

# ourtowns

## WINNERS

Compiled by Michael Ebert

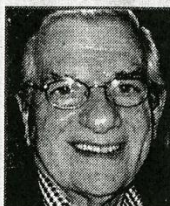
### **Taryn Birkmire** Nurse

Taryn Birkmire of West Islip has received the 2009 Edna A. Lauterbach Member of the Year Award from the New York Association of Health Care Providers. Birkmire is president of the association's Long Island Chapter, and executive director of Recco Home Care Services in Massapequa. She also holds positions with the Nassau County Long Term Care Council and Long Island Performance Improvement Coalition and the Consumer Directed Personal Assistant Association of New York State.



### **Frank De Mita** Bank director

Frank De Mita of Glen Cove has been inducted into the Credit Union Executive Society's Director Hall of Fame for his achievements in the industry. De Mita is chairman emeritus of Nassau Educators Credit Union, where he served as director from 1967 to 2005. He also has served as chairman of the mathematics department at Valley Stream Central High School, and was an assistant professor of mathematics at City University of New York until his retirement in 1996.



### **Luci Ferraro** Student

Luci Ferraro of Smithtown is one of 31 winners nationwide of a \$10,000 scholarship from the UCB Crohn's Scholarship Program for her determination to succeed despite living with Crohn's disease. Ferraro, 22, is a student and volleyball player at New York Institute of Technology, and was diagnosed with the disease two years ago. She attended every practice and game, even when she was too weak to play, and maintained a 4.0 grade-point average despite extended absences from school.



### **Chi-Chang Kao** Scientist

Chi-Chang Kao of Setauket has been named a fellow by the American Association for the Advancement of Science for his contributions to resonant elastic X-ray scattering techniques and X-ray spectroscopy. Kao is a scientist at Brookhaven National Laboratory, where he is director of the Joint Photon Sciences Institute and chair of the National Synchrotron Light Source, a facility that uses X-rays to study various materials. He has been an adjunct professor at Stony Brook University since 2003.

