

LONG ISLAND / LI LIFE

Scenes from Disco's heyday on Long Island

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Did you used to feel like hot stuff wearing your best leisure suit and partying hard at Uncle Sam's in Levittown? Or maybe you'd put on your boogie shoes and head to Cherry's in Glen Cove?

Sure, in the 1970s the bigger and harder-to-get-into clubs were in Manhattan. But those looking for a more relaxed (but still funky) time found ample places to catch night fever right here on Long Island. Haunts like Decameron in Levittown, 2001 in East Islip and LGBTQ refuges like Club Swamp in Wainscott offered spaces with rhythmic sounds and a respite from the real world. Disco began as an escapist subculture born out of Black and Latino music, but had become full-blown suburban mainstream by the late 1970s.



Credit: Meryl Meisler

1979 The restroom lounge at Uncle Sam's in Levittown, a giant disco with seven bars. A Newsday story called it "a place to see and be seen."



Credit: Meryl Meisler

1977 Two clubgoers are head and shoulders above the competition in a dance contest at Wilson's Garage in Westhampton.