

Plaza Voice
Village of Great Neck Plaza
 June 2014



Mayor Jean A. Celender, Deputy Mayor Ted M. Rosen
 Trustees Ted M. Rosen, Gerry Schneiderman, Pam Marksheid,
 and Lawrence R. Katz
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Plaza Centre Garage Update



Construction on the Plaza Centre Garage is scheduled to be finished ahead of schedule.

Many Great Neckers who shop and work in our downtown shopping district, commute from the Plaza to Manhattan or stop by our Village Hall know that the Plaza Centre garage has recently been undergoing a facelift to repair various issues that have sprung up over the garage's 39-year existence. The Village is happy to announce however that after the last eight months of repairs to the garage, the project is now in the final stages of completion.

Started this past October to shore up the structural concrete decks on various levels of the garage, Michael Sweeney, the Village's Commissioner of Public Services, is pleased to report that the project is ahead of schedule and should be completed by the end of June, barring any unforeseen delays. "We've been pleased with how the repair crews have productively and efficiently carried out their work schedule, and because of this, we will be able to finish this project sooner than expected," stated Commissioner Sweeney.

Visitors to the garage over the last eight months will have noticed the extensive work crews were tending to on individual levels of the garage. As part of the repair process, crews jackhammered away patches of existing concrete on the ramps and filled them in with new concrete, solidifying the structure of the garage, while also tending to minor cracks in the pavement that have formed

over the garage's history. Additionally, the garage, which was constructed in 1975, saw a new protective membrane proofing installed to the upper deck of the garage roof.

"We are thrilled that this project will finish ahead of time and allow residents, shoppers and commuters to utilize the garage to its fullest just in time for the summer months," stated Mayor Jean Celender. "I would like to send a huge thanks to the contractors and their crew for their diligence in getting this project done ahead of the projected scheduled date, as well as our residents and garage patrons for their patience during the construction process," Mayor Celender went on to say.

The Village would like to remind those interested in purchasing a residential, employee or commuter permit for Plaza Centre garage that the permit renewal date is **Tuesday, June 10th**. Please note, since construction will still be taking place as of June 10th, spots will be limited and issued on a first-come, first-serve basis. Permits will only be issued from 9 a.m. to 10 a.m. and 12 p.m. to 1 p.m. Once all the permits for Plaza Centre garage are issued, people will be placed on a waiting list and notified when a space becomes available. If you have any questions regarding permit renewals, please call Village Hall at (516) 482-4500.

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Message from the Mayor

Dear Friends,

This past April, I formed a Citizens Advisory Committee (CAC) as part of the Village's commitment to participate as one of AARP's Age-Friendly Communities. The Village of Great Neck Plaza has the distinction of being the first village in the U.S. to join in on this national AARP initiative. AARP and the World Health Organization recognize the importance of creating "age-friendly communities" and together they are working with communities across the United States to encourage and promote age-friendly planning and policies. An "Age-Friendly Community" entails an inclusive and accessible urban or suburban environment that encourages active and healthy aging. AARP's Network of Age-Friendly Communities will focus on improving elements of communities that enhance independent living with a goal of having older residents taking a more active role in their community. It will advance goals in areas such as housing, caregiving, community engagement, volunteering, social inclusion, and combating isolation among older senior citizens.

Our first CAC meeting took place on April 29. Members of the CAC, who serve at my appointment, are comprised of a cross-section of village residents, including several like me, that live and work in the Plaza. William Stoner, Associate State Director for Livable Communities AARP, joined us and gave CAC members an introductory special presentation on the goals of the Age-Friendly Communities Program. In the coming months, we will be presenting more about the work of the CAC and their ideas for making the Plaza the best community it can be, including a possible survey of Plaza residents and developing strategies for the aging of our over 50-yr-olds and for their continued ability to maintain mobility, independence and healthy, active quality of life here in the Plaza.

Now that we are enjoying the warmer weather, we are busy doing spring clean-up activities; planting and beautifying our green spaces, parks and streetscape with new trees and shrubs, potted floral arrangements and hanging flowering baskets. The early spring planting of yellow and purple pansies were beautiful and

lush in our terra cotta sidewalk pots for many weeks through Memorial Day. During this spring clean-up time, we ask residents and merchants to help us by cleaning your windows, awnings and sidewalk areas and assisting us in keeping the village attractive, clean and litter-free. Please encourage shoppers and visitors to utilize our garbage receptacles for the proper disposal of waste, and observe that we have special recyclable bins for disposing of returnable water bottles and aluminum cans. We do recycle these plastic bottles and cans as part of our efforts to be a cleaner, greener community.

