



NEWSLETTER

Fifth Edition



Hempstead Adult and Community Education Program

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<i>Editors: B. Robinson and M. Bermeo</i>	



Michelle Obama **By Daniel Guedez** **Mr. Ocana's Class**

Michelle Obama is a lawyer and a writer who served as First Lady of the United States from 2009 to 2017. She was the first African American woman to serve in this position. Through her main initiatives, she has become a role model for women and an advocate for healthy lifestyles and higher education. She also worked on behalf of service members and their families.

Change Agents

Mark Dean **By Joelle Day's Class**

Our class learned about a scientist who helped launch the personal computer, his name is Mark Dean. He grew up in Jefferson City, Tennessee. He graduated from the University of Tennessee and got a master's degree from Florida Atlantic University. He even went on to get a doctorate degree from Stanford University. Mark was one of the inventors of the personal computer. While working for IBM, he helped create the color PC monitor and technology that allows computers to interact with each other, such as the mouse and keyboard. He has three patents for his inventions. Today, we recognize Mark Dean as one of the pioneers who contributed to the development of this industry.



African American Inventors **By Ms. Y. Cuevas' Class**

Katherine Johnson was born August 26, 1918. She worked for NASA as a mathematician. Her work and calculations enabled humans to go to space. She recently died on February 24, 2020.



Garrett Morgan was born on March 4, 1877. He invented many things. Among them is the traffic signal. His contribution helped manage traffic and reduce accidents.



Phillip Downing was born on March 22, 1857. He worked for the post office. He invented the street letter box, which today we know as the blue mailbox on the streets. This invention was helpful because you no longer had to walk to the post office to send mail.



Patricia Bath **By Myriam Belotte's Class**



Patricia Bath is an African American scientist. She is also an ophthalmologist. On December 17, 1986, she received a patent for The Cataract Laserphaco Probe. She invented this instrument to remove cataracts in the eye. This tool uses a laser beam. It is called Laserphaco Probe. She was the first African American woman to complete a residency in ophthalmology in 1973. She was also the first woman ophthalmologist to be nominated to the faculty of the University of California at Los Angeles School of Medicine Jules Stein Eye Institute. Patricia Bath was also the first woman to oversee an ophthalmology residency program in the United States.

"The Jesup Wagon" **By** **Mr. Pierre's Class**

The Jesup Wagon was invented in 1906 by George Washington Carver, a former slave born in 1865 in the plantation of Moses Carver in Diamond Grove, Missouri. Mr. Carver became the first African American to receive a master's degree in Botany from Iowa State University. His knowledge of plants and his determination to help educate former slaves led him to obtain a teaching position at Tuskegee University in Alabama. The Jesup Wagon allowed him

to spread education to nearly freed slaves by organizing a series of agricultural schools on wheels offering practical, hands-on lessons and information on everything from crop, seed, and fertilizer to dairy farming. Today, George Washington Carver remains one of the most studied and accomplished African Americans of the 20th century.



Janet Emerson Bashen
By
Ms. Howard's Class



Born on February 12, 1957, she is an American entrepreneur, business consultant, and software inventor who is best known for patenting a web based Equal Employment Opportunity software application for processing EEO claims. Bashen is regarded as the first African American woman to obtain a web-based software patent. Bashen is regarded as a social justice advocate.

Raised in Huntsville, Alabama, she enrolled in the University of Houston and graduated with a degree in legal studies and government. She married George Steven Bashen in May 1988. Bashen attended Harvard University and completed a women and power program. Bashen is currently on the women's leadership board at Harvard University.

Bashen also graduated from Tulane Law School and is currently attending the Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social work, at the University of Southern California. After graduating from the University of Houston, Bashen worked for an insurance company handling claims related to Equal Employment opportunities. Bashen thought if you hire independent investigators to assess such claims, they would be more impartial. Bashen formed a corporation with her cousin to investigate discrimination claims filed by employees.

This was the genesis for the software link line. In January 2006 Bashen was awarded a patent No. 6985 922, B1, making her the first African American woman to earn a Web-based software patent becoming a part of an elite group of African American inventors and scientists.

In May 2000, Bashen testified before the U.S House of representatives that civil rights and employee misconduct investigations should be exempt from the Fair Credit Reporting Act.

