

PRELUDE

From the Executive Director Reverend Dyanne Pina

MISSION STATEMENT

The Long Island Council of Churches unites diverse Christians to work together to improve living conditions on Long Island and to promote inter-faith understanding and cooperation.

Administrative Office

40 Washington Street
Hempstead, NY 11550
(516) 565-0290
Fax (516) 565-0291
E-mail:
LICC@optonline.net

Riverhead Office

220 Roanoke Avenue
Suite #3
Riverhead, NY 11901
(631) 727-2210
Fax (631) 727-2239
E-mail:
LICC@riverhead.optonline.net

Freeport Emergency

Food Pantry
46 Pine Street
Freeport, NY 11520
(516) 868-4989
Fax (516) 868-4991
E-Mail:
LICC@freeport.optonline.net

Loving Gestures versus Collateral Damages

The Lenten season encompasses forty days of fast, prayer, meditation and self-examination in preparation for the celebrated day of our Lord's resurrection, we call Easter. Lent is a time for Christians to deepen their relationship with Jesus and with others. While Lent is a period of giving up, it is also a time to give in, giving in to expressing loving gestures to friends, family and to Neighbors. We should respect each other in spite of our personal biases being sure to dismiss any hint of judgment and condemnation.

Loving gestures come in all sizes and forms. When the Pharisees and the teachers of the law presented before the group, a woman 'caught in adultery', they used her to test and trap Jesus. They would determine by his answer if it was contrary to Moses' command to stone an adulterous woman. Jesus flipped the script by challenging them to stone her if they were without sin. Of course, they could not refute the condition of their flawed souls, and eventually left one at a time, discarding this woman as trash to be left behind with Jesus. Jesus then asked her, "Has no one condemned you?" She answered, "No one sir." Jesus then responded, "Then neither do I condemn you." Jesus extended a loving gesture.

This woman was collateral damage, a pawn played by these religious legalistic leaders for their greater agenda.

Like this woman of ancient times, so today in 2017 are the most vulnerable used as pawns...used for collateral damage for a greater and dark agenda posited by this current administration which refuses to put a face to those they condemn, basing this judgment on skin color, cultural traditions or religious beliefs. God knows that I have tried to ignore the insanity and chaos of our current social and political state, praying for those that are threatened and victimized, and praying for our President to be wise and humane. Yet, there seems to be no escaping the reality of harmful threats and random acts of hate against Jews, Muslims, Asian Indians and Sikhs. There is no escaping the repeal threat of the Affordable Health Care Act. There is no escaping the threat of the immigration ban. We call them immigrants, yet liked all of us, they are persons seeking the pursuit of happiness. Many are being criminalized and put into holding centers, scared, alone and away from their families. There is no escaping the reality of the mass long term incarceration of Black and Brown men, in prison because of petty crimes and the lack of bail funds, who are put there driven by a the economy of prison privatization. There is no escaping the disregard of innocent refugees, mostly women and children, being locked out of this country because of a political agenda. All of the above are victims who have been

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Loving Gestures vs. Collateral Damages

set up as collateral damage and instruments of a greater agenda by this country's administration to oppress and suppress certain target groups, in order to "Make America Great".

Since January 21st, I like so many clergy, religious and lay leaders, have participated in various activities ranging from prayer vigils, letters to politicians, interfaith coalitions, speaking at press conferences, and immigration forums...engaging in loving gestures because it is the right and Godly thing to do.

As we all continue to do our best to make America the place where arms are open to receive, where voices are heard, and where love perseveres, let us remember to send forth loving gestures. "...love always protects, always hopes, always perseveres, and love never fails." Corinthians 13:7.

**LICC'S EASTERN AREA
STEERING COMMITTEE
2017 CONVOCATION:**

Immigration and the East End:
How can I Help? Neighbors
helping Neighbors.

Saturday, May 13, 2017 at the First Baptist Church, Doctor's Path, Riverhead, NY 11901. Registration and coffee at 9:30, program 10:00 to noon. For more information and to register your interest please contact Rev. Lorraine De Armitt at RevMomLady2@optonline.net.

IMMIGRATION RESOURCES

..what we may need to know
helping our *NEIGHBORS*...