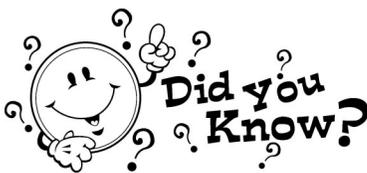
As I walk around the Village I am reminded that I am fortunate to call Great Neck Plaza home, as we who live here know we have a wonderful, charming and historic Village. Our Main Street, Middle Neck Road, and historic Bond Street, among other streets, tell us about our forefathers who lived here and the past that has shaped our lives. Our beautiful downtown stores are an eclectic mix of boutiques and mom and pop stores, and these merchants offer an array of goods and services. These merchants get to know our individual tastes, desires and cater to our every need. Our downtown is a reflection of our community image, pride and contributes to the Village's tax base. It is a center of employment and a healthy, vibrant downtown offers residents the convenience of shopping, with easy access, thus reducing reliance on using the automobile, and protects the property values in the surrounding residential neighborhoods. The downtown is also the center of village government and the many services we provide, such as in the summer, our weekly live, concerts in Firefighters Park, and with our BID, Promenade Nights for al fresco dining on a pedestrian-only street section with live entertainment, Karaoke contests and other fun-filled family activities. So Main Street is important and our merchants need your support!! Shop here, eat here, dine here, play here – get to know your local businesses and all they have to offer that is unique to the Village of Great Neck Plaza. Wishing you all a healthy and happy Spring!



Jean A. Celender, Mayor



Did You Know...



...that the Plaza is now accepting most traffic violation payments online? Unveiled last year with the acceptance of parking tickets, the Village is now able to process traffic violation payments online by credit/debit card. Please note however, the Village can only accept a traffic violation payment online **only if a person has plead guilty to the charge.**

People can access the new online payment system by visiting our website, www.greatneckplaza.net, and clicking on the "Pay Ticket Online" on the left hand side. You will be brought to a secure website where you can enter your information and make your selection and payment online. Users will need to know either their summons or vehicle license plate number, before using the online payment system. The Village of Great Neck Plaza will accept credit card payments online via a MasterCard, VISA, or Discover card account. This service allows users the convenience of paying any current and/or outstanding parking and traffic ticket(s) issued by the Village of Great Neck Plaza over a secure website using these three major credit cards without having to leave their home. Once a payment is processed online, Village of Great Neck Plaza records will be updated accordingly, in real-time, and your ticket will be marked as paid. If you have more than one ticket, you can choose which ticket(s) you want to pay by credit card.

In order to offer you this service, you must agree to a User Agreement and a convenience fee charged for using a credit card. If you don't agree to both of these items, you can still always come in and pay in person at Village Hall.

As Summer Approaches, So Do the Events!



Rickey Pen has the crowd up on their feet and dancing during her show last year. This year won't be any different, as this year's performers will be bringing fun and excitement to Firefighters Park.

After a long and brutal winter, one that was filled with snow storm after snow storm and sub-zero wind chills, summer is finally making its long-awaited arrival here in Great Neck Plaza. And if there is one that signals the arrival of summer in the Plaza, it's all the fantastic outdoor events that take place in the Village come June.

Benjamin Franklin said, "In life, there are two things that are certain; death and taxes." Well, here in the Plaza, there is almost one thing you can be certain of; when the calendar reads June, performers will be rocking the gazebo in Firefighters Park (formerly Jon's Park) as part of the Village's annual summer concert series, and this year is no different.

Starting June 10th, the Gold Coast Arts Center and its finalists from their "Your Big Break" competition will be kicking off the 2014 Summer Concert Series with a bang, with finalists belting out the tunes that propelled them to the final rounds of the talent search. June 17th sees Mambo Loco make their return to the park with, "Summer's Sizzling Salsa Beat," a playlist of songs that will have you grooving to the beat of some of your favorite songs. Rounding out the month of June, Great Neck's favorite saxophonist, Paul 'Shilts' Weimar, will be traveling from his native England to once again play the hits that earned him high praise from music critics around the

globe. Let's just hope, this year, rain will not interfere with Mambo Loco and Shilts' performances.

