this month shines a spotlight on an important non-profit organization, Long Island Cares, founded by a longtime Huntington resident, the late Harry Chapin. This charity continues his legacy of compassion and activism with a dedicated team bringing relief to the thousands of people who are food-insecure in our communities.

As always, we welcome your thoughts. Your voice is an important part of our community, and Huntington Village Life. So, grab a warm beverage, settle into a comfortable chair, and enjoy this month's issue...and remember, spring is just about a month away!

Warm regards,

Jeff Damiano

PUBLISHER

jdamiano@bestversionmedia.com



I grew up in Long Island and I have a love and respect for it, centering my work on all things Long Island, whether it be helping to promote a small business to highlighting hard hitting and very prominent news in the area. I am originally from Merrick, but grew up in Huntington, having fond memories here. When I was asked to join the team on this project I was excited and ready to go! I have about 5 years of experience in reporting, writing, filming, interviewing and editing. I just finished up my first year of graduate school at Stony Brook University and I will have my commencement May of 2025 with a graduate degree in journalism. Hopefully by then I will have further perfected my skills as a journalist in order to better Long Island.

Warm regards,

Eesha Butt

CONTENT COORDINATOR

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HUNTINGTON village life

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Have feedback, ideas or submissions? We are always happy to hear from you! Deadlines for submissions are the 10th of each month. Go to www.bestversionmedia.com and click "Submit Content." You may also email your thoughts, ideas and photos to: jdamiano@bestversionmedia.com.

CONTENT SUBMISSION DEADLINES

Content Due:	Edition Date:
December 10	January
January 10	February
February 10	March
March 10	April
April 10	May
May 10	June
June 10	July
July 10	August
August 10	September
September 10	October
October 10	November
November 10	December

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h COVER STORY

LONG ISLAND CARES

The Harry Chapin Food Bank

A MISSION TO END FOOD INSECURITY

BY EESHA BUTT | PHOTOGRAPHY BY SHERWOODPHOTOGRAPHERS.COM



“Feeding hungry people is important in the short run, but in the long run you’ve got to realize that powerful forces are creating those hungry people”

Harry Chapin was a world renowned singer and songwriter known for hits like “Taxi” and “Cat’s in The Cradle.” He stole the hearts of many, not just for his folk rock and pop rock tunes but for his passion for philanthropy.

Back in the mid 70s, at the peak of Harry’s career, he started to become extremely vocal and public about his plan to use his celebrity status to voice his concern about hunger and food insecurity. In 1975, he collaborated with a friend who resided in Huntington with him, Bill Ayres and together they formed the

World Hunger Years organization, later rebranded as Why Hunger. Their organization’s main focus was to aid impoverished third world countries in attempting to mitigate hunger through charity, using grassroot efforts and rallying celebrities and leaders to help promote the cause. They believed that these long term solutions, like supporting community-based organizations that empower individuals to build self-reliance would lead to long term effects. Harry took it a step further by meeting with President Jimmy Carter in 1978, who ultimately formed the Presidential Commission of World Hunger, which helped to shape future hunger and nutritional programs and policies globally.

However, as Harry was helping out countries worldwide he started looking at things at a more local scope. While living in Huntington, he realized his own community needed his help. In 1980, it was estimated that approximately 50,000 Long Islanders struggled to put food on their table. Harry reached out to the governor’s office and got two \$25,000 donations one for each Long Island County and ended up obtaining two buildings at the Pilgrims Psychiatric Center in Brentwood. In 1980, the first food bank on Long Island, Long Island Cares started. He raised money for his organization

“The very reason we ask, why world hunger? Tells you why we have a hunger problem”

and with his loyal fan base he was successful in doing so. He would perform 220 shows a year and that is where he pushed for donations for Long Island Cares. 43% of the money raised were donations from the corporate community and individual donors.

“There's enough food to feed everyone on this planet twice over, why, why, why are people going hungry?”