Dorothy Johnson Vaughan
By Isis Caceres Erazo

Ms. Gonzalez's class



Born: September 20, 1910

Known as a “human computer.” Dorothy Johnson Vaughan was part of a team that did mathematical calculations to help launch satellites- and later humans- into space. The group used math to help engineers figure out how wind and gravity affects aircrafts.

Dorothy worked on the program that launched John Glenn and other astronauts into space for the first time.

When she was first hired to work on the space program, Vaughan's department was segregated or separated by race. She and the other African- American women in her unit used separate dining areas and bathrooms. Six years after she was hired. Vaughan became the manager of her division and its first black supervisor.

Katherine Johnson
By
Carlos Daniel Hernandez
Zoila Vargas
Yessica Polanco
Ms. Gonzalez's class



Born: August 26, 1918

Death: February 24, 2020 (New York)

Katherine Johnson was an American physicist, rocket scientist and mathematician, who contributed to the United States aeronautics and space programs. Her calculations of orbital mechanics as a NASA employee were instrumental in the success of the first and, subsequent US crewed space flights.

During her 35 year career at NASA and its predecessor, she earned a reputation for mastering complex manual calculations and contributed to the pioneering use of computers to perform the tasks. The space agency noted her “historical role” as one of the first African American women to work as a NASA scientist.

Awards: Presidential Medal of Freedom (2015)

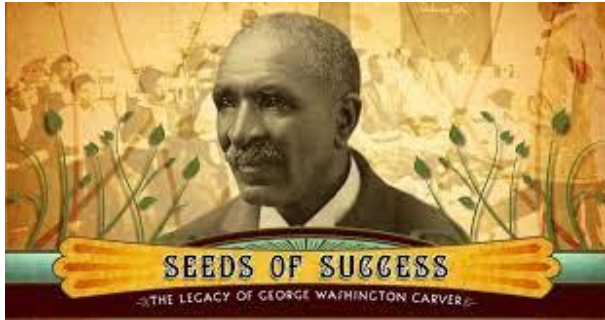
Silver Snoopy Award (2016)

NASA Group Achievement award (2016)

Congressional Gold Medal (2019)

George Washington Carver

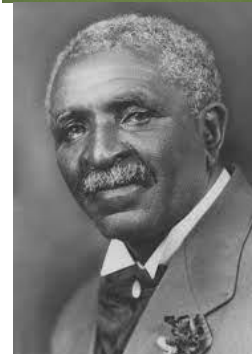
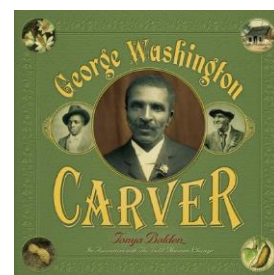
By
Ms. Duran's class



The Peanut Man, An African American Scientist, A Visionary

George Washington Carver (January 1864 – January 5, 1943), was an American scientist, botanist, educator, and inventor whose studies and teaching revolutionized agriculture in the southern United States. The day and year of his birth are unknown; he is believed to have been born before slavery was abolished in Missouri in January 1864. Much of Carver's fame is based on his research and promotion of alternative crops to cotton such as peanuts and sweet potatoes. He wanted poor farmers to farm alternatively as sources of their own food and other products to improve their quality of life. He also created and disseminated about 100 peanut products that were useful for home and farm use, including cosmetics, dyes, paints, plastics, gasoline and nitroglycerin. Carver also derived 75 products from cotton. One product that has emerged from Carver's tenacious work with cotton is the rug. Today, cotton rugs are in many households in America. From the usage of cotton, Carver is also responsible for the formation of asphalt.

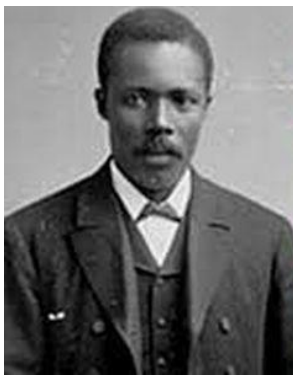
Today, asphalt is a major component of America's interstate/highway system. Paper cordage and insulating boards are also products of Carver's innovation with cotton products. In addition to his work on agricultural extension education for purposes of advocacy of sustainable agriculture and appreciation of plants and nature, Carver's important accomplishments also included improvement of racial relations, mentoring children, poetry, painting, and religion. Overcoming racism, bigotry, and ignorance, George Washington Carver was honored by U.S. President Franklin Delano Roosevelt on July 14, 1943. President Roosevelt issued \$30,000 for a national monument to be dedicated to Carver's accomplishments. The area of Carver's childhood near Diamond Grove, Missouri has been preserved as a park, with a bust of the agricultural researcher, instructor, and chemical investigator. This park was the first designated national monument to an African American in the United States.