The great performances don't stop in June though. July and August boasts an equally impressive lineup of talented musicians and spine-tingling vocalists. July 1st and July 15th marks the debut performances of The Chuck Braman Trio and Nina Et Cetera, respectively. Both groups have built quite a following of devoted fans who rave about their memorable shows. And in August, on the 19th of the month, concert-goers will be treated to, "Smooth Rock's Greatest Ballads," by Piece of Rock, led by Tony Ventiera, who will be shifting from his usual spot during the summer concert series behind the soundboard to the stage to jam out.

Long-time attendees of the summer concert series will also be happy to see the lineup of returning favorites, such as Ramp Family Caribbean Band, The Something Special Swing Band, Dr. Pamela Levy and her opera singing cohorts, Seven Bridges Road Band, The McLean Avenue Band, and of course, the memorable, and always entertaining, Ricky Pen.

Since provided seating is limited at Firefighters Park, we encourage concert-goers to bring their own lawn chair in

order to be assured of a spot at each concert.

For a complete listing of the lineup for the 2014 Summer Concert Series, go to page seven of the *Voice*.

But that's not all, in conjunction with the Great Neck Plaza Business Improvement District (BID), the Plaza will be hosting seven, yes seven, promenade nights! Wednesday, June 25th (rain date: June 26th), Middle Neck Road, north of Grace Avenue, kicks off the 2014 promenade series, with the inaugural night of great music, dining al fresco and enjoying a night out with friends and family. Two weeks later on Thursday, July 10th, Bond Street gets in on the promenade action, starting a string of five festive-filled Thursday evenings of fun on the block; July 17th, July 24th, July 31st and August 7th. The following Wednesday, August 13th (rain date: August 14th) Middle Neck Road, south of Grace Avenue, brings the 2014 promenade series to a close with one last wonderful night under the stars. Please note, while there are five promenades scheduled for Bond Street, there will be no rain dates in the case of inclement weather.

All of the Plaza's summer festivities are within walking distance to on-street, municipal (Lot 4, across from Village Hall, and Lot 2, located on Bond Street and Grace Avenue), and garage (Plaza Centre and Maple Drive) parking, and the LIRR Great Neck station. Parking in the garages is free after 3 p.m., as is the case after 6 p.m. in the metered municipal lots and on-street parking. For more information on these and other wonderful events happening this summer in the Plaza, feel free to contact us at Village Hall, (516) 482-4500, check our website, www.greatneckplaza.net, or contact the Great Neck Plaza BID, (516) 829-1301, or visit their website, www.shopgreatneck.com.



Nassau County Legislature Honors Longtime Nassau County Auxiliary Police Captain, Maria D'Amelio

Mayor Jean Celender was pleased to be present when Nassau County Auxiliary Police Captain, Maria D'Amelio, was honored by Nassau County Legislator Ellen W. Birnbaum on March 24 at the Sixteenth Annual Trailblazers Awards Ceremony at the Nassau County Legislative Chambers in Mineola. Captain D'Amelio, a resident of Great Neck, is active across Long Island's North Shore and is the Auxiliary Police liaison to the Village of Great Neck, Village of Great Neck Plaza, and the Department of Public Safety of the Town of North Hempstead. Stated Mayor Celender, "I'm so pleased that Leg. Birnbaum chose Captain D'Amelio as this year's 'Trailblazer' from the 10th Legislative District. I have known and had the privilege to work beside Maria for several decades. We are fortunate to have her dedication and countless hours of volunteering year after year. Captain D'Amelio is so staunchly committed to helping her community stay safe, and advocating for traffic and pedestrian safety improvements. Great Neck, Roslyn, and Port Washington are safer because of her vigilant efforts."



Captain Maria D'Amelio, Nassau County Auxiliary Police, was recently honored by the Nassau County Legislature at their 16th Annual Trailblazers Awards Ceremony.

mid-1970s. D'Amelio has a strong work ethic. She paid her way through Queens College with her earnings and tips from being a waitress at several local restaurants. While in college, she began working in the mailroom of a market research firm, where she was quickly promoted and offered a full-time supervisory position, and ultimately became vice president of operations. During this time, she directed client donations of food and consumer products to many charitable organizations, including The Inn, Island Harvest, and Long Island Cares.