Less than a year after Long Island Care's opened tragedy struck, Harry would pass away at the young age of 38 on his way to perform at a charity concert.

It took awhile for his beloved Long Island fans to process his death. However, the music legend's philanthropic legacy would not be in vain. He left the world but gave it two organizations. After his passing his fans continued to contribute and support Long Island Cares.

Paule Pachter is the CEO of Long Island Cares. In March of 2008, Long Island Cares was looking for a new CEO and did a nationwide search to find the perfect fit. The organization was searching for someone with a social work degree in community organization, experience in legislative affairs, and someone who worked with elective officials and knew about advocacy. Paule checked all those boxes and got the role of overseeing all operations at Long Island Cares despite having little knowledge in food banking. Now, 17 years later Paule and his team have successfully expanded and honored what Harry Chapin started.

“There are 220,000 Long Islanders, including 45,000 children who rely on this food bank”

With prices rising each year the amount of Long Islanders that have struggled to put food on the table has also risen exponentially since the 1980s. Now, approximately 220,000 people are food insecure. This is why it was so vital for Paule to expand Long Island Cares. In 2008, there were a total of 35 staff at Long Island Cares and now there's 80. When Long Island Cares first started the annual budget was \$8 million and within the last 17 years the annual budget has increased to \$36 million. Now Long Island Cares operates 20 programs including outreach to the homeless, job placement, and programs for veterans and children.

Long Island Cares started with one location in Brentwood. In 2009, the recession led to an increase of people relying on Long Island Cares. Therefore, Paule considered expanding his operations. In 2010,





Peter Crescenti, media specialist working with Paule Patcher

they opened up a new location in Freeport. In 2013, there was a second location in Lindenhurst. In 2015, a third location opened in Huntington Station. The next locations would be in Hampton Bays in 2020, then a location in Bethpage, and in 2024 a location in Valley Stream opened. The organization doesn't choose these locations but builds these centers in communities who desperately need their resources whether that be aiding elders or the high concentration of migrants.

"The success of Long Island Cares lies in our talented staff working alongside the many volunteers that contribute their time and talents to support our mission. Our volunteers play an important role in helping us sort and repack food donations, delivering food to our homebound neighbors, and hosting food drives and special events to support our work."

Long Island Cares is here to aid people of all ages. Paule and his staff will continue to aid Long Islanders with future plans to embark on mobile services and hopefully influence other organizations to duplicate the same as they continue to fulfill Harry Chapin's mission in fighting hunger.



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Sold	24 Biscayne Drive	16,553	4	2	\$825,000	\$825,000
Sold	107 Willow Avenue	7,405	2	1.5	\$720,000	\$680,500

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HUNTINGTON MAILROOM

By Eesha Butt

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Harry Chapin

MUSICIAN AND HUMANITARIAN

BY EESHA BUTT

Harry Forster Chapin was born on December 7, 1942 in New York's Greenwich Village. He was the son of a big-band drummer and music was a part of his life.

Growing up Harry played the trumpet then switched to guitar. In the 1960s, he joined his brothers, Tom and Steve Chapin, in their musical act.

“Harry, keep the change.”

Although Harry had a love for music it's not what he initially pursued. He joined the Air Force for a short amount of time then went off to study architecture and later philosophy at the prestigious Cornell University, but didn't take off in either field. Instead he learned he had a talent for film-making. In the late 60s, he took on huge projects like directing an academy award-nominated film about boxing heavyweights, *Legendary Champions*.

