

National Student Walkout, March 14, 2018

Hundreds of Sayville students walked out of their classes and gathered in the school gymnasium exactly one month after a gunman opened fire and started killing students and staff at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. The gym was silent for seventeen minutes as students commemorated the victims. We have reprinted here their stories.

Alyssa Alhadeff, 14, was a travel soccer player and motivated student, before she was shot and killed in Parkland, Florida one month ago. She was described by her mother as passionate, intelligent, and kind to everyone. This death was preventable. Gun-related deaths are the third leading cause of death for American children. We, the innocent, are the primary victims of the most dangerous people in our society. We are here because we find this unacceptable. We are here because we have had enough.

Scott Beigel was a 35 year-old geography teacher, cross country coach, and summer camp counselor, before being shot and killed in Parkland. He was killed as he was directing his students to safety, saving their lives. The students who he helped to survive call him a hero, and will carry his memory on with them forever. Though America holds just 5% of the world's population, the United States is home to 31% of the world's mass shooters. These statistics are more than just numbers; they are human beings, human beings who have had their lives eviscerated by the evil of this world. Their families and communities mourn them with tears of anger and of fear. We mourn the victims of the Parkland shooting not just out of the impact they have had, but because they never should have died in the first place. We are here because we have had enough.

Before he was shot and killed, 14 year-old Martin Duque Anguiano was a funny, outgoing kid. His brother describes him as sweet, caring, and loved by all his family. Martin's life was cut short in the most promising time of his life, and has since left an irreparable scar in his family and community. This didn't need to happen. The US is home to the most guns in the world. Likewise, we have more gun deaths than anywhere else. No one can positively say they have a definite solution. But standing idly by makes us guilty of negligence of our duty to help our fellow man. It is our obligation not just as Americans, but as human beings, to make the push for change. We are here because we are against these tragedies. We are here because we have had enough.

A senior, 17 year old Nicholas Dworet was about to graduate from high school this year. He planned to pursue a swimming scholarship to the University of Indianapolis, and dreamed of making it to the 2020 Olympics. These dreams were brutally cut short when he was shot and killed in his own school last month. Nicholas was described by his family as a very positive and cheerful person. By following in Nicholas's footsteps and spreading cheerfulness, we can change our school environment to make it a safer place. Seventy-one percent of young people reported having seen bullying in their schools. Bystanders stepping in have been reported to ending bullying within 10 seconds, 57% of the time. In the words

of an African proverb, "a child who does not feel loved by his community will burn the community to feel its warmth." Those guilty of these shootings, of which there are too many to name now, have done just that: burned their communities to the ground through their anger. This violence is preventable. We have had enough hatred; we want to replace anger with love. We are here because we have had enough.

Jaime Guttenberg, 14, was a competitive and passionate dancer in Parkland Florida. Someday, she hoped to be a physical therapist. One month ago, she was instead shot and killed. Her family describes her as energetic and warm-hearted. Jamie did not deserve to die. She deserved the luxury we take for granted to follow our hopes and dreams. She deserved to live. Unfortunately, Jamie's death is not unique. During the period from January 1st, 2013 to February 15th, 2018, there have been 1,624 mass shootings in the US. This averages to 9 mass shootings for every 10 days. Of these shootings, there were 1,875 deaths and 6,848 injuries. We are here because we believe that a 90% chance that 4 or more American citizens will be casualties of a mass-shooting on any given day is too high. We are here because we have had enough.

Luke Hoyer was 15 years old before he was shot and killed one month ago at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Luke loved basketball, video games, and his dogs. His family says he was a happy kid, always smiling, and had a contagious laugh. Once bringing joy to his friends and family, Luke's laugh is no longer present in his now broken community. Luke's death was sudden, unnatural, and avoidable. Current background checks for gun ownership take approximately 10 minutes, and do not prohibit those on terrorist-watch lists, or those who have histories of violent mental health problems, from purchasing firearms. This leads to the ability of people who are not allowed on airplanes to obtain potentially dangerous weapons. We are here because Luke didn't deserve this. We are here because we have had enough.

