



# THE DISPATCH

ISSUE II, VOLUME 49

HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

OAKWOOD AND MCKAY ROADS HUNTINGTON, NY 11743

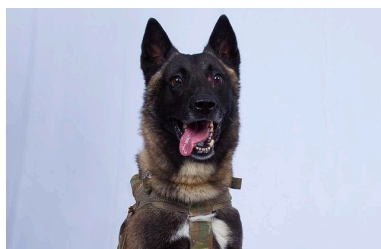
DECEMBER 19



BY: KIARA GELBMAN

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## THE DISPATCH LAUNCHES NEW WEBSITE PLATFORM



By Kiara Gelbman

With the release of this issue, The Dispatch has announced the launch of its very first website platform! For the last 40 years, Huntington High School's student press was exclusively on paper. We would like to thank former Editors-In-Chief, Kerry Joyce and Hannah Bailin, Advisor Edward Florea, and every contributor who made this happen.



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## ROBOTICS FUNDRAISER A SUCCESS

By Luke Rinaldi

On Tuesday, November 12th, Huntington Robotics held their annual fundraising event at Launchpad in Huntington Village. As per usual, support for the event was overwhelming as there was an expansive list

**Robotics Members**  
Abby Holmes, James Obermaier, and Matt Gennarelli. (From left to right)



of attendees. The team was able to rake in a whopping \$10,000 at the fundraiser, all of which will be used to cover the various expenses of robot building.

Such a phenomenal turnout prompted optimistic thoughts regarding the upcoming competitive season and significantly raised the team morale. Speaking of

the upcoming season, Robotics hopes to do very well this year. However, this is more than just hope, the team believes they can perform well. They have cited past successes and the return of a promising group of students as motivators for the team, helping them to give their all for the competition season.

Despite this, there is no precise way to predict how well the team will do, as this year's game (objective) has yet to be revealed. Nevertheless, one thing is for certain, Huntington's Robotics team is incredibly grateful for the unparalleled generosity of their sponsors and donors that were exhibited at the team's fundraiser.



## KEENAN LYONS: STAR ON THE RISE

By Olivia Perez

Long before he stood in front of huge crowds in NY, Keenan Lyons was just a young boy acting, singing, and dancing in his school plays and musicals.

In Keenan's primary school years, he tried out for many different sports, but when he reached fifth grade, he decided to try theatre and fell in love with it. When he was ten, him and his family adopted his sister at birth in Nashville. This was a huge pivotal point in his life that he could never forget. Keenan says, "It has been amazing to see her grow up and appreciate the arts too. Now a second grader, she takes various dance classes and becomes involved in shows. It makes me happy to watch her thrive and do what I love too!"

One of his closest childhood friends, Lucas Kelly stated, "Keenan has always been a curious and bright kid who is very accomplished. I am beyond proud of Keenan's accomplishments and I'm so grateful to call him one of my closest friends. I've always known he had great potential and I'm glad he has grown into himself and is becoming a rising sensation."

Keenan started professionally singing when he was 10 years old. He began private lessons and has continued to study classically and in contemporary and

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Keenan Lyons accepting the Hunting-Tony Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Play in 2017

### →news in short

#### ◇ 'Harvey' Play a Success!

The Drama Club's production of Mary Chase's "Harvey" on November 22nd and 23rd was outstanding according to many audience members. The show offered both comedy and drama for entertainment of hundreds.



#### ◇ Huntington Sends Students to Plan Suffolk County Youth Summit

Student Representatives from Huntington High School were sent to Centerach High School to collaborate with other student environmental activists in planning a Suffolk County Youth Climate Summit. The Summit will convene this April on the 50th Anniversary of Earth Day, with the goal of uniting students and politicians in planning a county-wide plan for decarbonization.





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*The Dispatch* is Huntington High School's official student publication. Written for over 1500 students attending HHS, *The Dispatch* is distributed to all students, staff and school community members at the school free of charge.

The Editorial Board is the newspaper's decision-making body, organizing and directing its operation. *The Dispatch* staff has adopted the following editorial policy to express the rights, responsibilities and philosophy of the newspaper for the 2019-2020 school year.

*The Dispatch* of Huntington High School is a public forum, with its student editorial board making all decisions concerning its content. Unsigned editorials express the views of the majority of the editorial board.

Letters to the editor are welcomed and will be published as space allows. Letters are preferred signed, but may be published by request. The Editorial Board reserves the right to edit letters for grammar and clarity, and all letters are subject to laws governing obscenity, libel, privacy, and disruption of the school process, as are all contents of the paper. Questions, comments, and letters to the editor should be sent electronically to [hhsdispatch@gmail.com](mailto:hhsdispatch@gmail.com) or submitted to *The Dispatch* mailbox located in the main office.

Opinions in letters are not necessarily those of the staff, nor should any opinion expressed in a public forum be construed as the opinion of the administration, unless so attributed.

*The Dispatch's* goal is to provide readers with interesting content in a wide variety of areas. Such areas include the news coverage of school and community events, as well as features on relevant topics. In addition, *The Dispatch* will provide opinionated editorials on controversial topics, as well as provide previews and reviews for upcoming school and professional sports seasons and other forms of entertainment.

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musical theatre genres as well. He also began acting seriously much later on in life, where he started to take classes and private coachings in monologue and scene work. In fact, he has just started dancing only recently, in the past two years and has taken ballet, jazz, and tap.