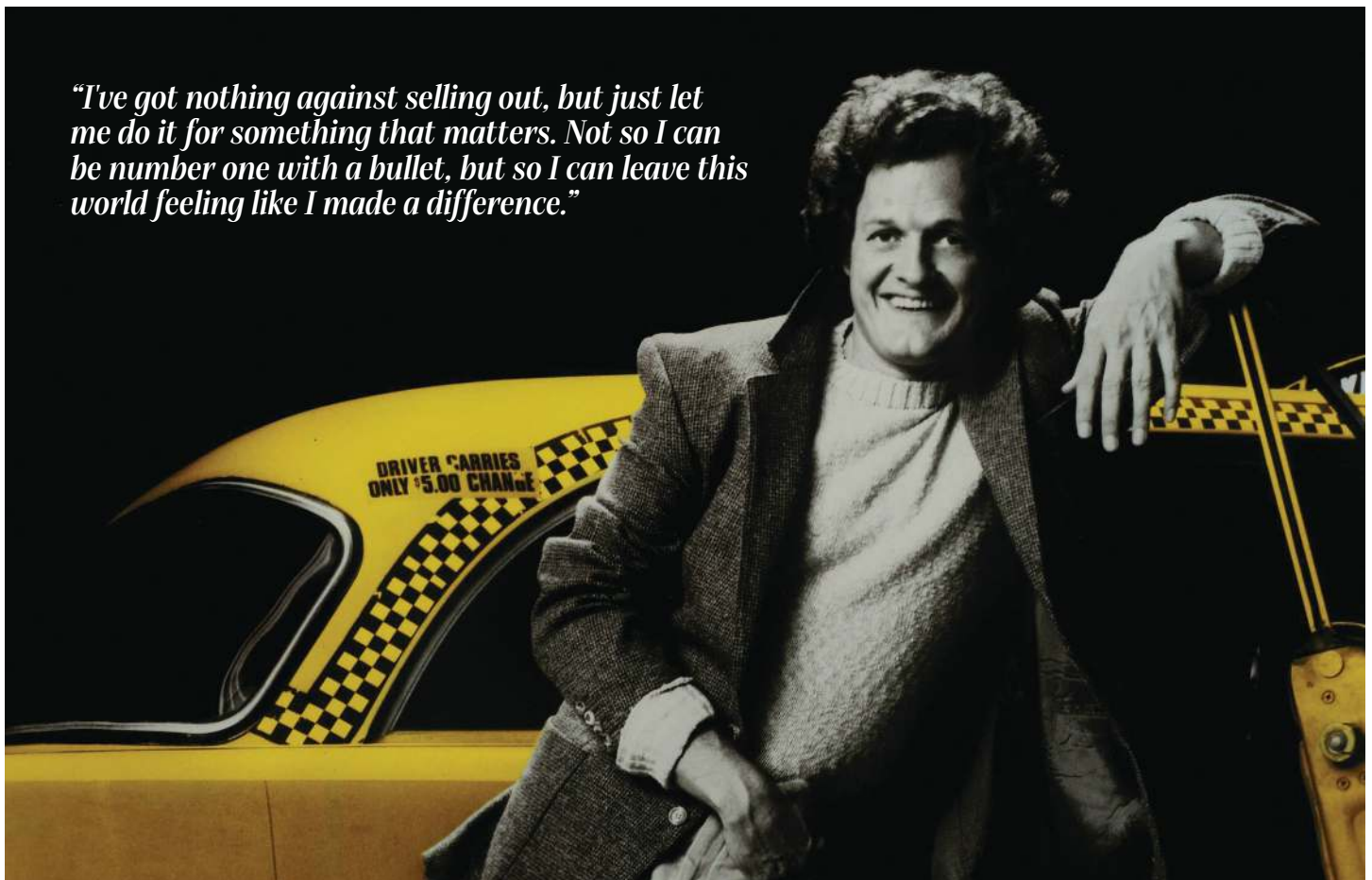
In the 70s, Harry went back to his true calling, music. He signed with Elektra Records, and through his storytelling abilities and real talent in music, he became a hit sensation in the

industry. His first hit, the almost seven minute song “Taxi” became one of the longest songs played on radio up until that time. He even produced multiple Broadway shows and even starred in the 1975 Broadway Musical, *The Night That Made America Famous*.

