



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



October 19, 2023

Dear Friends,

This newsletter includes my statement at the Mamaroneck Larchmont Tri-municipal Vigil for Israel, a report on my advocacy for digital equity at a conference in Syracuse and news on an Education Committee Hearing on college level course opportunities for high school students.

I also include news about the great work of the Sharing Shelf to help provide clothing for families in need. Your donation of clothing will be put to good use.

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,

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**Tri-Municipal Vigil to Show Support for the State of Israel**



Below are my remarks that I gave during the Larchmont- Mamaroneck Tri-Municipal Vigil in support of Israel.

You can watch the LMCMedia highlight video of the vigil [HERE](#)

"Today we gather here as a community much in the same we came together after September 11, 2001, and as we do each year to mark that attack on America by the forces of evil.

Today we come together to support justice over unthinkable atrocities, respect over villainy, and good over evil. We come to support Israel in this time of great danger and to support those we know impacted by the acts of wanton murder, cruelty, terror, and fear.

The goal of the terrorist group Hamas is to eliminate the state of Israel and to kill, terrorize, and torture in ways that are difficult to even fathom, cruelty that is hard to imagine, and a lack of humanity that we have seen before and must fight at every turn.

We have seen how the dehumanization of a race, religion, nationality, or culture can descend to unimaginable evil. Genocide is made possible by taking away the humanity and the respect every human being deserves.

We must always remember that the road to genocide is paved by the ideology of hate. It is the denial of humanity that gives license to the brutal killings we have seen in the last week but have also seen in genocides throughout history, atrocities around the globe in our lifetime, and in the shocking increase in hate crimes, including murders, that we have seen in our own country in recent years.

If we believe that America aspires to human happiness and toleration, then we know today that Israel's battle against Hamas is our battle as well. For men and women in any country who believe in civilization and humanity, Israel's battle against Hamas is their battle as well. As we hear the stories of the individual atrocities of the last week, we must make sure the world does not forget the character and meaning of these horrors.

They resonate well beyond the individual acts of murder and tell the story of the world we are fighting for and what we are fighting against.

At stake is a world that values humanity versus forces that would return us to a medieval horror of death and hate. Let us pray for Israel, support Israel, and fight for the cause of humanity throughout the world."

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**Digital Equity Panel in Syracuse**



Last week I was asked to speak at a conference in Syracuse on one of my priority issues, the importance of Digital Inclusion programs. Digital inclusion programs provide broadband access, devices, and training to individuals in need of digital access and skills. These programs are very successful in addressing the digital equity disparities that usually exist because of economic status, race, or age. The conference was hosted by the NY Funders Alliance, which is an association of grant makers and philanthropic advisors throughout New York State. My goal was to share the value of digital inclusion programs to representatives from foundations and other funding groups with the hope that we can attract more private sector support for these valuable

community-based efforts.

Pictured above with: Meg Kaufer, President of the STEM Alliance, Lynn Thurston, President, Finger Lakes Digital Inclusion Coalition, Don Matteson of the Western NY Digital Inclusion & Equity Coalition.

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### **Assembly Committee on Higher Education Hearing**



Last week I participated in a public hearing in Albany on partnerships between school districts and colleges and universities to provide high school students with innovative college level course opportunities, one-on-one mentorship programs, and multi-year college and career readiness programs. The ability of a high school student to earn college course credit through offerings such as the Early College High School and the Pathways in Technology (P-TECH)

programs are just some of the ways colleges have partnered with local school districts.

Other partnerships actively engage college students by offering them the opportunity to tutor middle or high school students or teach in a classroom as part of an immersive teacher training program. These opportunities can help meet community needs while providing secondary and post-secondary students with important learning experiences.

While the state has invested in a number of ways to expand opportunities, there remain barriers at the local level, either financial or structural that may prevent students from leveraging educational and vocational training opportunities in their areas.

You can view my questions to Johanna Duncan-Poitier, Senior Vice Chancellor for Community Colleges and the Education Pipeline and Dr. Jim Baldwin, Senior Deputy Commissioner for Education Policy for the NYS Department of Education [HERE](#).

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**200th Anniversary Port Chester Fire Department**



I recently attended the celebration of the 200<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Port Chester Fire Department, that was marked by a wonderful parade down Westchester Avenue in the village. Fire Departments and emergency service agencies from the Hudson Valley and Connecticut marched to help honor Port Chester's anniversary. I am pictured here with Former Port Chester Chief Vinnie Lyons, the parade's Grand Marshall.

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**The Sharing Shelf**





**4,134 requests for clothing  
37% increase in 1 year**

The Sharing Shelf

**The Sharing Shelf in Port Chester needs your help.**

Donate fall and winter clothing for infants, children and teens (visit the Target registry to see what we need if you don't have clothing to donate)

Organize a drive for essentials such as fall and winter clothing, coats, socks and underwear.

Volunteer in our Clothing Bank - help us sort and organize donations and prepare them.