D'Amelio first became involved with the Nassau County Auxiliary Police after answering a Great Neck *Pennysaver* ad. She patrols her Great Neck community to ensure the safety of those she has come to know over the years. In addition, she speaks frequently for the Lakeville Elementary School's Stranger Danger Program. D'Amelio also speaks at University Gardens Property Owners Association's Homeowners Safety programs.

The Women's History Month, and this special tribute program of the county legislators honors outstanding women in their legislative districts who have "blazed trails" through the selfless, dedicated work they do in their communities.

Born in Italy, D'Amelio immigrated, along with her three sisters, to the United States and settled in Great Neck in the

Captain D'Amelio is also active giving countless hours to other projects and non-profit organizations, including Meals on Wheels, Lioness Club of Glen Cove, North Shore Hospital's Lions Eye Bank (transporter of corneal tissue), Great Neck Co-Op and Condominium Council, and the Board of the directors of her co-operative, Kings Point House. She is also the recipient of the prestigious 1000 Hour Service Award from the Nassau County Auxiliary Police.

Ann Tarcher, GN Social Center Executive Director, Named to the 2014 May W. Newburger Women's Roll of Honor

Honoring the legacy of the late Town Supervisor, May W. Newburger, the Town of North Hempstead recently honored 15 women who have selflessly given back to the community for the betterment of the Town's population. It brings us great joy to announce Ann Tarcher, the Great Neck Social Center's Executive Director, was named to the 2014 honor roll for her tireless work with the thousands of seniors who call the Great Neck community home. As Executive Director, Ann has worked with many senior groups and non-profits to bring countless amounts of cultural enrichment programs, physical and social activities, including dance, music and exercise classes and book club meetings, and monthly bereavement/caregiver support group meetings. Talk to anyone who knows Ann and they will tell what a tremendous impact she has had on the lives of many. Ann's genuine warmth and her gentle, kind ways have gone a long way to enhance the



Ann Tarcher, center, poses with Town of North Hempstead officials after being named to the 2014 May W. Newburger Women's Roll of Honor.

lives of our community's most aging population. In Ann Tarcher, seniors on the Great Neck peninsula have an advocate who has championed numerous programs for the advancement and furtherance for many in the area. Additionally, the Village is very grateful for the partnership we have formed with Ann and the Great Neck Social Center and for the use of their all purpose banquet room for our own indoor summer concerts when the weather is not cooperating. On behalf of the entire Great Neck Plaza community, we commend the Town of North Hempstead for honoring

Ann Tarcher, and wish to extend a huge congratulations to Ann on this wonderful achievement. Congratulations to Cathy Benilivy, Maggie Hoffman and Rebecca Sassouni, all Great Neck residents, on their naming to the 2014 honor roll as well.

Water Authority of Great Neck North Water Conservation Tips

After a winter season that wore out its welcome with a one-two punch of winter storms and frigid temperatures, we have finally reached the warming month of June and all that comes with it; long sun-filled days, gardening in the yard and day trips to the beach. As we enter the dog days of summer, people of all ages will be turning to their hoses and sprinkler system to gain some aqua relief for themselves and their lawns from the three H's: hot, haze and humidity. And although pushing the water system to the max is tempting, the Water Authority of Great Neck North wants you to do the opposite and is giving helpful tips to reduce water usage:

- Maintain grass at least two inches high to shade roots and hold moisture.
- Aerate lawns regularly and use mulch around plants to reduce evaporation.
- Water trees slowly, deeply and infrequently to encourage deep rooting.
- Do not over-water lawns; lawns require only an inch of water per week.



The Water Authority of Great Neck North has tips for you that will help conserve water this summer.

In addition, all residents are reminded to comply with the Authority's Rules and Regulations:

- Watering is prohibited between the hours of 10 a.m. and 4 p.m.
- Premises with odd numbered address are only permitted to irrigate on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.
- Premises with even numbered addresses, no numbers or multiple number addresses are only permitted to irrigate on Sunday, Tuesday and Thursday.
- Washing sidewalks and driveways is prohibited; use a broom instead.
- All hoses must be fitted with an automatic shut-off nozzle.