George Crum
By
Carlos Gonzalez-Sanchez
Ms. Lacey's class

George Crum was from Saratoga Lake, New York. He worked as a chef at the Moon Lake Lodge. The place was famous because it served french fries.

One day a customer asked for french fries. He didn't like them and sent them back because they were too soggy and too thick. The customer kept complaining and returning the fries back to the kitchen.



George Crum got angry and cut the potatoes very, very thin and put them to fry and poured salt on them. Guess what? The customer liked them. This made more customers start coming to the restaurant. That is how the famous Saratoga Chips were invented.



Michael Jackson
By Fabio Pineda
Ms. Fernandez' class



Michael Jackson was a singer and composer. He was also a dancer. Michael was nicknamed "The King of Pop."

He was from Gary, Indiana. Michael was born on August 29, 1958 and died on June 25, 2009.

He started his career at the age of 11 with 5 of his siblings. He became famous with the "Thriller Album." He was the best dancer of pop. He introduced an era of multiculturalism that future generations of artists followed.

He died at the age of 50 at his home in Los Angeles, California after suffering from cardiac arrest caused by a fatal combination of drugs.

Michael Jackson's contribution to the world of pop and dance are irreplaceable. This legend's music has a strong hold on all the music lovers over the globe.

**Garret Morgan
Inventor of the Gas Mask
and Traffic Light**

By

**Christian Manzanares, Marta Merino,
Yeimy Lopez, Rixi Maldonado and
Darly Orozco.**

Ms. Y Calles' Class

Garrett Morgan was an inventor and successful businessman. Many of his inventions helped to improve public safety. These included an early form of a gas mask and a type of traffic signal.

Garrett Augustus Morgan was born on March 4, 1877, in Paris, Kentucky. His parents were former slaves. Morgan left home in his teens. He moved first to Cincinnati and then to Cleveland, Ohio, where he found work repairing sewing machines. That work gave him an interest in how machines work. He later opened his own sewing equipment and repair shop. When that became successful, he opened other businesses as well.

While Morgan was running his businesses he was also working on inventions. In 1914, he patented a device that he called the Morgan safety hood and smoke protector. A patent is an official document that gives an inventor control over who may use their invention. The safety hood was an early gas mask. A gas mask allows people to breathe in situations where there is a lot of smoke or dangerous chemicals in the air. In 1923, Morgan patented another safety invention. This was a T-shaped traffic signal.

It had moving arms that told traffic when to stop and go. It was not the first traffic signal, but it controlled traffic better than many existing signals.

Morgan was also interested in helping his fellow African Americans. He started a newspaper to discuss issues of interest to African Americans. He was also a member of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). Morgan died on August 27, 1963, in Cleveland.

Hellen Keller

By

Ms. Villacis' Class

Hellen Keller was born on June 27, 1880 in Tuscumbia, Alabama. She was an American author, disability rights advocate, political activist and lecturer.

She was born a happy healthy baby. When Helen was around one and a half years old, she became very sick. She had a high fever and a bad headache for several days.

She had a difficult time communicating with people. She would get frustrated and throw tantrums, kicking and hitting other people in anger.

Her parents soon realized that she had lost both her sight and her hearing. They acquired Annie Sullivan's help. Annie was often called the "Miracle Worker." Annie became Helen's helper and friend for many years. She taught Helen how to communicate and how to read special books in Braille.

Her parents also acquired Sarah Fuller's help. She helped Helen learn how to talk. Sarah was a teacher for the deaf. Helen was so happy that she could say words. At age sixteen, Helen attended college. Annie attended school with her and helped to sign the lectures into Helen's hand. Helen graduated in 1904 with honors. Helen began to write about her experiences being deaf and blind. She wrote articles and books.

Helen wanted to help other people like herself. She wanted to inspire them and give them hope. She joined the American Foundation for the Blind and traveled the country giving speeches and raising money for the foundation. She even visited wounded soldiers encouraging them not to give up. Helen spent much of her life working to raise money and awareness for people with disabilities, especially the deaf and the blind.