Aaron Feis, 37, was a security guard and assistant football coach at the Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. One month ago, he threw himself in front of students to protect them from oncoming fire, and was killed. This security guard was a hero, described by his loved ones as loyal and caring. If not for him, and heroes like him, the number of casualties in this school shooting would have been even higher. His job was to protect the students at the high school, and he did just that. Mr. Feis lost his life because it was his job. We are here because we don't want any of our security guards to ever need to do that. Each and every one of our security guards have law enforcement experi-

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First Annual Art Night... A Hit!

Photo Essay by Jessica Fraccalvieri on p. 3



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Competitive Chemistry

A version of the Winter Olympics was recently held as a competitive event here at Sayville High School, in a couple of the chemistry classes. The participating students were charged with choosing a solute and a solvent, as well as a set of factors to manipulate, in order to have the fastest solution rate. Although several teams DQ'd (were disqualified), two teams did very well. Cassandra Deutesh, Caitlin Fawcett, Nadia Yajadda and Abigail O'Connell came in a close second to Lauren Perez and Jessica Kacinski, who had the fastest time of 5 g/5.8 seconds. At the awards ceremony, the winners received their gold medals.

Walkout, from p. 1

ence. They have the training and experience to help keep us safe, but they should never need to use this experience to stop us from losing our lives. We are here because we have had enough.

Cara Loughran was a beautiful soul who always had a smile on her face. She was 14 years old, a dancer, and an excellent student, before she was shot and killed on Valentine's day of this year in her own high school. Cara deserved the same right that should be a given in all schools across America- the right to be safe. The right to an education, and the right to a life. In our school, our security works tirelessly to provide us with that right. Every exit door in our high school has a door ajar system, in which the security staff will be notified if any doors are left open while cameras monitor the perimeter. Though security works hard to protect us, there is only so much they can do. Therefore, we students have the responsibility to help. We can do so by entering only through the main entrances- the gym lobby and the main lobby. No other doors should be opened to let outsiders in throughout the school day. We are here because students across the country have the right to safety. We are here because we have had enough.

Chris Hixon was a 49 year old athletic director, wrestling coach, and naval reservist. He would have done anything for the students. His wife says that he "thought of every one of those students like his own kid." Today, his wife is a widow. Adults like him are in all of our lives. We have an opportunity to help them just as they help us. 42% of mass-shooters exhibit warning signs prior to the shooting. So often these signs are disregarded as jokes, or empty threats. The risk associated with ignoring these threats is too great to ignore. We are capable of protecting our school. If alerted to these threats, our administrators and security have promised to work tirelessly to address them immediately. We are here to keep ourselves safe. We are here because we have had enough.

Gina Montalto, 14, was a member of the marching band's winter guard and a passionate artist, before she was shot and killed in Parkland, Florida one month ago. Gina was described by her family as a smart, loving, caring, and strong girl who brighten any room she entered. She no longer has the voice which we, collectively, are using today. According to a survey conducted by DoSomething.Org, 85% of surveyed children said they feel silenced on the debate for a solution to the mass-shooting epidemic, despite children being disproportionately affected. We are not defined by our young age, by our short time here, or by our reputation as teenagers. We are instead defined by our passion, our drive, and our beliefs. We are not here to be silenced. We are here because we have had enough.

Alaina Petty was a 14 year old avid volunteer and junior ROTC member before she was fatally shot in Parkland, Florida. Alaina's family says she was vibrant and determined in what she did. Alaina was yet another defenseless victim without an ability to protect herself. Today, we are here to protect people like Alaina. America's gun homicide rates are abnormally high, particularly for such a developed nation. Our gun homicide rates are six times higher than those in Canada, seven times higher than Sweden's, and a staggering sixteen times higher than those in Germany. Why? More importantly, what are we doing to change that? We are here because we are furious with the lack of government solutions. We are here to stand up for ourselves. We are here to make a change. We are here because we have had enough.