For additional information, be sure to visit the Water Authority of Great Neck North's website, www.waterauthorityofgreatnecknorth.com, or give them a call at (516) 487-7973.

Call for Artists; Village of Great Neck Plaza Looking for Artists to Exhibit



April's Artist of the Month, the Great Neck Adult Education Center, at their artist reception in the court room art gallery at Village Hall.

If you are an emerging or established artist, looking for a new venue to showcase your work, then you may want to consider exhibiting with the Village of Great Neck Plaza. We are interested in seeing your work and publicly displaying it for the enjoyment of the community.

Our court room, located at Village Hall, is outfitted as a gallery with hanging wires to accommodate a variety of picture sizes. We are currently putting out this call for artists and portfolio submissions for exhibits for the remainder of 2014.

If you wish to consider exhibiting with us, please contact the Mayor's Assistant, at (516) 482-4500, or email mayorsassistant@greatneckplaza.net, to set up an appointment to view your portfolio and our exhibit gallery in the court room. Generally an exhibit is displayed for approximately 4 to 6 weeks. Works can be for sale; however, artists may not label prices on their pieces, and instead may offer their artwork for sale in a separate catalog handout listing. We will assist you in the setting up an artist reception as well. Artists are responsible for providing the refreshments served at their reception.



Earth Day Celebration, April 22, 2014 Village of Great Neck Plaza & Long Island Hebrew Academy



Mayor Celender and students from Mrs. Sogys' Long Island Hebrew Academy class 5th grade watch on as DPW staff plant the Village's newest tree, "Sherry."

Carrying out the mission of Earth Day, the Village had the pleasure of teaming up with students from the Long Island Hebrew Academy in a tree planting ceremony all in the name honoring and taking care of the earth for future generations. With the help of six students from Mrs. Sogy's 5th grade class, who walked to Village Hall from their school in the Plaza, Village DPW staff members planted the Village's newest addition to an already diverse mix of tree species; "Sherry the Cherry Tree." Not content with just being spectators during the tree planting ceremony, the 5th graders eagerly took turns shoveling dirt over the newly minted cherry tree.

With Sherry firmly in place, the 5th graders then ventured over to check on the progress of Branchie, the Little Leaf Linden tree that was planted during last year's tree planting ceremony. The 5th graders were happy to see Branchie had survived the long winter and was just about to start its spring bloom. In honor of both Sherry and Branchie, Mayor Celender and the 5th grade students read "Trees," a poem by Harry Behn celebrating all the good that trees provide our communities and our earth.

The Village would like to extend a huge thanks to Sharyn Blaustein, Long Island Hebrew Academy Principal, Mrs. Sogy, and her six enthusiastic students, Doron Lavi, Sarah Heduat, Robert Pinhasov, Yehuda Soumikh, Elinna Garahmandpour and Rafael Nassimiha, for all their help in making Earth Day 2014 a wonderful celebration of the earth we live on and continuing our annual tradition.



"Trees"

by Harry Behn



*Trees are the kindest things I know,
They do no harm, they simply grow
And spread a shade for sleepy cows,
And gather birds among their bows.*

*They give us fruit in leaves above,
And wood to make our houses of,
And leaves to burn on Halloween
And in the Spring new buds of green.*

*They are first when day's begun
To tough the beams of morning sun,
They are the last to hold the light
When evening changes into night.*

*And when a moon floats on the sky
They hum a drowsy lullaby
Of sleepy children long age...
Trees are the kindest things I know.*



Students from the Long Island Hebrew Academy get in on the act and assist the Village in the planting of "Sherry the Cherry Tree" in front of Village Hall.

