

LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

DEAR READERS,

ONE OF THE MOST difficult tricks to pull off in these complicated times is open-mindedness. The abject failure of our elected officials to find ways to work together turned Washington into a toxic waste dump decades ago, and it now actively harms the rest of our nation and, increasingly, our world. Bubble-dwelling partisans preach to their respective choirs, reinforcing the same old messages instead of changing minds or seeking common ground. Our cover story this month is about **Patricia Duff** of Bridgehampton and Manhattan, who has dedicated the third act of an already eventful life to bucking that tide, escaping the echo chamber, and attracting political opposites to events hosted by her nonprofit, the Common Good, where public policy and civility share center stage. In the process, she's transformed herself from what her profiler, the talented and prolific journalist **Ben Widdicombe**, calls "a football for the gossip press" into a civic

heroine. She's plenty glamorous, too, as **Ben Fink Shapiro's** photos prove. Thomas Paine's great Revolutionary War-era call to arms against tyranny, *Common Sense*, inspired our cover line extolling her uncommon outlook.

Let's be open-minded about summer, too. The Hamptons are a thing, for sure, but they aren't everything. So in the pages that follow we feature three places where New Yorkers have fun in the sun that aren't on the East End of Long Island. **Patricia Beard**, the author of nine nonfiction books and countless magazine articles, spotlights exciting new developments just outside the gates of the Gilded Age enclave of Tuxedo Park, and in bucolic Amenia, next door to Millbrook, and **Sam Bolton** produced and **Jason Evans** photographed a portfolio featuring the freshest faces in Newport's next generation.

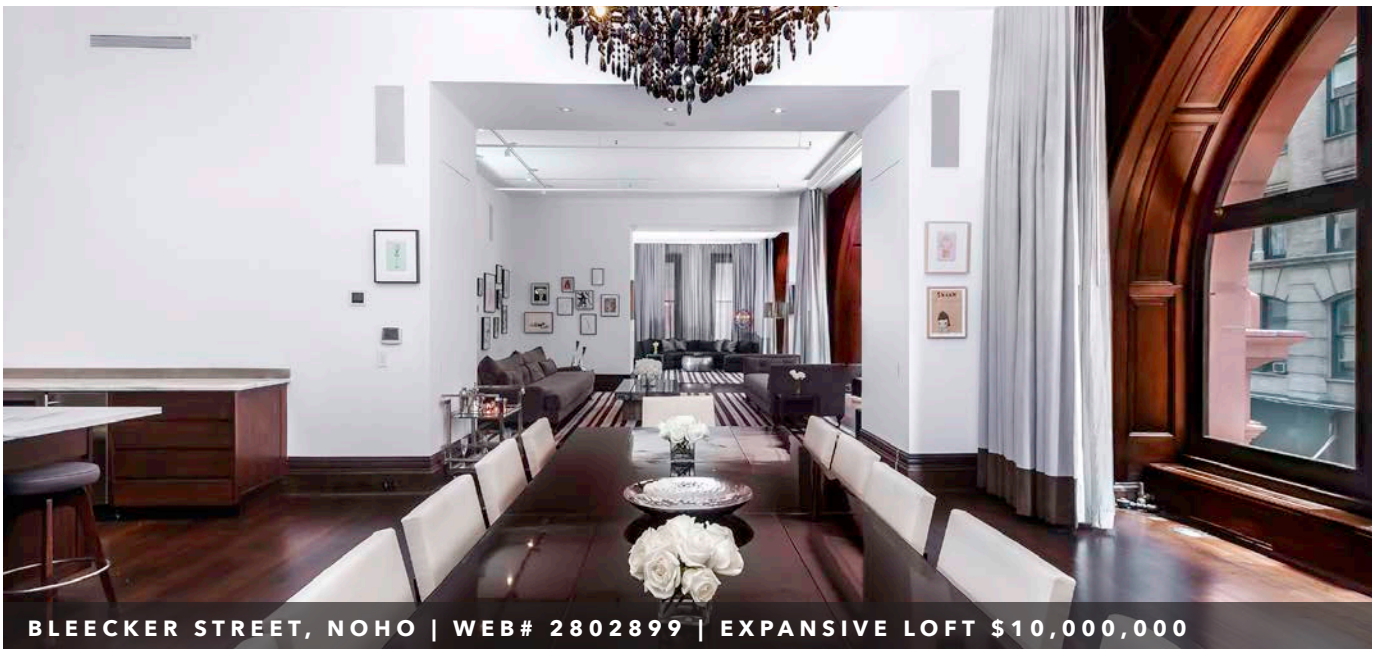
Another difficult topic in current events is so-called "fake" news, which I'd argue is



the *real* fake news. Regardless, fakery is depressing and costly, so when the writer and marketing veteran **Karen Amster-Young** suggested a story on the burgeoning business of authenticating the vintage luxury items that are so much a part of fashion today, I was all in. One of the businesses she highlights is the vintage retailer called What Goes Around Comes Around. Which brings me back to the thought on which this letter started and seems a perfect place to end it.

Michael Gross
Editor in Chief

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