Joaquin Oliver, known by his friends as "Guac," was a 17 year old fan of football, basketball, soccer and hip-hop. His family says he was a dreamer and a fighter. Joaquin was shot and killed last month in Parkland, but his fighter-spirit can live on in each of us. As students, we are often overlooked. But we have a voice. We have power. Look around you. The students sitting here today are part of a nation-wide, student led act of protest. We, the students of America, are getting our voices heard. Today, students' voices are being heard. There will be a march in Washington D.C. on March 24th, entitled the "March for Our Lives Movement." This movement will also be taking place at 11:00 a.m. at the Farmingdale State College's Nold Gymnasium, open to all who wish to join. These events have goals that align with ours- to end school violence. Today, we are here to be heard. We are here because we have had enough.

Meadow Pollack was a high school senior at 18 years of age when she was shot and killed last month. If she were still alive today, she would be preparing to attend Lynn University in the fall. Those closest to her described her as a beautiful woman with a smile like sunshine. This smile will never reach the campus of Lynn University. Meadow had a plan for her future, and the capability to make a change in this world. Though she cannot fulfill those goals, we can. At the age of 18, Meadow was old enough to vote in the next election. On election day every year it is imperative that we show up and make our voices heard. By choosing the candidate who stands with us against school violence, we make change. We are here to choose who runs our community, our state, and our country. We are here because we have had enough.

Helena Ramsay, 17, loved to travel and read, before she was shot and killed in Parkland, Florida one month ago. Her loved ones say that Helena was quiet, but brilliantly witty and kind-hearted. If Helena hadn't been killed, she would have been able to see so many more places that she hasn't had the pleasure to experience yet. Helena was robbed of these experiences. We can fight back now in her name. This walk-out isn't enough. We can make donations to organizations supporting the changes we need. We have power and a voice, but even more powerful than us are large, established organizations, fighting for our beliefs with us. By donating to them, we can help make the change we want to see. We are here to make that change happen. We are here because we have had enough.

Alex Schachter, 14, was a talented trombone player who participated in the marching band and orchestra, before he was shot and killed last month during the mass shooting in Parkland. It is impossible to say exactly what his future held. However, we can work together to decide what our future will hold. We, as survivors, are able to help find a solution to the gun violence epidemic that killed Alex and his classmates. One way to do so is by writing a letter to government officials. Join your community members in expressing your frustrations with the current state of affairs. There will be letter-writing campaigns during the upcoming weeks' lunch periods. There, you will be helped to write a letter that expresses what you believe. Make your voice heard by your government. We are here because we have had enough.

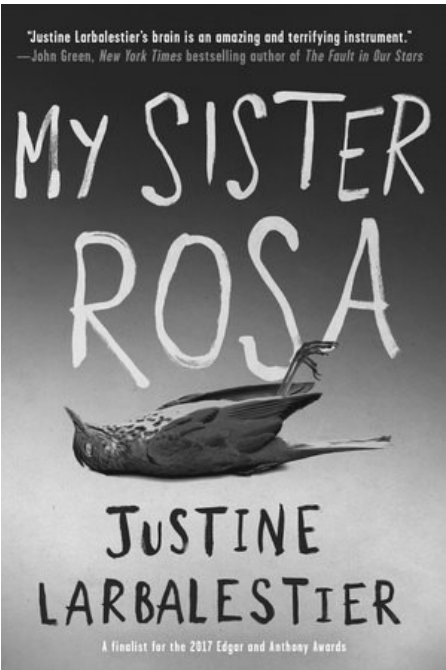
Carmen Schentrup was 16, and a National Merit Scholar finalist, but she never knew that. It was announced the day after she was shot and killed in Parkland, Florida. Carmen worked hard and diligently to achieve such an honor, but was denied the chance to reap her reward. Her loved ones knew her as witty, smart, and insightful, and are now devastated by her death. If nothing is done, she won't be the last. Talk to your representatives, whether it be State Assemblyman Garbarino, State Senator Croci, Representatives Zeldin or King, Governor Cuomo, or President Trump. It is time for them to take action. It is time for them to fight to prevent the future suffering of the families, friends, and communities of those who lose their lives while attempting to receive an education. We are here because we have had enough. Peter Wang, 15, was a junior ROTC member and culinary student, who was shot and killed in Parkland, Florida one month ago while he was courageously helping fellow students to safety. His heroism shall remain in our minds, but Peter should never have been lost in the first place. Perhaps if we fought for these changes earlier, things would have been different at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School. Maybe we'd be cheering on Nicholas Dworet at the next olympics. Maybe instead of lying dead, Luke Hoyer would be cracking a joke with his friends right now. Maybe Carmen Schentrup would be celebrating her achievement as a National Merit Scholar Finalist. But they aren't. They aren't enjoying all that this adventure of life has to offer because we live in a world where a person who is determined enough to destroy a community is able to. Make it so that we never lose another. Make the effort to protect our classmates and teachers and coaches and security and administrators like Alyssa, like Scott, like Martin, Nicholas, Aaron, Jaime, Chris, Luke, Cara, Gina, Joaquin, Alaina, Meadow, Helena, Alex, Carmen, and Peter. Now, make our voices be heard, because: We. Have had. Enough.

