



ELEANOR P. LABROZZI PHOTO

The Tree of Life quilt, created by Susan Schrott with the help of many Islanders.

Creating love from despair

The Tree of Life for Pittsburgh Synagogue

BY JO-ANN ROBOTTI | CONTRIBUTOR

Island textile artist and psychotherapist Susan Schrott will discuss the creation of the Tree of Life Quilt, made in memory of the Pittsburgh Synagogue shooting in October of 2018, at the Library's next Friday Night Dialogues on Oct. 23 at 7 p.m. over Zoom. Preregistration for this program is required and may be done at silibrary.org.

On Oct. 27, 2018, the Tree of Life Synagogue in Pittsburgh, Pa. was attacked by a lone gunman during its regular Saturday morning services. Eleven of its congregants were murdered and six wounded in what was the deadliest ever attack on the Jewish community in the United States. The day after-

wards, Ms. Schrott reached out to members of the Shelter Island community and by early Monday morning, she said, "the wheels were in motion" that enabled her to begin her work later that week at the Shelter Island School. Ultimately, more than 170 people were involved in the quilt's creation, including school faculty and administrators, students, friends and family members. The piece was finished on March 10, 2019.

According to Ms. Schrott, The Tree of Life for Pittsburgh Synagogue measures 77" x 53" and is "entirely textile in the tradition of machine quilting." All of its fabrics were hand dyed by her. The design includes leaves that are filled with messages of

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Business as usual at Island school

Staff says student concerns remain typical

BY JULIE LANE | STAFF WRITER

A month into the new school year, Superintendent Brian Doelger, Ed.D., is breathing a sigh of relief. "Obviously, we were all nervous at the beginning of the year," the superintendent said.

The school had turned to virtual learning last March when the COVID-19 pandemic became a reality.

But once deciding to reopen in September, the entire staff pulled together to make certain the in-person classes would be safe and the students would have the support they needed.

A month after opening, Mr. Doelger is proud to report a successful start of the school year, offering full-time in-person classes to students from prekindergarten through grade 12.

That's a rarity in New York State as it is throughout the nation. Some districts that opened in September have had to close down and revert to virtual learning. Others went virtual from the outset this fall.

Only two families opted to home school their children, concerned about returning them to the classroom while the COVID-19 pandemic continues to rage in many communities. From the outset, Shelter Island numbers of patients with the virus

'Each day becomes more normal but we remain vigilant in safety protocols.'

BRIAN DOELGER,

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M. Wein Realty, Inc.

#1 Island Real Estate Agency

mweinrealty.com
631-749-0999
34 N. Ferry Rd., SI, NY

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