On-Line Bilingual Service Directory: Rev. Dr. Enrique Lebron, Riverhead United Methodist Church, contact rumc11901@aol.com or 631-727-3331

The Immigrant Defense Project has been monitoring Immigration & Customs Enforcement (ICE) community arrests. ICE is comprised of federal agencies responsible for deporting people. What are the current trends? Who is at risk of being arrested by ICE? If you or a loved one is deportable, have a plan! To report a raid or ICE presence on Long Island, you can call the Long Island ICE RAID hotline 516-387-2043. To obtain free legal services referral; new Americans hotline 1-800-566-7636, if you have a criminal record, call the Immigrant Defense Project, Mon-Fri 9-5pm, 212-725-6422

LONG ISLAND WINS is a nonprofit communications organization that focuses on prompting practical immigration solutions that work for everyone, rooted in respect and dignity for all through advocacy, education and hope. We welcome new Americans to Long Island and foster opportunity so that we can all reach our full potential as contributing partners in our community. Please contact info@longislandwins.com or 516-864-0786.

Jobs For Justice - Know Your Rights: Immigration Laws are constantly changing. This training will provide up to date information current immigration policies, local resources, and a know your rights training in case immigration enforcement approaches you in your home, at work, and the courts. Please contact Victoria at vdaza.lijwj@gmail.com or 516-387-2043 for more info.

Justice for Our Neighbors (JFON): JFON is a ministry of the United Methodist Church that welcomes immigrants by providing: Legal Services, Education, and Hospitality. The Hicksville Justice for Our Neighbors Immigration clinic dates for the next three months are April 8, May 13, and June 10. Appointments are required, please call 516-931-2626.

...serving our *Neighbors*...

The Freeport Emergency Food Pantry gets a new location

The Long Island Council of Churches Freeport Emergency Food Pantry is expanding its delivery of services in Nassau County by partnering with AHRC in Freeport. The pantry will serve our *Neighbors* by expanding there hours to Monday – Friday from 9:30 am to 3:30 pm and closed from 12:00 to 1:00 pm for lunch. The new pantry location will be at the AHRC Facility located at 230 Hanse Avenue, Freeport, with an entrance in the side parking lot.

The first distribution day in the new space will be April 17, 2017. Freeport Emergency Food Pantry Manager Wally Merna ensures our food choice modality and of course ensuring the respect and dignity of our recipient *Neighbors* will still be the same as when they were at their old location.

Since 2008 the Freeport Emergency Food Pantry has served approximately 116,828 families throughout Nassau County.

This new space provided by AHRC has been completely designed and renovated exclusively for the LICC to meet our needs to continue to serve our *Neighbors*.

LICC Partnering with AHRC to continue in serving our *Neighbors* in need

The Long Island Council of Churches has partnered with AHRC Nassau to expand our Freeport Emergency Food Pantry delivery of services.

AHRC Nassau empowers people with intellectual and other developmental disabilities to live self-directed lives.

AHRC Nassau led by Stanford J. Perry, Executive Director, is a not-for-profit organization that is a chapter of NYSARC, Inc. Established during a time where most people with developmental disabilities were relegated to institutions or hidden away at home, AHRC Nassau has been dedicated to improving the lives of people with developmental disabilities and helping them live self-directed lives for more than 65 years.

As a parent-founded organization whose foundation was built on the hopes they had for their children, AHRC supports more than 2,200 individuals with intellectual and other developmental disabilities.

See more at:

<http://www.ahrc.org/who-we-are/#sthash.8w28IvdC.dpuf>

Drivers and Volunteers Needed to help with Pantry move!!!!

We are running out of time and are in dire need of volunteers and drivers with vehicles needed to assist with our Freeport pantry move. Please contact Wally Merna at the Freeport Pantry at 516-868-4989 or the Administrative Office at 516-565-0290 and speak with Anthony Achong

LICC Pantry Locations and Hours

Monday - Friday
9:30 AM to 3:30 PM
Closed between
12:00 PM to 1:00 PM.

Hempstead Food Pantry

40 Washington Street
Hempstead, N.Y. 11550
516-565-0290

Freeport Food Pantry (NEW LOCATION)

230 Hanse Avenue
Freeport, New York 11520
516-868-4989

Riverhead Food Pantry

220 Roanoke Avenue Suite #3
Riverhead, New York 11901
631-727-2210

SPOT LIGHTS



We are profoundly grateful to **Newsday Charities and the McCormick Foundation** for its generous grant of \$60,000 to support our Nassau County Emergency Food and Family Support Programs. Reverend Dyanne Pina and LICC's Board of Directors member Hank Boerner, front left) were there to accept the donation.