As his fame grew his need to help others with food accessibility also did as he devoted the rest of his career into helping those in need establishing, “Why Hunger” organization and forming the first food bank on Long Island, Long Island Cares.

“We all have the potential to move the world, and the world is ready to be moved.”

Harry was more than just a musician. He was a humanitarian who used his platform to push for change. He gave the profits from more than half of his performances to charity, making him a selfless individual whose memory lives on through his work, which he started at Long Island Cares and throughout Huntington where he resided.





Lessons of "CAT'S IN THE CRADLE"

And My Own Journey in Fatherhood

BY JEFF DAMIANO

As the publisher of this magazine I'm often immersed in the stories of our community, but now I'd like to share one of my own. It reflects on a song that was born right here that helped to shape my own journey into fatherhood, as I'm sure it has for many others: Harry Chapin's timeless classic, "Cat's in the Cradle."

1979, my first son is born. As a new father, the task of balancing a demanding career with family responsibilities was challenging.

As new parents, my wife and I didn't have many date nights, but we both loved Harry's music, and we would often make a point to see him perform whenever he came to Westbury Music Fair. On August 27th, 1980 we arranged for a night out to spend with Harry. I remember so clearly that evening sitting in the audience when Harry performed this song. I heard the words so differently then. I felt as though he was singing it just for me and sharing his lyrical story for this young father with a newborn son.

The bitter irony of the song lies in the realization that time once lost can never be reclaimed, and less than a year later the untimely passing of Harry Chapin in July 1981 was a loss felt deeply within our community. However, his music and legacy continues to inspire. His keen insight into the importance of strong human relationships, seems even more relevant today with all our technological distractions.

Looking back, my journey as a father was not without missteps, but I grew more mindful of being a father. I became present for all my children's big and small moments. Now, reflecting on those years I've watched my children grow into adulthood. I'm filled with gratitude that they too have become thoughtful parents who work hard at being apart of those important moments with their own children.

Thank you, Harry, for reminding us to pause in life's constant motion & craziness and cherish the time we have today, knowing that these present moments define our own family stories and legacies.

GET OUTSIDE!

Some of the Best Winter Hiking Spots in The Huntington Area

BY JEFF DAMIANO | PHOTOS BY JEFF DAMIANO

For winter outdoor enthusiasts in Huntington, the surrounding areas offer a wealth of scenic hiking opportunities. Whether you're a seasoned hiker or a beginner looking to immerse yourself in the great outdoors, these local hiking spots promise a close by way to breakaway!

- Caumsett State Historic Park Preserve
- Cold Spring Harbor State Park
- Stillwell Woods Preserve
- West Hills Nature Preserve
- Target Rock National Wildlife Refuge

No matter which path you choose, here are some essential tips to ensure a safe and enjoyable hike:

Plan ahead: Before setting off, research the trail's difficulty, length, and potential hazards.

Dress appropriately: Wear comfortable shoes with good traction, winter weather-appropriate clothing...dress in layers!

Pack essentials: Bring plenty of water, snacks, sunscreen, and a first-aid kit.

Leave no trace: Pack out all your trash and respect the natural environment.

Get ready to lace up your boots, grab your camera, and explore Huntington's best hiking spots.

The trails await, offering a chance to connect with nature, get some exercise, and create lasting memories. **Happy hiking!**

THE HUNTINGTON ARTS COUNCIL

The IMPORTANCE of the ARTS in the COMMUNITY

BY EESHA BUTT

Huntington Arts Council (HAC), is a 501(c)(3) not for profit, community based organization. HAC enriches the quality of life of Long Islanders with programs and services that address the needs and interests of artists, cultural organizations and the community.

HAC promotes arts and culture generated by artists and arts organizations both local and across Long Island. They work to positively impact the cultural, social and economic life of the community by nurturing the professional development of artists through their resources and unique opportunities. HAC's programs allow accessibility to the arts, whether it be funding to artists and arts organizations with Long Island Grants for the Arts. The JOURNEY Arts in Education program serving over 40,000 school age children, partnering with the Town of Huntington to present the free live performances of the Huntington Summer Arts Festival, exhibitions in Main Street Gallery, Free Professional Development workshops or the Arts Cultural Magazine featuring the success stories of the art community.