Helen became very famous. She met many Presidents of the United States. Helen starred in a movie about herself called Deliverance.



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

“The Lady with the Lamp”

By
Ms. M. Calles’ class

Florence Nightingale was a nurse and a writer. She was considered as the founder of professional nursing in the world.

During the Crimea War, she faced the challenge of taking care of soldiers under horrific conditions. Also, her efforts to reform health care contributed to the foundation of the health care we enjoy today. She improved hygiene practices which lowered hospital death and infection rates. She devoted her life to preventing disease and showed compassionate treatment for the poor and the suffering. Eventually, she started her own school for nurses, she wrote books and won many awards. Every year, nurses everywhere remember “International Nurses Day” on May 12 in her honor because that is the day of her birth.



Profiles of Courage

A Dramatic change in Life By Oscar Hernandez Ms. Escobar's class

My name is Oscar Hernandez, I was born in El Salvador on the 3rd day of January 2000. I had a lot of fun there, but sadly, I had to travel to the United States when I was 12 years old. It has been almost 10 years since I arrived in the United States; and I have to say, the US culture was so different from El Salvador. It changed my life totally. I guess I was not ready to make such a dramatic change in my life when I was just a teenager.

Coming to the United States was an odyssey. I had to go across Guatemala, and Mexico. When I was in Guatemala, I was beginning to get excited about going on the trip. I wasn't aware of all the dangers of traveling from El Salvador all the way to a strange country. When I was near Mexico; I had to go through lots of things. First, I had no money with me the whole time, which meant that I could not buy anything while I was traveling. I had to ask all the other people who were traveling with me to share some food. I still remember this kind old man, who offered me a bag of delicious cookies.

When I was in Mexico, everyone who was on the same trip to the wonderland helped me continue to my destination. Finally, when I entered the

United States, I got caught by the immigration department. I stayed in their custody for a month, so they could collect personal information and start the process to have legal documentation for being a minor.

However, when I got here, my father was the one who took care of me after I got out of that immigration custody. Therefore, I started my first year of school in the United States, in 2014. It was hard at first. I did not know the English language and how everything really worked here. It was very difficult for me to adapt to a new and different culture.

Learning English is my priority and the number one challenge that I need to overcome. I am still learning as much as I can. There is always something new to learn. As of right now, my new goal is to obtain the "GED" which is the high school diploma equivalent. By continuing my higher education, I believe that I can still reach what I desire.



A Balancing Act
By
Nelly Ramos
Mr. Diaz' class

How does a student balance being a full-time mom, working on a degree on-line, running a small business, and coming to the Hempstead Community & Adult Education Program?

I am Nelly Ramos, and I was born in Honduras. In Honduras, I was a certified middle school teacher. I immigrated to the United States in 2019 with two children because my husband had immigrated here to work to support our family. After I arrived in the U.S., I had twins and suddenly I found myself being a full-time mother of four.

My father is alone in Honduras and is also ill. For this reason, I want to go back to my country and be reinstated as a teacher. That's when I decided to get my master's in education. But because I have four children it is only feasible if I do this work online.



A typical day for me looks like this: I get up at 5:30am to get breakfast ready for my husband and children. I get my two eldest kids ready for school. After the kids go to school and while my

twins sleep, I do schoolwork. Then at 12pm, I get lunch ready. By then the twins are up. My twins are 3 now. I teach them the alphabet and kid's songs. Then in the afternoon from 2pm to 4pm I complete readings for school. Then my eldest kids come home from school. I serve them dinner. After dinner, I help them with their homework. At 6pm my husband comes home from work. I serve his dinner and then he drives me to ABGS Middle School for my English classes. He then goes home to watch the kids and then picks me up at 9:30pm. After I get home, I put the kids in bed and go to bed drained. Then, the next day I wake up and start all over again.

Lastly, I sell clothing, accessories, and perfumes to relatives and friends. They support me because they know that I need to find a source of income to pay for the cost of my master's degree. Finally, I go to church on Sundays to seek spiritual strength to keep me keeping on.

