



91st Assembly District
Larchmont - Mamaroneck - New Rochelle - Port Chester - Rye Brook and Rye



October 11, 2023

Dear Friends,

Tonight I will be attending Mamaroneck's Tri-Municipal Vigil, one of many gatherings organized to condemn the horrible atrocities that began last Saturday by the terrorist group Hamas and to support the state of Israel in the battle against the evil, murder, and brutality that reminds us all of the worst episodes of human history. Last night I attended a stirring meeting in White Plains organized by the Westchester Jewish Council, which was attended by over a thousand individuals and clergy of all faiths.

This newsletter also includes news of Westchester County's new digital inclusion initiative, my visit to the waters of New York Harbor to view the work of the clean water program Billion Oyster Project and information about a recent Friendship Through Japanese Arts and Culture exhibit at the Jay Heritage Center.

As always, do not hesitate to contact me or my staff on issues in this e-mail or any matter in which I can be helpful. My office number is 914-939-7028.

Warm regards,

**A TRI-MUNICIPAL VIGIL
TO SHOW OUR SUPPORT FOR THE
THE STATE OF ISRAEL**



HARBOR ISLAND

Wednesday October 11th 5:30pm

**MAYOR TOM MURPHY - Village of Mamaroneck
SUPERVISOR JAINE ELKIND ENEY - Town of Mamaroneck
MAYOR SARAH BAUER - Mayor of Larchmont**

Westchester County Launches New Countywide Digital Inclusion Program



I participated in a press conference announcing Westchester County's launch of their new program to bridge the digital divide through providing essential digital resources, education, and affordable internet access to low-income residents. This new program will utilize partnerships with the STEM Alliance, The Westchester County Association, and the Westchester Library System to help all members of our community make a significant step towards achieving digital equity.

Digital Inclusion programs are designed to assess the needs of individuals lacking digital literacy by providing broadband access, a suitable device and a training program to make digital skills a reality. I am a leading advocate of digital inclusion programs in the state legislature and believe Westchester County's program will help empower residents throughout the county. The county initiative is a good model for other counties for getting these programs in the hands of local not-for-profits and delivering these services. You can view my comments at the press conference [HERE](#).

I am pictured on the stage with Bridget Gibbons, Director, Westchester County Office of Economic Development and Deputy Westchester County Executive Ken Jenkins.

Billion Oyster Project Focused on Clean Water



Last week I found myself on a small workboat crossing New York Harbor from the West Side of Manhattan to Brooklyn to view the work of the Billion Oyster Project, that is actively working to restore oyster reefs in New York's estuaries. Oyster reefs provide habitat for hundreds of species and can protect New York Harbor from storm damage — softening the blow of large waves, reducing flooding, and preventing erosion along the shorelines. The oyster beds are not

producing oysters for human consumption but are placed at locations where the oyster beds will grow and function to clean the waters that flow up the Hudson or out towards Long Island Sound. The Billion Oyster Project integrates their program with New York City schools as part of Stem education programs. The oyster reefs also include used oyster shells donated by 75 NYC restaurants and stored on Governor's Island until planted in New York Harbor. The visit was arranged for the NYS Assembly Environmental Conservation Committee.

I am pictured here with colleagues Deborah Glick, chair of the committee, Tony Simone and Dan O'Donnell. You can learn more about this clean water initiative by visiting the Billion Oyster Project website.

Friendship Through Japanese Arts and Culture

I recently attended the Friendship Through Japanese Arts and Culture exhibit at the Jay Heritage Center, sponsored in partnership with the [Japan Society of Greater Fairfield County \(JSFC\)](#) and the Topaz Museum in Utah. The exhibit featured an impressive display of Ikebana, the Japanese art of flower arrangement. The event also included a showing of Koho Yamamoto's painting depicting an internment camp scene. The goal of the three-day exhibit was to promote mutual understanding between Japanese and Americans through educational, cultural, and philanthropic programs.



Jay Heritage Center's Japanese Arts and Culture Weekend, from Left to right are Jackie Alexander, President of the Japan Society of Greater Fairfield County, Diane Caminis, Suzanne Clary, Assemblyman Otis, Kayoko Matsubara, Miyuki Itoh, Judith Setsuko Hata, Roxane Wasserman, and Hazue Tamura-Stein. They are pictured with an Ikebana flower arrangement by Judith Setsuko Hata and the Koho Yamamoto internment camp painting.