Keenan dreams and hopes that one day he will be on Broadway. The closest he has done to professional work is when he played the character Flick in "A Christmas Story" at Broadhollow Theatre in East Islip last year. It ran for about a month around Christmas time and the new year. He says, "It was a wonderful opportunity to experience theatre in a different setting than I'm used to. I also met many new people, young and old in the profession which was cool."

Back in 5th grade his first musical was "The Little Mermaid" at Woodhull Intermediate School in his hometown Huntington, NY. Since then, Keenan has continued to perform in all of the Huntington School District Plays/Musicals. One of his co stars, Abby Semelsberger, who has been acting alongside Keenan since she was young said, "Keenan is one of the most amazing people I have ever met and had the privilege to work with. He is insanely talented and puts his all into everything he does. I am so in awe of his talent and dedication and watching him perform is amazing. I love performing with him and singing with him because I know I don't have to worry if he's on the mic with me. He is dependable 100% and I couldn't ask for a better friend, scene partner, or duet buddy!"

Out of all the shows he has done at Huntington, his all time favorite production was "Harvey". Keenan states, "Being able to take on the role of Elwood P. Dowd was a challenge at first, pretending to speak to a six foot tall rabbit on stage! But

**I like picking up [the violin] and playing something, but I think it serves an important purpose, especially in the theatre industry.**

as we got deeper into the rehearsal process, I felt I understood the true message of the show despite the lovely comedic moments: to accept people for who they are." Michael Schwendemann, who is the Huntington High School Director of all the shows stated, "Keenan is fun to work with, he does all his work, and when I see him on stage it makes me happy and excited for his future."

Not only has Keenan been successful in his high school shows but he also has received awards for his participation in the Huntington Drama Club. Keenan has won a Hunting-Tony Award for Best Supporting Actor in a Play in his sophomore year and has been lucky enough to have been nominated and considered a finalist for the Roger Rees Award last year. This award represents accomplishments in high school theater in the tri-state area. If you win the regional awards, you have the ability to move on to the National High School Musical Theatre Awards or the Jimmy Awards which is a week-long program and show comprised of several medleys, solos, and group numbers that are presented for families, friends, and casting agents at the beautiful Minskoff Theatre in New York City.

Besides theater, Keenan is accomplished in playing the violin since he was four years old. He states, "I've stuck with



**Keenan Lyons and Abby Semelsberger**

it not only because I like picking it up and playing something, but I think it serves an important purpose, especially in the theatre industry."

Keenan has not only used his voice for just the drama club productions but has also been in chorus since he was younger. One of his greatest accomplishments was back in 2017, when he had the amazing opportunity to participate in the chorus (approximately 250 singers) in Manhattan Concert Productions presentation of "Crazy For You" at Lincoln Center. "This was a very special opportunity for me because I got the chance to work with Broadway music directors, choreographers, and actors/actresses. Being involved in a production of that caliber blew me away and exposed me to the professional atmosphere of this industry."

Keenan has also been academically successful during his four years of high school. He is a member of National, English, Social Studies, Italian, and Tri-M Honor Societies as well as Key Club at Huntington High School. His motto in



life is "Never Stop Doing!" He is a proud member of St. John's Youth Group. In addition, one activity close to his heart is the Huntington Interfaith Homeless Initiative (HIHI). His youth group organizes overnight evenings for the homeless throughout the winter. Keenan participates in many volunteer programs throughout Huntington and is very grateful to be apart of such remarkable events that take place.

Since Keenan is a senior at Huntington High School, what future you may ask does Keenan have in store? In college, he plans to pursue and major in Musical Theater or Acting. One of his biggest mentors throughout his high school years is Michael Schwendemann. Mr. Schwendemann is the director of the plays and musicals and teaches multiple curriculums at Huntington High School. Keenan states, "I would have to say Mr. Schwendemann or 'Schwen' as we like to call him. He has truly guided and supported me through the high school process, not only through all the plays but as a person too. His charisma and passion for teaching has reaffirmed why I continue to do theater and why we have stayed close over my four years."



# ISIS LEADER AL-BAGHDADI KILLED IN U.S. RAID



ISIS called for revenge after death of leader, Abur Bakr al-Baghdadi

By James Kretschmer

Although the terrorist group ISIS has instilled fear into the hearts of people around the globe for years, recent military events have proven that the group is far from untouchable. In late October, a U.S. military operation struck a hard blow to the terrorist group, resulting in the death of ISIS leader Abu Bakr al-Baghdadi.

On October 26, at about 5:00 p.m., eight helicopters brought U.S. troops to a compound in Northwest Syria, where Baghdadi was staying (It is believed that Baghdadi was making his way to Turkey to go into hiding with his family). The ground team breached the walls of the compound, as the entrance was thought to have been booby-trapped, and followed the K-9s they sent into the base. After nearly two hours of conflict, special operation forces declared Baghdadi dead after being cornered into a tunnel and detonating his suicide vest. His remains were taken for DNA confirmation, and once all ground forces were clear of the area, U.S. forces employed precision standoff munitions to blow up the compound, reducing it to rubble. This was done to prevent the making of any shrines or commemorations in the name of the former ISIS leader. President Donald Trump did not notify Congressional leadership prior to the raid, paralleling former President Barack Obama's decision when Osama bin Laden was killed in 2011.