A little bit about myself
By Skender Desir
Ms. Estime's class

Hello, my name is Skender Desir. I am 28 years old. I live in Hempstead. I have been in America for 9 months now. I am studying English at the Hempstead Adult Education program four days a week. Ms. Estime is my teacher. I have a part-time job. During my free time I listen to all types of music. I like several things about America such as the education, health care, housing and transportation.

Student Commentaries

“JUST SAYIN” **By Pedro Flores-Carranza** **Ms. Bell’s Class**

The system of using can and bottle return machines causes concern among many people who wish recycling could be different. Some feel it would be a good idea to have a system of recycling in every store no matter what the brand, or type of material. Others feel companies should invest money to improve the system. Undoubtedly, improving the system would be a great benefit to the environment and us all. If companies accepted all brands of beverage cans and bottles, they would no longer be part of the problem but a part of the solution. For example, recycling machines do not accept Snapple, Gatorade, and gallon water jugs. Changing this fact would be a plus. As we know, our environment is out of control. Something has to change for the better. So, why not begin with the store recycling systems. If companies invest in this effort, it would be a great step toward saving our habitat. Finally, companies should invest time, money and resources in a good recycling system. Improving the return machines will be a great benefit to society, and especially our environment.



Student’s Views **By** **Ms. Vollmer’s Class**

Immigration:

Many people from different countries lose their lives trying to cross borders illegally to make a better life for themselves, not only in the United States. They spend a lot of time hiding and waiting for working papers so that they can work legally. Many of us have lost a loved one, and because we do not have documents, we were not able to travel back to our countries to honor them.

-Dania R.

Some people are worried about their resident status because the immigration processes are taking more time than normal.

-Brenda S.

Crime:

I am concerned about crime at this moment, because there are a lot of dangerous people everywhere. Too many people are getting killed for no reason. People are not thinking about the consequences of their actions.

-Celina B.



The Pandemic and Maintaining Good Health:

We are still struggling with the corona virus pandemic. It will have a lasting impact on our mental health. The pandemic has affected our lives forever. It has drastically changed our way of life, causing more stress and anxiety.

-Osmar M.

Germes are things that can make you sick. Germes can get in your body through the mouth and nose by touch or by food, or through a cut in your skin. Wash your hands with soap and water to get germes off your fingers. Wash your hands before eating, after using the restroom and after being outside. Hand washing is the optimal prevention of the spread of bacteria and virus. Also, vaccination is the best way to prevent the spread of Covid 19.

-Dave V.

I like to work out six days per week, but maybe it's not practical for everybody. Now that we have understood how easily we can become very sick due to the pandemic, we realize that it is important to take care of our bodies.

-Hector R.

The Conflict in Ukraine:

The war is between Russia and Ukraine; however, it is affecting the whole world. Too many people are dying, especially innocent women and children.

-Miguel T.

Economy:

The Bitcoin can be a type of investment, or it can be a way to make a payment. There are advantages and disadvantages to using Bitcoin. Bitcoin is for people who have knowledge about digital money. It is a new kind of currency, so just like 40 years ago, credit cards were rare, so now bitcoin is rare. Bitcoin has multiple uses. Some people are making a lot of money, but many people just don't understand it. The tax rate on Bitcoin earnings can fluctuate depending on how long you leave the money in a digital holding place.

-Juan Z.

Holidays

With the recent Easter holiday approaching, I could not stop thinking about food. The traditional Central American meal served during this time is fish. We also eat torrijas, which is like French toast, with a very sweet syrup called panela. We also bake bread at home.

-Cesar S.



COVID 19 IMPACT IN THE WORLD

By

**Edras Chica, Roberto Garcia,
Sonia Zarat, Pedro LanFranco,
Javier Santos
Ms. Balarezo's Class**

Covid-19 is a disease that appeared out of nowhere and that apparently will stay with us for a long time. It has had a devastating impact all over the world in every way, from the loss of loved ones no matter the age (over one million deaths in the US only) to the financial bankruptcy of companies and small businesses.

During the early part of the pandemic, confinement was necessary. Daily activities outside were no longer an option in order to avoid being infected.

Currently, some people who get infected, and are fortunate enough to recover, continue experiencing post Covid-19 effects that persist long time after recovery such as fatigue, shortness of breath, muscle pain, depression and even learning difficulties.

Covid-19 also affected businesses. For example, one of the biggest food providers for the JFK Airport experienced how the airport was nearly empty since so many flights and borders restrictions were put in place. The closure of this business was imminent since it wasn't sustainable anymore, while at the same time thousands of people were losing their jobs during the pandemic.

