

# The 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Disability Awareness Fair

I was so excited to host my First Annual Disability Awareness Fair at the Andrew J. Parise park in Cedarhurst on October 15. Co-hosted with the National Council of Jewish Women Peninsula Section (NCJW), the event took place next to the area's first universally accessible playground that NCJW helped build in 2001 with the Village of Cedarhurst.

Nearly 40 vendors were in attendance to provide information on support services, programs and equipment to individuals with special needs and their loved ones. Fun activities, such as Pop.Earth painting, were provided, along with musical entertainment from the Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County and refreshments.

It was such a joy to hear that many parents and loved ones found the resources provided valuable and that coming together for such an event made them feel less isolated. I can't wait for next year's fair!



Melissa "Missy"  
**MILLER**  
ASSEMBLYWOMAN



# AROUND THE NEIGHBORHOOD...



## Nassau County Police Department

I was honored to participate in the official grand opening of the Nassau County Police Department 4th Precinct's new building in Hewlett on October 17 with Senator Todd Kaminsky, Nassau County Legislator Denise Ford, Nassau County Legislator Howard J. Kopel and Deputy Commanding Officer Deputy Inspector Tara Comiskey. I am so proud I was able to support our local law enforcement, who risk their own lives every day in order to protect ours.

## A faithful community!

It was a blessing to be present at the Ordination of Deacon Marcus Tinker in July. Even though we may come from a variety of religious backgrounds, it is important for us to continue to come together as a community to support one another. Deacon Tinker is such a kind and humble man, I am so thankful to have met him and have him in my life, and I wish him the best of luck in his future as a Deacon.



## Go Golden Tornados!

It was such a privilege to be able to speak at the Lawrence High School Homecoming game on October 9 in Cedarhurst. It was a treat to cheer the Golden Tornados on to victory, as my family are all former alumni of Lawrence HS and were excited to be able to show our gold and blue pride!

## The Girl Scout Promise!

In June, I was pleased to participate in the Girl Scouts of Nassau County's annual Cookie Send-Off. Local Girl Scouts of all ages helped package their delicious cookies to send to our troops overseas with the help of DHL. Sending the much-loved and iconic treats is the Girl Scouts' way of thanking those who risk their lives every day to defend our freedom. We hope the cookies lifted the spirits of our brave troops!



## Celebrating the luck of the Irish!

I was so proud to march in the 28th Annual Saint Brendan the Navigator Long Beach Irish Heritage Day Parade hosted by the Ancient Order of Hibernians Division 17 of Long Beach on October 7. With tons of vendors, rides, live music, tasty food and raffles, along with the gorgeous weather, it truly was a fun-filled day to remember!

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# MILLER PUSHES FOR MORE AWARENESS OF RARE CHILDREN'S DISORDERS

October 2017 marked 20 years since my daughter Melanie lost her life to Cockayne Syndrome. In honor of her and all the children who have suffered from this disease, I am proud to announce my plans to propose a Resolution this upcoming legislative session to make October Cockayne Syndrome Awareness Month in New York.

Cockayne Syndrome is a rare and fatal genetic disorder. It is characterized by poor growth, microcephaly, premature aging, extreme sensitivity to sunlight, moderate to profound developmental and neurological delays and an extremely shortened lifespan.

My family is part of a small percentage, per the Center For Disease Control and Prevention, 2 to 3 rare cases in every 1 million births, affected by this disorder. In October of 1990 I gave birth to a beautiful baby girl named Melanie. We knew within the first year that she was not meeting milestones and was developmentally delayed and by age 3 she began losing the skills she had worked hard to achieve. Melanie was not diagnosed with type 1 Cockayne Syndrome until she was 5 years old. While those with type 1 can live until they are 15 or 20, Melanie died on October 26, just two days after her 7th birthday.

Since Melanie's death, I have continued to stay in touch with other families who have children with Cockayne Syndrome. I have strived to help these families by raising awareness not only of Cockayne Syndrome but other disorders, diseases and illnesses which affect so many innocent children and their families across the country. It is important for us to educate ourselves and come together to help find cures for these terrible afflictions to stop more children, and their families, from having to suffer their painful effects.



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