2014 SUMMER CONCERT SERIES

PRESENTED BY THE VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

Free Concerts, Priceless Entertainment

***Tuesday nights, starting at 8 P.M., join us for a night of music under the stars at Firefighters' Park (Jon's Park)!**

DATE

PERFORMANCE

June 10	.....Gold Coast Arts Center Presents, "Your Big Break Finale".....
June 17	.....Mambo Loco, "Summer's Sizzling Salsa Beat".....
June 23	.....Paul 'Shilts' Weimar and Friends, "All Grown Up Jazz".....
July 1	.....The Chuck Braman Trio, "Billboard Hits with a Classic Twist".....
July 8	.....Ricky Pen, "Mediterranean Summer Night".....
July 15	.....Nina Et Cetera, "Soulful 60s".....
July 22	.....Ramp Family Caribbean Band, "Jammin' Caribbean Style".....
July 29	.....Something Special Big Band, "Swing Into Summer".....
August 5	.....Dr. Pamela Levy, "Opera Classics Under the Stars".....
August 12	.....Seven Bridges Road Band, "Hits of Then & Now".....
August 19	.....Piece of Rock, "Smooth Rock's Greatest Ballads".....
August 26	.....The McLean Avenue Band, "Ireland in the Park".....

Presented by the Village of Great Neck Plaza

In cooperation with the Great Neck Park District, the Great Neck Social Center and our sponsors:

The Andrew Hotel, Assemblywoman Michelle Schimel, Bonda Yoga, Daruma of Tokyo, DE Capital Mortgage Company, Douglas Elliman, Federal Astoria Savings Bank, Grace Plaza Rehab and Health Care Center, Gold Coast Arts Center, Jewels by Vigg, Tokyo Naru Sushi

Sponsorships are still available for our concerts by contacting us at (516) 482-4500. We will identify your business on the program and will invite you to introduce your business before the concert begins. With your sponsorship, you help us to defray our costs and bring these great shows to our Great Neck residents.

***In the event of inclement weather, the Great Neck Senior Center (80 Grace Avenue) will be utilized as an indoor concert hall. To find out if a concert has been moved, contact Village Hall on the day of the concert, or call our voicemail after 4:45 P.M., at (516) 482 - 4500. We will have a recorded message if the day's scheduled concert has been moved away from Firefighters' Park.**

VILLAGE OF GREAT NECK PLAZA

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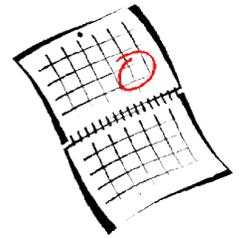
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We're on the web...

www.greatneckplaza.org

Dates to Remember:

- June 10th: First Summer Concert of the 2014 Summer Concert Series; Gold Coast Arts Center Presents, "Your Big Break Finale," 8 p.m., Firefighters' Park (Jon's Park)
- June 17th: 2014 Summer Concert Series; Mambo Loco, "Summer's Sizzling Salsa Beat," 8 p.m., Firefighters' Park
- June 19th: Star Performer Ceremony; Village Hall, 9:30 a.m.
- June 24th: 2014 Summer Concert Series; Paul 'Shilts' Weimar and Friends, "All Grown Up Jazz," 8 p.m., Firefighters' Park
- June 25th: Middle Neck Road Promenade Night, north of Grace Avenue, 6:30 p.m. to 10:30 p.m.
- June 26th - June 29th: Sidewalk Sale Days; for more details, please visit the BID's website at www.shopgreatneck.com
- July 27th: Annual UCF Crafts Fair; Grace Avenue & Bond Street lot, 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.



SAVE THE DATE: September 21th: 30th Annual Autofest/Street Festival, Noon to 5 p.m. (**Rain Date:** September 28th)

The Plaza Welcomes New Merchants

The Village is happy to welcome new businesses that are coming, have opened or have recently expanded their business within the Plaza. Stop in and greet these merchants and say "hello." They bring vitality, diversity and new life to our community. If you are a new storeowner in town, new management, or are celebrating a milestone anniversary, the Plaza would be happy to provide a free Ribbon Cutting Ceremony to celebrate your event. Just call the Mayor's Office at 482-4500. Some recent additions are:

- **Caffé Bene**, 28 South Station Plaza
- **Haus of Tova**, 73 Middle Neck Road, (516) 466-1855
- **Krung Tep Thai Bistro**, 23 South Middle Neck Road
- **Middle Neck News & Convenience**, 29 Middle Neck Road
- **Muse Painter Bar**, 34 Middle Neck Road



Toddlewood Studios, located at 27B Great Neck Road, recently celebrated their grand opening in the Plaza. Toddlewood is a creative facility which produces one of a kind images for newborns, children, adults and all types of models. Their fun and creative birthday parties for kids and adults will be sure to leave a lasting legacy.