“The accessibility of our resources and programs is evident in the impact and engagement that brings them to life. Fall 2024, we had our first ever Second Chance Supplies Sale, Art Materials & More. This sale donated, gently used art materials, available to artists, children, families, teachers etc. As the father of a primary school student in the Huntington Public School district, I am grateful for this program and its focus on cultural diversity,”

-KIERAN JOHNSON, HAC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



"Huntington being the hub of art is the reason why it's a great place to live, work and conduct business. As artists and art professionals, my wife and I specifically chose to move to Huntington because of the culturally rich lifestyle here. Access to the arts and access for our family has always been a priority for us. Huntington has a vibrant art scene which is exciting and engaging across all platforms,"

-KIERAN, HUNTINGTON RESIDENT

return to the Huntington economy from tourists and day visitors. To put this into numbers, HAC has collaborated with the Town of Huntington since 1965 to present the annual free Huntington Summer Arts Festival at the Chapin Rainbow Stage in Heckscher Park. This year nearly 21,000 people attended and the economic impact of the 2024 festival is an estimated \$1,100,630 based on Americans for the Arts; Arts and Economic Prosperity calculator.

HAC provides venues for the arts in the community, including our Main Street Gallery. These venues and opportunities, many of which are free to the public, have brought an outstanding response, quantified by a significant increase in visitors to view art work by local artists, and a greater presence throughout Long Island.

The arts generate jobs and wages, millions in annual direct spending, and millions more in indirect spending by people drawn to attend cultural events in our community. Long Island's arts community has a \$330 million annual impact on the local economy, as noted in a study by Long Island Arts Alliance. HAC plays a leading role in sustaining the economic benefits of the arts through its promotion of activities and events in the community. The arts create a vibrant, energized, and culturally rich community and further expands the love for artistry in the Huntington Village community.

July 1963 was the "official" start of the HAC with a formal vote by the Huntington Town Board to accept the Huntington Citizens Advisory Committee on the Arts recommendation. The Committee on the Arts met for the first time on January 8, 1962 and was charged by Town Supervisor Robert Flynn to "consider the problems of maintaining an adequate cultural life in the expanding community complex of Huntington." HAC was the first of its kind on Long Island.

Since 1963, HAC has inspired and aided the growth of hundreds of art organizations and individual artists now flourishing locally in the Township of Huntington and across Long Island. HAC celebrates the diversity of Long Island's cultural resources through sponsored activities, programs and publications that advocate cultural awareness and education.

The impact this organization has in the village is through programs. The programs of the HAC include: special events and expanding collaborations and partnerships—directly translated into greater economic vitality and broader visibility for the Town of Huntington. The reach of the HAC into Suffolk County also brings a direct





CALENDAR of EVENTS

FEBRUARY 7

Chef it Up: Toddlers

Huntington Public Library

Little chefs ages 3-5 years of age can come to the library and make simple snacks using childproof culinary utensils

Time: 10am-10:45am

myhpl.libnet.info/event/12480387

FEBRUARY 7

Friday Parents Night Out

Valhallan Esports in Huntington

Parents, indulge in three hours of well-deserved free time while your child revels in a secure and exhilarating gaming environment.

Time: 6pm-9pm

huntingtonmatters.com/events/friday-parents-night-out

FEBRUARY 8

Museum Adventure Activity: Deep Sea Explorers

The Whaling Museum & Education Center in Cold Spring Harbor

A fun and interactive program for children who want to explore the deep blue from using a blacklight to hunt for hidden clues and solve puzzles throughout the museum to decorating a glowing jellyfish craft to take home!