Including Baghdadi, a total of six ISIS members died. Two of his children, caught in the blast from Baghdadi's suicide, were also killed. However, eleven children were protected and removed from the house, and two ISIS fighters were detained.

Along with U.S. military forces, the Kurdish-led Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) played a vital role in the operation. An SDF informative deep inside Baghdadi's inner circle provided a detailed layout of the compound, which was relayed to the CIA. The SDF was also responsible for obtaining a DNA sample that helped confirm that the remains recovered from the tunnel were in fact Baghdadi's. Donald Trump thanked the Kurds in a public statement, along with multiple other nations that helped in the raid.

Shortly after the raid, Donald Trump Tweeted a declassified picture of one of the military working dogs that participated in the operation. The dog was injured during the mission, having been electrocuted by an exposed power chord, but is reportedly undergoing a healthy recovery. The K-9's name is classified due to the fact that it is still active in the military.

Abur Bakr al-Baghdadi's dramatic death carries a lot of weight

**President Donald Trump did not notify Congressional leadership prior to the raid, paralleling former President Barack Obama's decision when Osama bin Laden was killed in 2011.**

with it; many are considering it to be a detriment to the organization of ISIS and its composition. Having founded the terrorist group in 2014 and leading it since, Baghdadi maintained an unfortunately devastating system, managing to control large portions of Iraq and Syria, and recruiting people into the terrorist group as far as northern Africa, and even collecting taxes in some places. The leader's death will definitely have repercussions for ISIS, sending the organized group into disarray. However, there are still an estimated fifteen thousand ISIS fighters in Syria, and various informants in other countries.

General Kenneth McKenzie has stated that U.S. command forces will continue to direct their focus on ISIS. Although the fight is far from over, the U.S. and accompanying forces appear to be gaining the upper hand.

## THIS ISN'T WORKING, REEVALUATE NO HOMEWORK DAY.

By Francesca Stamatatos and Kiara Gelbman

This past school year, Huntington High School initiated a no homework policy on the first Wednesday of every month. However, more must be done to solve the nationwide homework epidemic.

"We saw an increased stress level over time from students, not just here but as a nationwide thing," said Principal Brenden Cusack regarding why they decided to initiate the new homework policy. Currently, the first Wednesday of every month (with some exceptions) is deemed a "No Homework Day." While this is a good message, there is more to be done.

With this policy in place since the end of last year, students are beginning to feel its effects. "When im taking APs I think its a [Stress] reliever . . ." said Senior Billy Burton when asked his thoughts on the no

HOMEWORK-FREE  
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HOMEWORK-FREE

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homework policy. However, “some teachers work around it,” said Sophomore Shannon Kehoe to describe the way teachers will assign work on Tuesday, in advance of the “No Homework Day” or give more work on Thursday.

English teacher, Kristina Morrell feels that, “It helps [the students] catch up on some of the work that they are falling behind on that day if they use it to their advantage to get them all caught up.”

With the pros of decreasing student stress levels but negatives like increased homework on other nights, we must continue to change this policy. One change that Cusack is looking to make is for “. . . local community businesses [to support] our no homework nights with coupons and things like that,” he said. However, more must be done.

For the students to reap the full benefits of this policy, teachers must fully abide by the rules of this system. There should be a repercussion for teachers that assign homework on the days for students to rest or

catch up on work. Additionally, reducing the amount of homework should be added to the schedule to further help students extracurricular life and stress levels.

The Dispatch says  
‘Change the System’

PSA ON FASHION INCLUSIVITY

By Aislyn Franciscovich

More stores are beginning to introduce plus-sized and petite collections for their various consumers. One brand that has started to take steps towards a more inclusive line is Tanya Taylor. They use their social media outlets to see what would be in the highest demand from their customers. This was a smart option because it’s still size inclusive without creating clothing that would waste their resources ex; things that wouldn’t sell. In the US, around 68% of women are a size 14 or above. Although this is the majority of our population, plus sized lines are still hard to come by in the fashion world. The problem isn’t the cost as creation of a plus sized garment versus a smaller size only costs an additional 15 to 20 cents. A tip from the Tanya Taylor to other brands is that they shouldn’t raise the prices on these plus sized garments because it is unfair to the consumers. These are some of the reasons why brands should increase



Tanya Taylor sitting in front of one of her stores

do you have a story, a story  
that needs to be heard...  
we will listen.

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MEETINGS ON WEDNESDAYS IN ROOM 207



OFFICIAL WRITER GEAR  
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# NEXT ON NETFLIX FRIDAY NIGHT: “MI AMIGO ALEXIS”

By Kiara Gelbman

Everyone’s heard the classic stories of a parent who strives to live vicariously through their child. However, *Mi Amigo, Alexis* puts a unique twist on this long told tale. Written by Alejandro Fernandez Almendras, this heartfelt coming-of-age story describes the life lessons learned by a young boy.

Told using two points of view, *Mi Amigo, Alexis* follows the life of Tito, a twelve year old boy while occasionally switching to the perspective of Alexis Sanchez, a famous soccer player. Although he loves to learn, Tito’s father pulls him out of school to fuel his own aspirations for his son, being a professional soccer player. After running away from his father at a practice, Tito ends up in the back of Alexis’ car leading to the start of their relationship. Together, they will overcome the struggles of Tito’s life while learning important life values.