Sayville's Walkout organizers and presenters.



Book review
My Sister Rosa
Book by Justine Larbalestier
Review by Nora O’Donnell

Che alway looked out for his little sister Rosa. He has always protected her from the world, but now it seems the world might need protecting from her. Che has noticed from a young age that Rosa was different. Now he is certain she is a psychopath, clinically threatening and dangerous. Rosa has recently been making more trouble and hurting things. Che is the only one Rosa truly trusts. To the outside world Rosa is smart, sweet, beautiful, and talented. Che knows the truth— that Rosa is very good at hiding what she is and manipulating people. Lean more about Rosa and Che in *My Sister Rosa*, an excellent and thrilling book by Justine Larbalestier. *My Sister Rosa* can be found in or school library.



Theatre Review ***Legally Blonde, Literally WOW!***

By Jilleen Barrett

Ohmigod, ohmigod you guys- this year’s musical might be one of the best ever performed by Sayville High School’s Music Department, now dubbed “The Brook Street Players”. From Dea Alghrim and James Velasquez’s emotional rendering between two unlikely lovers to the pit’s electric shrill, this musical fed the audience exactly what it wanted- entertainment, laughter, and inspiration.

Most importantly, this musical was performed by students who poured their heart into it- one of the most prominent being Christina LaFroscia. In her ballad, “Ireland,” she proved her emotional connection to her character Paulette while impressing viewers with her modulated and ethereal voice. She portrayed Paulette in a relatable, comical way that helped her bring the sassy salon stylist to life. However, she was not the only incredible actor in this show. Dea Alghrim, who played the bubbly Elle Woods, never failed to animate her character in a way that would enthuse the audience. Alex Pittari, who played Professor Callahan, showed how he wanted nothing but “Blood in the Water,” flawlessly transitioning from being intimidating to uplifting to disturbing, bringing his own unimpaired singing voice into the show. One of the most memorable performances was by Chris Pitre, who played Kyle B. O’Boyle. His performance, complete with a spotlighted entrance and an energetic Irish step dance was hilarious and unforgettable. Finally, James Velasquez took on the role of Emmett Forrest. He was notable in his depiction of a comforting, hardworking, and tender man who helped Elle get serious about law school while simultaneously falling in love with her.

One of the most important aspects of this play was its feminist attributes. Dea Alghrim’s depiction of Elle Woods displayed her supportive characteristics and how she was one to tell the other girls that they had to stick together. However, Elle was not the only strong female character in the play. Brooke Windham, played by Amanda Wessels, encouraged her inmates to “be the best that they can be,” despite their incarcerations. Pilar (Isabella Arzt), Margot (Melina Piervencenti), and Serena (Chloe Dymek), the “Greek Goddesses,” and Elle’s Delta Nu sisters were constantly at Elle’s side to encourage her to stay strong. Additionally, there was the once bitter Vivienne (played by Olivia Anderson) who was influenced by Elle’s supportive gestures towards other girls and left Warner (Christopher Quartuccio), who showed little respect toward the women in the show. This was an important message to be spread, especially to the young girls in the audience- if women don’t support each other, there is no way they’ll ever be given respect.