We are especially thankful for the continued support from the **Garden City Community Church** 'We Sing for Food' concert who raised in one night \$14,640 to support our mission to serve Long Islanders in need.

CLASSIFIEDS

**Parkway Community Church
Church Secretary / Administrative Assistant
Part Time (15-20 hours/week)**

We are looking for someone who understands the Christian faith (e.g., the significance of the sacraments, the liturgical calendar, etc.) and can provide confidential administrative support to our pastor, church leaders and congregation.

Our ideal candidate will possess the following: Several years of office experience; Proficiency using Microsoft Windows and Microsoft Word; Experience with or the ability to learn how to use Excel, Publisher, PowerChurch, QuickBooks, and other computer programs as needed; The ability to work independently and manage several tasks at the same time. In addition, our ideal candidate will have excellent interpersonal skills, be well-organized, and maintain the highest professional standards. We anticipate that our secretary will work from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. Monday through Friday, but this schedule may be adjusted to meet your needs or ours.

For more information, please contact:

parkwaychurch@yahoo.com.

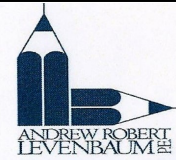
**Parkway Community Church
"Specialized" Interim Pastor**

The Parkway Community Church (PCC) in Hicksville, New York, is accepting applications for a "specialized" interim pastor. PCC is a member of the Reformed Church in America, Classis of Nassau – Suffolk on Long Island, New York.

Our Interim Pastor will serve for a time period of approximately 18 months. He or she will be a full-time employee of the church, reporting directly to the Board of Elders. To maintain the integrity of the pastoral search process, our Interim will not be considered for the position of permanent Pastor. He or she will perform general pastoral duties and assist the search committee with the pastoral search.

General Pastoral Duties Include: Preparing and preaching sermons during each regularly scheduled church service; providing pastoral visitation and means of grace to the homebound; performing the sacraments of communion and baptism; working with the worship team to develop and implement excellent Sunday services; praying for and with people in the church.

For more information, please contact: kabp@verizon.net.



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Call **Andrew Levenbaum's** team, specialists in the design needs of the religious community.

Call 631-423-8602 or

UPCOMING LICC EVENTS:

APRIL 16th - Easter Dawn Service, 6:30 a.m. at Jones Beach, Field 6. Bring Beach Chairs and Blankets. LICC will accept non-perishable food items and monetary donations

April 17th - Freeport Emergency Food Pantry to re-open at 230 Hanse Avenue, Freeport.

May 18th - LICC Annual Meeting, The AHRC Mansion, 180 Wheatley Road, Brookville at 4:30 p.m.

June 15th - Hempstead Administrative and pantry move to West Hempstead

PRELUDE

The newsletter of the
Long Island Council of
Churches

Editors

Rev. Dyanne Pina

Anthony Achong

Hank Boerner

Items for publication
may be emailed to:
licc@optonline.net

Two months advance
notice for events
requiring registration.

Our appreciation and thanks to...

Emergency Food Pantry &
Family Support Programs

Community Presbyterian
Church
\$600

Westbury Monthly
Meeting
\$450

D.C. Electric, Inc.
\$100

Flander's United
Methodist Women
\$50

Where Most Needed

Suffolk Association
of UCC
\$1,600

First Presbyterian
Church of Smithtown
\$1,500

The Society of Saint
Vincent de Paul
\$2,300

Church World Service
\$541.50

Sayville Congregational
Church
\$310

First Presbyterian
Church of Freeport
\$260

Congregational Church
of Huntington
\$250

Congregational UCC
of Farmingville
\$241.50

Orient Congregational
Church
\$200

Saint Paul's Reformed
Church of North Babylon
\$179

Community Presbyterian
Church
\$170

Advent Lutheran Church
\$100

Bob's Electrical Contracting
\$100

Unity Church of Long Island
\$100

Port Washington UMC
\$72

*... the following individuals for
their gifts to support our min-
istry to our Neighbors in need:*
Joseph G. Arcuri, Arlene
Doaley, Kenneth E. Graham,
Walterine Gray, William
Keller, Phd, Janice Kincaid,
Joyce King, Carmen
McAuley, Janet Moser,
Audrey Player, Edith E.
Quiroga, Shriley J. Russell,
Maryanne Walling, and Mari-
on Wright.

Please visit us at
www.liccdonate.org