Acting in his first movie, Luciano Gonzalez accurately portrayed the trials and tribulations of a young boy’s life. His use of emotions allows the viewer to feel as if Gonzalez is a part of the movie. As a soccer player for the Chilean National Soccer Team, Alexis Sanchez’s acting skills are subpar. Nevertheless, the audience will fall in love with the good hearted nature of his character. On the other hand, Dan-



“Mi Amigo Alexis” movie poster

iel Munoz who plays Hector embodies his character and causes the reader to feel hatred towards his character.

While lots of background was given to the beginning to the story, the end of the plot did not have much time to develop and only gives the audience a taste of what is to come. In some movies, this may be a strategic move. I feel this is not appropriate as it is a coming of age story. I would have liked to learn more about Gloria (Ignacia Uribe), Tito’s sister who was a passionate soccer player. The choice of actors was superb as Alexis Sanchez, a famous soccer player, was cast. Additionally, the use of setting as well as the camera shots of the locations cause the viewer to feel as if they are in Chile.

The message of this story promotes that of family and working hard for your passions. Hector, Tito’s father, pulled his son out of school to play soccer so he could

live vicariously through his son. However, Tito did not have a passion for soccer like his father, emphasizing the idea of letting your children choose their own destiny and work hard for what they believe in. I feel others will feel the same way as the general theme is relatable to the general population.

Even though this movie is rated PG, it is a family film that can be loved by all. While children may love the soccer and athletic nature of the film, adults will love the message that they may relate to. I do not recommend it to those looking for a

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## MENTAL HEALTH CRISIS AMONG VETERANS- HOW YOU CAN HELP

By Allison Quinn

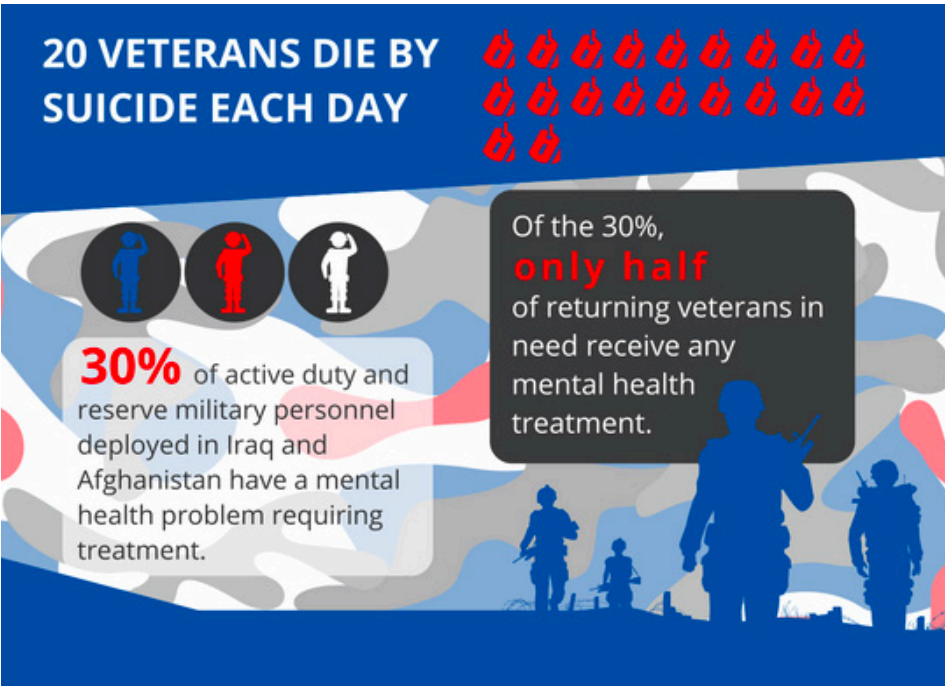
As Veterans Day quickly approached us this year, news updates filled our feed, once again reminding us of the burden many of our U.S. troops face. The number of veterans that are dealing with a form of mental illness have peaked in recent years as more than 10% of soldiers currently qualifies for a diagnosis of two or more mental illnesses. In fact, more than 6,000 veterans commit suicide each year, translating to a total of seventeen per day. The increased pressure to provide ready access to treatment for post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD), schizophrenia, bipolar disorder, depression, and other illnesses veterans are dealing with has caused a mass creation of aid projects within a brief amount of time.

Discussed on the ABC News channel on November 11th, veteran Dre Popow launched Veterans Rebuilding Life in 2011 to help soldiers transition to civilian life after their service. In addition to Popow, many others have followed suit to help people who have graciously fought for their country. Even though these new programs are becoming available to them 24/7, veterans often have trouble opening up about their personal issues and refrain from admitting themselves to a program that would otherwise aid them in their recovery to a normal life.

The symptoms of post traumatic stress disorder (PTSD) often include not being able to express positive or loving feelings toward other people and not being able to remember parts of the traumatic event that caused their mental state, preventing them from being able to talk about it. In addition to this, veterans with PTSD often develop drug or alcohol problems, which may also serve as a factor in shortening their lifetime.

Some veterans, as well as being mentally unstable, are also dealing with physical disabilities. This often prevents them from making it to their doctor appointments and going other places that would be part of living a normal life.

