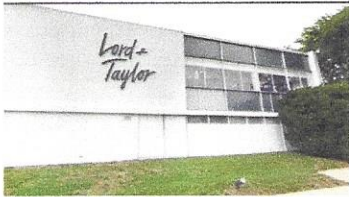


Lord & Taylor to close all stores

The nearly 200-year-old store chain filed for bankruptcy earlier this month.



All Lord & Taylor stores are clearing their stocks in sale

LONG ISLAND, NY (TIP): Lord & Taylor announced that it would be closing all of its stores, including the four stores that are on Long Island, instead of keeping a few of the department stores open.

Lord & Taylor filed Chapter 11 bankruptcy on Aug. 11 and announced a few days later that it would be closing multiple locations, including the store in

Bay Shore. A few days later, the chain announced it would also close its store in the Walt Whitman Shops in Huntington. But other locations would stay open. Now, however, the chain announced it would close all the stores, including its two remaining Long Island locations: 1200 Franklin Ave. in Garden City, and 1440 Northern Blvd. in Manhasset.

"While we are still entertaining various opportunities, we believe it is prudent to simultaneously put the remainder of the stores into liquidation to maximize value of inventory for the estate while pursuing options for the Company's brands," Ed Kremer, the company's chief restructuring officer, said in a statement. Lord & Taylor is one of the oldest department stores in America. It was founded nearly 200 years ago in 1826. The company, which had seen falling sales in recent years, was purchased by only fashion company Le Tote in 2019. But the closures caused by the coronavirus were the final nail in the company's coffin. The chain is going out of business sales at all of its stores and online. The stores will also be selling fixtures, furniture and equipment. "I am extraordinarily proud of the continued efforts of our store and corporate team members as they have worked tirelessly over the past several months, under unprecedented conditions, to preserve this historic brand," Kremer said. "We have a long road ahead of us and I am grateful and humbled by the dedication and resiliency of our team."

Town Must Remove Roadblocks for Homeless Families

MINEOLA (TIP): In a letter to the editor, Arnold W. Drucker, Nassau County Legislator 16th LD has demanded that Oyster Bay Town officials remove roadblocks for homeless families in Jericho.

The Jericho Family Support Center is a laudable concept that deserves our support, he said, and continued, "The plan involves conversion of the former Hampton Inn on Jericho Turnpike into a transitional housing facility equipped to provide approximately 80 families with case management, childcare, workforce readiness training, health referrals, and 24-7 security.

"Currently, there are approximately 50 families living in inhumane squalor at dilapidated motels in Jericho. They are homeless during a global pandemic, at a time when our neighbors have lost their jobs and incomes at a level not seen since the Great Depression.

"Despite the clear merits of the plan presented by service provider Community Housing Innovations (CHI) and their nearly 30-year track record of success in this field, Oyster Bay Town officials have nevertheless obstructed this project. They have embarked



Arnold W. Drucker, Nassau County Legislator 16th LD has demanded that Oyster Bay Town officials remove roadblocks for homeless families in Jericho.

upon a politically motivated campaign notable for its embrace of fearmongering, misinformation, shameless self-promotion and wasteful lawsuits - all bankrolled by you, the taxpayer.

"It is the height of callous, heartless hypocrisy. Town of Oyster Bay officials who recently sent self-congratulatory, glossy, full-color mailers to Jerichoresidents to announce that they 'fully enforce local zoning laws... to protect your suburban way of life' have no right to take such a disingenuous victory lap. They are the same people who have consistently failed to

apply town code and its enforcement mechanisms to compel the owners of these squalid motels to clean up their act.

"In fact, CHI's facility is likely to do more to ameliorate any level of perceived blight than Oyster Bay Town officials have in many years. Eligible families residing in those motels or elsewhere in the County would be relocated to the Jericho Family Support Center, where they would benefit from individualized case management with defined goals in support of their return to independent housing.

(Read full story at www.theindianpanorama.news)

Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan is a manifestation of India's diversity - Anurag Kumar

ZAFAR IQBAL

MARYLAND (TIP): "India is proud of its diversity and this program is a manifestation of this diversity," said Mr. Anurag Kumar, Minister for Community Affairs, Embassy of India. He thanked the organizers for holding such a beautiful program every year and appreciated showcasing of new talents through this program. He also conveyed the best wishes from the Ambassador of India, H.E. Taranjit Singh Sandhu. Kumar indicated that subject to easing of COVID-situation, the Embassy would consider hosting this program.