As human beings we are all vulnerable to pandemics and diseases and this is a situation that should generate empathy for one another in this journey called life that we have to share while we are in this world.

Let's continue being careful, get vaccinated, wear masks in overcrowded places, keep hands clean and sanitized and try to keep a healthy distance from people we are not familiar with.



Health

By

Ms. Thomas' class

Going to the doctor is important. We go to the doctor because we feel sick. My family and I go to the doctor when we are sick, so we can feel better. It is important to take medicine if the doctor prescribes it or take natural remedies. When you are healthy, you can do many things but if you are sick, you must take care of yourself by seeing a doctor and resting.



**Learning to give, receive and
appreciate
Mr. Pierre's class**

When was the last time you thought about how lucky you are because your legs and arms are fully functional or gave thanks because your eyes and ears are functioning properly, your vocal cords and mouth are in order?

If just one of the body parts mentioned suddenly stopped working, your life would be instantly and radically changed. It is so easy to dismiss the fact that a large percentage of our life and body is working exactly how it is supposed to. Too often we do not take the time to stop and appreciate things big or small.

If we learn to see the beauty, the gratefulness, and the appreciation of it all, we will learn to live a life of gratitude. knowing that we have so much to be thankful for. Let us be grateful to those who make us happy since they are the charming gardeners who allow our soul to blossom. It is not now the time to think of what we don't have; think about what we can do with what's there for us. Allow our thank you to be heard without using any words.

“A grateful mind is one that eventually attracts to itself great things” (Plato)



**In Today's World
By Tatiana Rodriguez
Mr. Toledo's class**

The dilemma between Ukraine's refugees is to stay in the country (Ukraine) or to look to begin a new life in another country. To put it in perspective, approximately 4 million people have fled the country, with the vast majority of them being women and their children; they have all lost everything they had in Ukraine. At the present time, the Ukrainians have the challenge of rebuilding a new life in different countries (ex: Poland, Germany, Italy). It is a difficult thing to do, but not impossible, since these countries are helping the Ukrainians to get jobs and are finding schools for their kids.

How can we help, you might ask? Something that we can do to help the Ukrainians that are being affected is to give donations in different ways. An example of this is when our school collected some money to buy blankets, cases of energy bars, things for personal use, etc. Donations are currently the most necessary alternative to being physically there to help. When we contributed the donations, I felt happy because my small donation was included in making a symbolic difference as human beings. It is showing an avalanche of our solidarity with the Ukrainian people.

We should all pray for peace, wisdom, courage, faith, and comfort for the Ukrainian families that are suffering in the middle of this conflict right now.

Digital Detox

By Ms. R. Cuevas' class

Digital detox refers to a period of time when an individual refrains from using technology devices such as smart phone, computers, tablets, and the internet because of an addiction to digital devices. Digital detoxing is a way to focus on real life social interactions without distractions.

Currently, technology has been an important tool for many individuals but, also digital technology can have negative effects on individuals because it can be addictive.

The most frequent negative symptoms are:

1. Isolation
2. Ignoring responsibilities
3. Sleep problems
4. Depression
5. Anxiety
6. Weight gain
7. Unhealthy eating
8. Lack of exercise
9. Lack of time management
10. Work ethic problems.

In addition, a real problem is the new phenomenon of "nomophobia" - NO Mobile PHOBIA. It is a psychological condition when people have a fear of being detached from their mobile device. Some characteristics of nomophobia are not being able to communicate with others, feeling generally disconnected and not being able to access information.

People with this phobia check their phones constantly, take their phones everywhere they go (including the shower and bathroom), spend many hours per day using their phones, and experience feelings of helplessness when they are separated from their phones.

There are digital detox recommendations available. Set boundaries. Set rules for your personal device use. Avoid your mobile device at certain times of the day, such as during meals or at bedtime.

Find a balance. Focus on having personal interaction with others every day.

Take short breaks. Start by doing small things such as leaving your phone in another room during meals or when you are engaged in another activity.

Find other ways to occupy your time. Try looking for other activities to distract you from your devices. Try reading a book, going for a walk, playing a sport, or engaging in a hobby that you enjoy.