Time: 11am-4pm

huntingtonmatters.com/events/museum-adventure-activity-deep-sea-explorers

FEBRUARY 11

Coffee With A Cop

Huntington Public Library

Join officers from the 2nd Precinct for coffee and conversation. Light refreshments will be served.

Time: 11:30am-12:30pm

myhpl.libnet.info/event/12414159

FEBRUARY 15

Pete the Cat:

Live Storytelling Workshop

Huntington Public Library

Sing and dance along as theater majors from Long Island University act out Pete the Cat and The Cool Caterpillar ending it off with a cool craft!

Time: 12pm-1pm

myhpl.libnet.info/event/12484084

FEBRUARY 16

Huntington Winter Farmers Market

The Spirit of Huntington Art Center Shop fresh, locally sourced produce and organic and sustainable products in a family-friendly atmosphere.

Time: 9am-1pm

huntingtonmatters.com/events/huntington-winter-farmers-market

FEBRUARY 17

Winter Coat Drive

Huntington GOP Headquarters

Help your community stay warm this winter and giveaway your gently used coats, scarves, boots and gloves.

Time: 12pm-4pm

huntingtonmatters.com/events/winter-coat-drive/

FEBRUARY 17

Live Music with Mediacrime

The Next Chapter

If you enjoy Folk and 60's Rock with the sonic and visual impact of Punk. Mediacrime is an annual favorite so stop by for some tunes.

Time: 7:00pm

thenextchapterli.com/product/live-music-with-mediacrime



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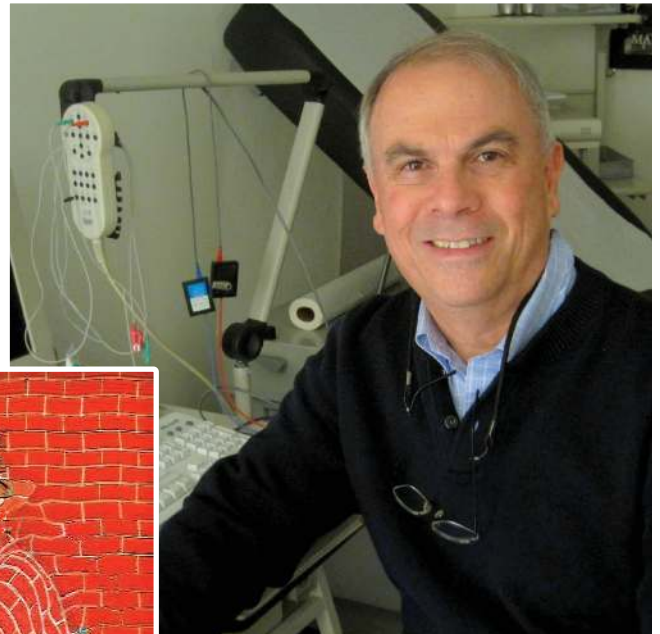
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ALAN RICHARDS

FROM AUDIOLOGY
TO ART

BY EESHA BUTT
PHOTOGRAPHY BY ALAN RICHARDS



With his mother, an oil painter and his father a commercial artist, Alan Richards grew up immersed in the art world. However, while growing up, his family constantly had an unsteady income. Although Alan had a love for drawing, he decided to go into science, where he spent a majority of his life in audiology. Alan earned his Ph.D. from the City University of New York (CUNY) in Hearing Science and was a Professor of Audiology at CUNY for nearly 30 years. He also had a long term practice over those years with his company located in the Upper East Side of Manhattan. Although Alan was immersed in his audiology work, his love for art never went away. He always had art in his back pocket but was never able to pursue it full time, until the Covid-19 pandemic, where he sold his business's interest and had officially retired from audiology. Currently, Alan is a member of the Fotofoto Gallery, an art gallery in Huntington Village, where he does photo montages. His most recent project is his book: *History Re-imagined* where he takes authentic images of what life was like on the homefront in World War II and creates new photo montages out of them. If you are interested in his current and past work head over to his website: AlanRichardsArt.com

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