The Aligarh Alumni Association-Metro DC (AAA-DC), in association with the Global Organization of People of Indian Origin-Metro DC (GOPIO-DC), hosted a successful Mushaira/Kavi Sammelan on Sunday, 9th August 2020, celebrating the 74th Independence Day of the Subcontinent. This annual event has been a part of Washingtonians' literary life for the last fourteen years. AAA-DC and GOPIO-DC are the only organizations that bring local poets of Urdu and Hindi at one platform to promote a sense of brotherhood in the best traditions of Sanjhi Virasat, as well as to encourage and promote the local talents of these literature(s).

This year, because of the COVID-19 situation, the program was conducted using Zoom technology and it was simultaneously broadcast on YouTube, Facebook, and Twitter. Several hundred literary enthusiasts enjoyed the event and

many encouraging and positive comments were posted on the media. A recording of the event is now available on Facebook

(<https://www.facebook.com/AligarhAlumniAssociationOfDC/>) and AAA-DC YouTube channel (<https://youtu.be/qNmKjJ-Aso>).

Greeting authors, poets and the audience, Program Coordinator Dr. Zafar Iqbal said "The goal of this annual program is to provide a forum where diverse people-transcending political, religious, regional, and geographical boundaries-could assemble under the same umbrella and appreciate the Ganga-Jamuni culture of the Subcontinent." In addition to sharing poetry, this event also recognizes local poets and authors by releasing their recently published books, he added. He recognized the leaders of four cultural community organizations - Mr. Kaleem Kawaja of the Association of Indian Muslims (AIM), Mr. Pavan Bezawada and Mr. Shammi Singh of the National Council of Asian-Indian Associations, Inc. (NCAIA, Inc.), Mr. Sunil Singh & Mr. Kirpa Shankar of the National Council of Asian-Indian Associations (NCAIA), Mr. Moazzam Siddiqi and Mr. Mohsin Alikhan of the Hyderabad Association of Washington Metro Area (HAWMA), and Dr. Mike Ghouse of the Center for Pluralism (CFP), who were co-sponsors of the program. "We are pleased that the Embassy has been supporting this program from the beginning, and it hosted the First

Bilingual Poetry recitation program on 10th June 2011 with the help of AAA-DC and Metro GOPIO," Iqbal added.

Mr. Afzal Usmani, President AAA-DC welcomed and thanked the participants and the audience on behalf of the association. He also applauded the increasing popularity of the program. Welcoming on behalf of GOPIO-DC, Dr. Zafar Iqbal appreciated the participation of poets and guests attending the program. "We have been with this program promoting Ganga-Jamuni culture since the start of the program in 2007," said Iqbal. GOPIO-DC Chairperson, Dr. Renuka Misra could not join the live broadcast due to technical problems.

The event brought the diaspora with multiple ethnic backgrounds together using social media. A special treat was the participation of Dr. Ashok Narayan from his home in India. He retired from the Indian Administrative Service. Participating poets (in alphabetical order) included: Abdullah, Ashok Narayan, Astha Naval, Daler Ashna Deol, Khurram Yusufzai, Mike Ghouse, Mohammad Akbar, Mohammad Jaweed, Narendra Tandon, Preethi Govindaraj, Razi Raziuddin, Satyapal Anand, Sukesh Chopra, Suman Vardhan, Vandana Singh, Vinita Tiwari, Vishakha Thaker, and Yusuf Rahat. Stalwart poet, author, and critic Professor Satyapal Anand presided over the mushaira. Afzal Usmani compered the poetry recitation session with remarkable literary skill.

Several poets and authors in the past

have released their books through our program. Some of them are Professor Satyapal Anand, Professor Asghar Wahat, Dr. A. Abdullah, Dr. K. Mohan, Mr. Raj Kumar Qais, Mr. Anadi Naik, Dr. Astha Naval, Mr. Dhananjaya Kumar Mrs. Rashmi Sanan, Mrs. Daler Deol Ashna, and Mr. Surender Deol.

This year also three recently published books were presented at the event by Dr. Abdullah. Commenting on Dr. Salman Akhtar's book *Meer Nama*, he said that the beauty of the book that each couplet of 54 Ghazals Meer in it. This book is published in both Urdu and Devanagari scripts. The second book Urdu Ghazal- A Gift of India's Composite Culture was co-authored by Professor Gopichand Narang and Surinder Deol. Dr. Abdullah also presented Deol's book *Sahir-A Literary Portrait* that has a foreword by Dr. Narang. This book emphasizes Sahir's passion for democratic ethos, Sanjhi Virasat, bhajans, women's rights, and world peace. Reminiscing his fascination with Sahir, Deol said that Sahir's book *Talkhian* was the first book he had bought during his student days and he reads it now and then.

The AAA-DC started this Independence Day annual Mushaira-Kavi Sammelan tradition more than a decade ago, and GOPIO-DC joined its efforts soon after. It is very gratifying to see that other community organizations are also supporting this program.

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