Although the common folk have limited ways to prevent veterans illnesses from progressing, there are numerous ways to give back to those



who have protected our country. In Northport, there is a DVA (Department of Veterans Affairs) center, where you can volunteer to help local veterans with running errands such as yardwork, housework, and grocery shopping. Not only will you significantly help your community, but you will receive hours of community service. On your own time, you can also write a letter to thank a veteran or pick up the tab for a veteran’s coffee or meal. It is vital that we increase our awareness of the struggles our troops face as well as what we can do to help so that we can all make the lives of veterans easier to manage when they return from service.



# HUNTINGTON HIGH SCHOOL ARTIST APPRECIATION



John O'Brien



Gabby Trimboli



Ava Brosnan



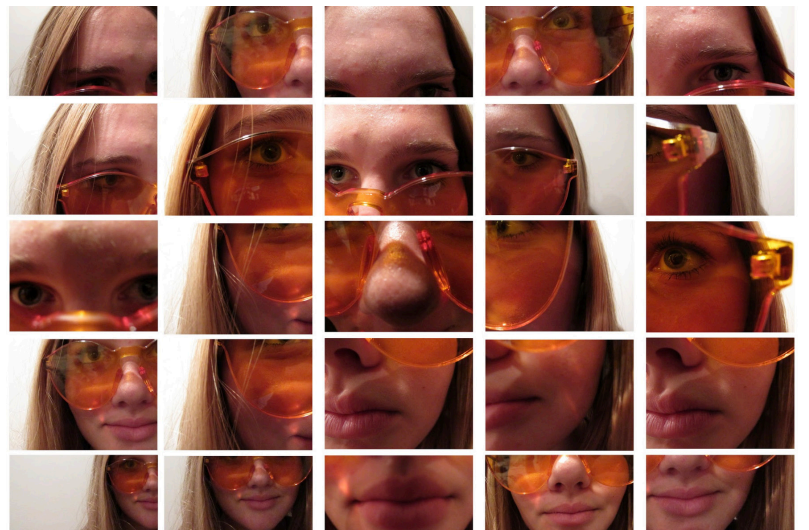
Madelyn Diaz



Nina Drakulich



Gabby Trimboli



Jordan Forte





Lexi Helburn



## SPOTLIGHT ON... HECKSCHER MUSEUM OF ART

By Karen Avila

When people talk about talent and the beauty of art, we can mention the Heckscher Museum of Art. The name of the museum came from August Heckscher, a German-American that opened the museum in 1920. Today, people admire the artwork housed by the museum. The Heckscher Museum of Art is a privilege that the people of Huntington can enjoy. They can be inspired by it to create great paintings or drawings as well as discover their skills in art. While some of the collections came from important and talented painters, young artists also have their artworks in the museum. Attendees are amazed by the awesome artworks they find in the museum. Even students from different high schools have pieces of art in exhibitions. Students from Huntington High School were featured in an exhibition on November 7, 2019. Some of the works include that of Gabriela Gonzales Dellosso, a contemporary painter whose exhibit is present at the Heckscher Museum of Art. Her artwork, among others are amazing pieces to see there. They also had an incredible presentation of artwork made from magazines about the world wars in which the pictures look just like magazines at the time. The Heckscher Museum of Art provides the opportunity for high school students to show their art or be inspired by any of the collections of the museum. Every year the museum selects



Hechscher Museum of Art in Heckscher Park

eighty pieces of artwork from students for exhibitions. Next year will be the museums one hundred year anniversary of being open to the public and 100 artworks were selected for that years exhibitions. Be sure to look out for these pieces and others at the Heckscher Museum of Art.

## CAMILA CABELLO’S “ROMANCE” ALBUM REVIEW

By Ally Kustera

They say romance is dead. Is it? No, I’m not talking about keeping snap streaks. The broad spectrum of romance can involve so many different emotions. Weather it’s an instant connection that’s indescribable or a bad case of unrequited love, Camila Cabello goes through every possible feeling in her new album, “Romance.” Here are some of my favorite songs from the album:

1. “Shameless”- Ever been confused about someone? We’ve all been there. In this song, Camila admits her confusion but settles on the fact that she really wants this person. She lets go of suppressing her feelings and decides to go for it. Wow Camila, easier said than done. “Right now I’m shameless, screaming my lungs out for you. Not afraid to face it. I need you more than I want to,” she sings while grappling with uncontrollable emotions and having seemingly run off the rails of love.
2. “Living Proof”- Camila exclaims that she’s living proof anyone can find love. So listen to her! Be like her and call or text that person!
3. “Should’ve said it”- Timing is everything. She really lays down the law in this song exclaiming, “So you want me now, that’s funny/cuz you didn’t want me back then.” Need another track to replace Lizzo’s “Truth Hurts,” consider making this your new anthem.
4. “Easy”- Warning: This song will make your heart melt! “Always thought I was hard to love till you made it seem so easy” is the hook of the main chorus. Yes, I know your heart is already exploding. Camila remarks on being unconditionally loved by someone else no matter your flaws and insecurities.
5. “Liar”- Latin roots and a sick syncopation shine throughout this piece. “I don’t care if you’re here or if you’re not alone/oh no there you go, making me a liar,” Camila parodies herself on the fact that she has feelings for someone but is too scared to admit it. Pretty sure she just called all of us



“Romance” Album Cover

out on that one.