The main difference the audience noticed between the movie and the school’s representation was the music. The songs, written by Laurence O’Keefe and Nell Benjamin, add a deeper understanding of each character and displayed the incredible talent we have at Sayville High School. There is no way, out of all those who sang, to choose just one person who was the best- every single performer sang with such unbroken, enthusiastic voices that amazed the audience. The following week in school, teachers smiled radiantly and congratulated students on their performances. Students laughed about the humor in the play, which in other schools may have been considered ill-suited for a high school play. It definitely was a bold choice for teenagers, but it was clearly a good one. This play was considered a hit by all who viewed it.

Photos by Jessica Fraccalvieri

Student and Faculty Art Wows at Art Night



Below: scenes from the Spring production of *Legally Blonde*.



Basketball Celebrates Seniors

The girls’ and boys’ basketball teams both celebrated their Senior Day in style. The members of each team were honored at center court, accompanied by their parents/guardians. Each team member was presented with a bouquet to commemorate their contributions to the basketball program during the course of their career.

Congratulations to the senior members of the boys’ team (Pictured top, right): Joey Mas, Nick Gonzalez, Eric Suydam and Ryan O’Connell, pictured with their parents.

Members of the girls’ team congratulated their senior members (bottom): Victoria Geraci, Meg Collins, Ava McNevin, Devin Dolan and Colleen McGrath.

Juniors Celebrate in Style!

Members of the Junior Class turned out in their finery to celebrate their Junior Banquet on April 20 at the Bellport Country Club. Good thing Officer Nick Canetti was on hand to keep everything under control.



Sayville Grad Goes *Below Decks*

Catch Sayville 2005 graduate Colin Macy-O’Toole on this season of *Below Decks: Mediterranean* on the Bravo Network. Colin started working at the Sayville Ferries when he was a sophomore in high school, and attended Shenandoah University where he studied Music Education.

After filling out an online application, going through three rounds of interviews and a yacht safety course in Florida, Colin spent several months filming in and around the homeport of Naples, Italy, aboard the motor yacht *Talisman Maiton*.

When asked what he learned during his experience on a realtiy TV program, he said that it is very important to act in the manner in which you want to be perceived. “They can’t make you look like a fool if you’re never a fool.” Colin said his “role” on the yacht was to play peacemaker and make sure everyone who was having fun. Any high school staff member who remembers Colin will not be surprised to hear that.



Respect the Badge

As we near the twenty-first hour of the day
And my fatigued body winds down from the busy day
My dad kisses me briefly on both cheeks and says goodbye
For I won’t see him till the morning
When the sun rises and the sky is colored orange and yellow
‘Till he is done with his midnight shift
All through the night he fights crime as flashing lights shine red and blue
Speeding down the poorly lighted street, hurrying to yet another call
In the middle of the night it gets hard to resist your eyes shutting
Indeed it's always a long night, but he still has a job to do
Being part of the police department can be difficult and dangerous
So through the night I pray in my dreams for his safety
And continue my hopes through my very deep slumber
Until I wake up with another kiss and a soft touch from his frosted hands
I know now he is safe after a quite eventful and wintry night
And the joy of seeing his face and red cheeks
Yet it is another day that I’m so extremely thankful for him and others
For all the grueling and tough nights
They should be highly respected and not by some
But from all for risking themselves to serve and protect the community.

-Katie Gozaloff

Congratulations to Katie Gozaloff winner of the Walt Whitman Student Poetry Contest!



ONE ACT FESTIVAL

May 2018

Friday, 5/18, Saturday, 5/19

8:00 pm, Little Theater

Graduation Week Information

Graduation Practice: June 21, 9:00 am

Pre-Prom Celebration, Islip Grange, June 21, 4:30 pm

Senior Prom: June 21, 7:00—11:00 pm, Flowerfields

Commencement, June 23, 10:00 am

Coming in the next *Current*

THE SENIOR ISSUE

Interviews, Advice, Anecdotes and MORE!