Digital addiction is a worldwide problem that is currently happening; many of us are unaware of our digital addiction. It is like alcohol or drug addiction. Individuals must learn to recognize the symptoms of digital addiction and learn to detox their habits. It means setting digital behavior rules or restrictions. Once this happens, individuals can create a balance between the digital life and the real life with family and friends, thereby having a more productive life.

Trips and Events

A Visit to the African American Museum By Mercedes Torres and Omobolaji Oyeyode Mr. Villani's Class



Our class went to the African American Museum in March of this year. It was a real eye-opener. The staff at the museum and our teachers walked us through the exhibits and explained some of the history behind them. The pictures and displays were amazing! I, like many people, knew what African Americans had gone through in this country, but that night we saw things that I had never seen before.

Some of the things that stuck with me were the paintings and illustrations. They gave us a better understanding of what the people must have felt. We saw pictures of Martin Luther King (a freedom fighter and activist) and some of the early slave trading. These displays showed people in chains and shackles, subjected to torture and hard labor, against their will. We also learned about marriages from different kingdoms and countries, which was also part of the colonial period.

There was also a room with awesome paintings that were created by a Brazilian artist. They were very colorful, and it gave us a sense of the beautiful South American culture. The paintings weren't like photographs; they were more abstract, so you had to really look and get a feel for what the artist was showing. That was fun!



I'm glad I got the opportunity to learn more about enslaved people of African descent. It showed how people of color have been seen and treated all over the world and how far they've come.

Long Island Choice Awards



The Adult & Community Education Program is the recipient of a Long Island Choice "Finalist" award in the category of Adult Education-Continuing Education. Accepting the award at a gala event in April were Ms. Susan Thompson, Director, Ms. Ana Baez-Crosswell, Educational Group Leader and Ms. Beverly Robinson, Lead Teacher.

College and Career Night

The Hempstead Adult and Community Education program hosted a College and Career Fair on Tuesday, May 10th. Hundreds of adult learners visited an array of vendors, including Nassau Community College (NCC), First Student, Nassau County Civil Service Commission, Altice, Long Island EOC, Jzanus Home Care, Aliah Home Care, Council for Airport Opportunity, Cerebral Palsy Association of Nassau County, Access Careers and US Marine Corps. The students spoke directly with recruiters and came away impressed with the variety of local job opportunities on Long Island.



Ukraine Fundraiser

The Hempstead Adult and Community Education Program collected monetary donations and energy bars for the people of Ukraine. The energy bars collected were brought to the Ukrainian Church in Uniondale. Part of the money collected was utilized to buy first aid kits through Amazon and the rest was a cash donation. The generosity of our students was praiseworthy. We collected about 60 boxes of energy bars and a sizable cash donation.



Graduation 2022 Student Highlights



Congratulations to Erica Lottes who displayed the upmost persistence and perseverance while obtaining her High School Equivalency Diploma. Her great attendance demonstrated a fraction of the level of dedication she has shown while pursuing her High School Equivalency Diploma. Erica hopes to become a chef in the future. She will soon start a paid internship at the View Grill Restaurant in Glen Cove

Giving a big shout out to Josue Velez! Affectionately known as Joe, a Hempstead Adult Education Program student. He received his High School Equivalency Diploma in June 2021. Joe was a full-time bus driver and was studying while he worked. His dedication and hard work paid off! After receiving his diploma, Joe was promoted and is now the Safety Supervisor at the company where he works. Joe is now teaching his own classes and giving his own exams...Congratulations, Josue!!



Congratulations to Stephen Tardino, a student from Hempstead Adult Education Program. Stephen passed the TASC and received his High School Equivalency Diploma in only four months. Stephen just completed his first semester at Nassau Community College and plans on becoming a radiological technician. Stephen is scheduled to speak at his graduation ceremony, so he can share his impressive academic journey with his peers. He has made this program proud!

A big shout out to Afi Yessoufou! Afi joined the Hempstead Adult Education Program in early 2017 and received her High School Equivalency Diploma within three years. Afi faced many challenges as she tried to reach her goal and there were times she wanted to give up, but her teacher, Mr. Joe Villani, would not hear of it. As she puts it, "He believed in me more than I believed in myself." Even though the road was not an easy one to travel, Afi is glad she did. As she states, "No pain, no gain." Diploma in hand, Afi is seeking a job as an Office Assistant and exploring the idea of enrolling in community college courses



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