6. “Dream of You”- Showcasing her incredible vocal talents, Camila does not disappoint on this track. This song sounds like it’s straight out of a dream, proving how Camila is clearly in love. Her lyrics are personal, “All I do the whole night through is dream of you/ so could you stay with me/ talking about nothing.” Somehow it manages to be so uplifting yet there’s a sense of incompleteness as if she hasn’t quite found this love yet.
7. “Cry for Me”- Ah, good old unrequited love. With ruthless guitar riffs and amazing beats, “Cry for Me” shines on this album. “When I’m lying wide awake you’re probably sleeping/I want you to cry for me,” Camila sings, hitting a homerun with incredible lyrics. Whether you’re raging, angry or feel like singing really loud and annoying your neighbors, turn on this jam.
8. “Used to This”- In describing the opposite of being friend-zoned, Camila paints a vivid picture of what her relationship is like after being friends for so long. She ponders how different she views the world after falling in love. “It’s gonna take me a minute but I could get used to this/I’ll say your name/Doesn’t it sound different,” she sings. The use of traffic sounds in the beginning with a transition to mellow synths sets the perfect scene for this heart-warming story.

### The Verdict:

“Romance” is an absolute emotional rollercoaster. It’s comparable to walking through an art exhibit, with each song being masterpieces in their own way. There’s a track for every emotion out there. Heartbreak, regret, admiration, affection, and more is all wrapped up in one album. Camila turned it up a notch for her sophomore album, getting more deeper and personal with her lyrics. No matter who you are, there’s something everyone can relate to on this album.



# MASTER PRINTMAKER DAN WELDEN LEAVES A BIG IMPRESSION

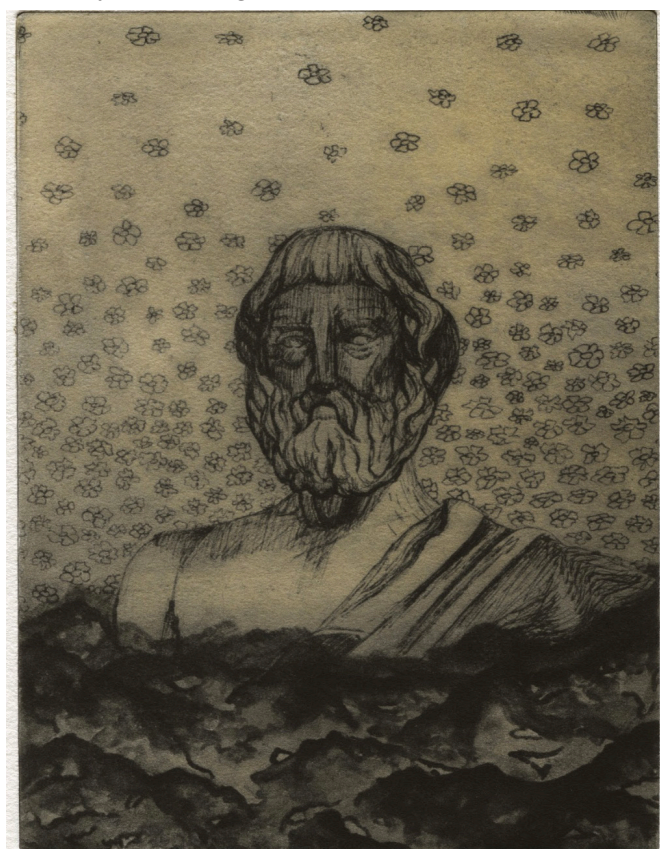
By Ms. Mohanty

On December third, a magical snowy day, eleven of Huntington High's artists, Mrs. Singer and Mrs. Mohanty headed out east for a day they will never forget.

Their first stop, the Southampton Arts Center, formally the Parish Art Museum. The venue is currently hosting an immense, first of its kind, dual exhibition entitled Solar Impressions and International Masters / Collaborations in Printmaking. Both exhibitions are the brainchildren of Sag Harbor artist and master printmaker Dan Welden, who met the students at the exhibition to show them around.

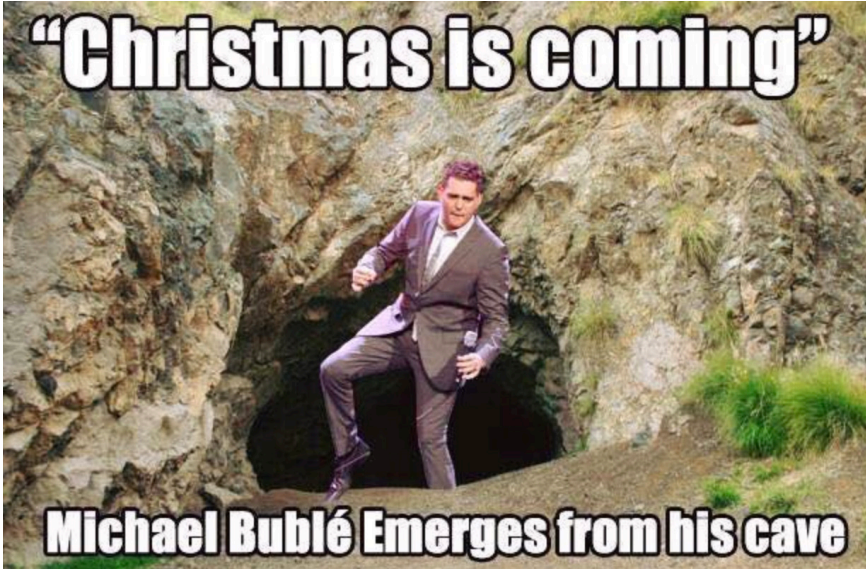
The Solar Impressions juried exhibition has roughly one hundred and thirteen pieces that were selected from more than 720 entries from across the United States, Ireland, Israel, England, Denmark, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Canada, Spain, and France. The esteemed jury consisted of Laura Einstein, manager of the Mezzanine Gallery at the Metropolitan Museum of Art; Alex Ferrone, owner/director of the Alex Ferrone Gallery in Cutchogue, NY; and Ron Pokrasso, Santa Fe artist and world printmaking traveler. The awards juror, acclaimed international artist Eric Fischl, presented 40 individual awards including Huntington High School's digital arts teacher Kasmira Mohanty, who came in eighth place. The Internal Masters / Collaborations in printmaking with Dan Welden portion of the exhibition originated at the Cape Cod Museum in 2017. It concentrates on international artists that have collaborated directly with Dan Welden to produce high quality impressions. This exhibition includes works by Willem de Kooning, Elaine de Kooning, Kiki Smith, Esteban Vicente, Dan Flavin, James Brooks, Eric Fischl, Robert Gwathmey, Paul Da-

vis, Syd Solomon, Roy Nicholson, Jack Youngerman, Robert Dash, Louisa Chase, David Salle, Alfonso Ossorio, Ibram Lassaw, Lynda Benglis, Bill King, Jane Freilicher, Jimmy Ernst, Kurt Vonnegut, and Dan Welden. Bursting with inspiration the artsy travelers headed to Dan Welden's studio, in Sag Harbor, to work with the master himself. Dan Welden is an innovator at the forefront of the alternative health and safety-oriented printmaking and the originator of the technique called Solarplate. He co-authored the quintessential comprehensive manual of Solarplate methods, *Printmaking in the Sun* with Pauline Muir. For the uninitiated, Solarplate etching is a non-toxic alternative to etching with acid that utilizes a photosensitive emulsion on a metal plate. The artist draws onto a transparent film which is then laid over the plate and exposed to light, activating the photo sensitized emulsion. The plate is then washed and these areas drawn on dissolve, leaving behind furrows with exact fidelity to the artist's drawing. It is then inked and printed like a traditional etching. Solarplate offers an expanded range of techniques and aesthetic versatility without the toxicity of etching with acid and solvents.





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POSTSEASON REFLECTION: GIRLS SOCCER TEAM

By Emily Plachta

The Huntington Girls Soccer Team ended their season just a few weeks ago with a 2-2 tie on their senior day against Longwood. Marissa Stafford and Lena Annunziata had two great goals. Stafford’s was off one of teammate, Riva Bergman’s spectacular throws in while Annunzias was off a perfect corner kick from Marrissa Stafford.

Though the team wasn’t able to outscore Longwood, they fought hard throughout the game and gave their very best effort until the final buzzer in overtime. Though the season wasn’t perfect, the Blue Devils won multiple games. Additionally, they tallied many ties against tough competition like Smithtown East, who won all their games except for that against Huntington in a difficult game that ending in 0-0 after overtime.

This year’s team was captained by seniors Marissa Stafford, Caroline Hartough and Alexandra Gerbavsits. The team was a very close group of girls who enjoyed every moment on the field together and made many memories that will last a lifetime. What Huntington’s record doesn’t show is the amount of adversity the team had to overcome this season. This includes the many injuries like the broken wrist of the team’s vital center midfielder Teddi Carnesi, which created a “whirlwind of emotions.”

“As I unfortunately broke my wrist at the beginning of the season, the team had to work extra hard. They did a great job stepping up to the plate and filling that position. Even though we struggled a little bit at the end of the season, the girls kept a positive and upbeat attitude.”

Carnesi isn’t wrong in that aspect, as the girls were able to shift their formation and play different positions then what they originally had at the beginning of the season. Junior, Jordan Forte played a pivotal role for the Blue Devils, especially on defense. She was charged with guarding some of the best strikers in the league, but her athleticism and competitive nature helped her excel at her



Huntington Girls Varsity Soccer Team

position while also having fun. “Playing on the field with my best friends everyday was better than anything else. I couldn’t imagine walking out on the field with any other group of girls. I am so excited to see what this team does next year!”

Hartough also enjoyed a great season, where she played a decisive role as the sweeper. “Overall I thought that we had a really fun and competitive season. We all bonded really well together and love all the memories that we all shared. It was definitely one of my favorite soccer seasons!”

Even cheering from the bench, Carnesi can attest to what a special team this group of athletes was. “Watching from the sidelines injured was not fun, but my teammates were there for me in a rough time during my career. I am super excited to get back on the Blue Devil turf next season and hopefully aid us in getting to play-offs!”

GIRLS BASKETBALL TAKES THE COURT!



By Teddi Carnesi

On Tuesday, November 12th, the Huntington Girls Basketball team returned to the court. On the first day of tryouts, the court was filled with energy, excitement, and optimism. The varsity team is led by head coach Mike Kaplan and assistant coach Marissa Bergmann.

After an unfortunate loss in the first round of playoffs last season, new and returning players are looking to go far this year. The varsity squad consists of seniors; Abby Maichin, and Holly Wright; juniors Jordan Forte, Alexa Amorison, and Charlotte Maggio; Sophomores Emily Plachta, Katie Browne, Makaylah Fraizer, and Junie Nostile; and freshman Gianna Forte. The team is also expecting some newcomers from last years junior varsity team.

Abby Maichin, a Notre Dame lacrosse commit and key element for Huntington’s success is extremely excited for

her senior year. Maichin stated, “This season is a bittersweet season for me. This season is my last year ever playing my favorite sport. I am so excited to be a se-

“The girls on this team are a family; no drama, just basketball and fun. We have the potential to be really good this year with 10 returners and some really good new key additions.”

nior on this team, and I am willing to do whatever it takes to make this season go on as long as possible. The girls on this team are a family; no drama, just bas-

Last Season’s Girls Basketball team right before a game

ketball and fun. We have the potential to be really good this year with 10 returners and some really good new key additions. I cannot wait to get the season going and to start game play. It’s going to be a great year!

The Blue Devils work considerably hard every single practice. Kaplan and Bergmann challenge the girls with precise drills that help their game tremendously.

Sophomore, Emily Plachta averaged 12 points a game last year. Plachta’s work ethic, athleticism, and background knowledge in basketball increase the Blue Devil’s skill immensely. Plachta states she can’t wait to get playing, “I’m really looking forward to having a great season with such a close team. I think we can go far this season, and we have the potential to make it farther into playoffs. It’s going to be an awesome season and I couldn’t be more excited.”

The Blue Devils are nothing but positive coming into a new and fresh season.



# PRESEASON SCOPE INTO GIRLS TRACK

By Erin Ye

As the winter sports season finds itself off and running, so do the members of the Huntington Girls Indoor Track and Field Team. Last year's season was a breakout moment for the team as countless school records were shattered and a star-studded team of underclassmen emerged that will contribute for years to come. Despite the graduation of several valuable seniors last spring, head coach, Mark Jackson, and assistant coach, Eddie Santos, as well as their athletes, have high hopes for an exciting season to come.

Among the changes to the girls' team this year is the addition of a longtime contributor to Huntington's illustrious success on the boys' side of the program. Coach Eli Acosta has signed on to assist the distance squad in their training this season. His help is expected to be greatly beneficial. As a veteran distance coach who has played a key role in mentoring some of Huntington's greatest state and national champions, Coach Acosta's impact has already been felt among his newest athletes. "Coach Acosta has nothing but enthusiasm and dedication for the whole team, but especially for distance events. He always provides valuable advice on how to

Brooks, who holds school records in the long jump, 55-meter dash, 100-meter dash, and multiple sprint relays, is a New Balance All-American and natural leader. Her bright spirit both uplift and command respect from her teammates. When asked how the sprint division is looking going into the 2020 track season, she replied, "The sprinters are very driven and hardworking. They want to make a statement and become the talk of Suffolk County. They don't give up and are hoping to make the school proud."



Girls Track Head Coach, Mark Jackson

Davis has served as an enthusiastic throwing captain for two years now and is looking to continue her impressive marks while also leading a very talented squad this winter. "Coach Santos and I are very excited about this upcoming season. We have a fantastic group of throwers that are already showing a lot of potential! Coach Santos also has some new workouts and training ideas that he can not wait to have us do. Overall, this should be an amazing winter season and I am excited to see how the team, as a whole, does," said Davis. To put into perspective how packed with talent Huntington is, Annalisse Battista, Olivia Conte, Caroline O'Rourke, and Brianna Halbeisen all broke school records and reached the national level of competition during their freshman seasons. Kiana Nosile also stood out as the future of the Huntington throwing program, and the underclassmen as a whole contributed



improve our running form and consistency," says Valerie Rogel, junior distance specialist and a mainstay on Huntington's track and cross country teams. "Although the season has just begun, I have nothing but optimism for the upcoming year," she remarked.

Rogel is looking to lead the team as a captain this year. Seniors Alicia Brooks and Mya Davis join her as captains. The fourth-fastest 5k runner in Huntington cross country history, Rogel notes that "running on a team is one of the most rewarding commitments I've ever made. It's incredible to see the growth that my teammates and I have seen over the years, and regardless of our different events, we all become family."



significantly to what resulted in a Division II Crown for Huntington at last spring's Division Championships. With so much success coming from first-time competitors, the team's potential this year is truly limitless. Luckily, they have head coach Mark Jackson to take them there. "Jackson is a good coach on and off of the track. He makes sure that we are mentally and physically ready for both life and our competition. He wants the best for all of us," said Brooks.

"I'm expecting the team to win the league title this year," said Jackson, a former All-American who is entering his third year as head coach. He mentions that while the team has taken a turn to more sprint heavy point scorers in recent years,



he is counting on his athletes in every corner to display a meet-winning mindset. When asked which athletes he believes will stand out and lead Huntington this year, Jackson naturally pointed to his three captains as well as sophomore Analisse Battista, a versatile sprinter who has already established herself as one of New York State's finest.

With tryouts coming to a close and athletes beginning to decide where they fit as event specialists, Coaches Jackson, Santos, and Acosta are working tirelessly to ensure that everybody is in a position to work hard and reap benefits from the sport of track and field. If you ask any returning runners, jumpers, or throwers, they will tell you that the team is a family, and with a new competition season up ahead, this unity and shared work ethic is what will surely bring Huntington to the top of

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