

May 13, 2021 – Annual Meeting and Luncheon Fundraiser –

On a bright and sunny Thursday morning, **Luncheon Chairwoman, Linda Akers**, and her dedicated helpers descended upon the Plandome Country Club and in a flurry and a hurry prepared for the gala which was about to take place.

The more than **50 raffle baskets** were labeled and set upon the tables in a decorative fashion. The registration desk was “manned”; the raffle and share the wealth ticket sellers were at their posts. The ticket sellers had baskets in hand and at the ready to traverse the room. The room was festively decorated with the blue balloons depicting our **“Around the World Theme”**. The beautiful centerpieces adorned each table.

As part of the entertainment, and continuing with the theme **“Around the World”**, a collection of photographs of beautiful destinations and interesting places of the world were masterfully showcased and displayed as a continuous slide show with soft background music. *(Photographs by Linda Akers, of her travels “around the world”).*

The guests arrived in and in no time, **Linda Akers**, gave her welcome speech; **President Johanna Abramo** held a short general meeting; the Pledge of Allegiance was respectfully recited and the prayer/grace was offered.

New members were introduced and new officers were installed:

Helene Schutz	President
Maria DiChiara	Vice-President
Helena Wong	Recording Secretary
Sarah Milunec	Corresponding Secretary
Sandy Hart	Treasurer

President Johanna Abramo was called to the podium and gave a thoughtful, gracious and meaningful farewell address. She mentioned the many accomplishments brought about during her tenure emphasizing that all this could not have been achieved without her dedicated Board and Committee Chairwomen all working together to ensure the success of her administration and the continued growth of

the **WCD**. [Click here to read full speech.](#)

Newly elected President Helen Schutz offered an inspiring speech (*see excerpts at beginning of NB above*) and was warmly welcomed as our new Leader! We know there are many great things which shall take place with Helene at the “helm”.

After, a delicious luncheon was served, the baskets were raffled; share the wealth was called and there were many happy members.

A highlight of the Luncheon was the international dance team of James Zhang and Angie Ruan. They enthralled us with their talent and grace and totally entertained us.

Since the theme of the Luncheon was “**Around The World**”, many members dressed up for the occasion. Spotted in the audience was a **Flamenco Dancer; Argentinian Gauchos; Asian/Indian apparel; Spanish Senioritas; even a 1960’s Hippie; an American Flag duster depicting our great USA; and last but not least, the jewel of the day: Queen Elizabeth, a/k/a Marie Romano**. Marie amazed us with her perfect British Chapeau (*which when it became too hot to wear – she removed the hat and wore the Crown Jewels in the form of a tiara*); she wore the appropriate royal suit, shoes and handbag. She gave the royal wave and for all of this she won First Prize. *Thank you, Marie and all you ladies who participated!*

Amidst the calling of raffle numbers and share the wealth tickets, Linda, our Luncheon Chairwoman conducted a “**Trivia Contest**”. Now we all had to start thinking world history and geography. Ten well-thought-out questions had to be answered. We all got into the “**Around the World**” theme and responded to them all. There was a winning table with the most correct answers and a “*special prize winner*” from that table. The lucky winner, **Bernadette Gabrielle**, won a generous discount from the **WCD** to attend our 2022 Luncheon. *I’m sure some of us leaned a thing or two from those clever questions!*

The Annual Luncheon is a fundraiser, and in that regard, it was a huge success. All the attendees are to be thanked for their

participation in buying tickets, bringing baskets, making donations and for their attendance in an unsure time. Please note that all necessary (*covid related*) precautions were taken. Also, to be thanked are the many merchant sponsors who donated gift certificates and services:

The Plaza Coffee Shop; Dr. Kelly Mattone Aesthetic Medical Studio; Pizzas Salon; DiFranco Spagnolo Salons; Culinary Architect Caterers; Chloe Nail Salon; NorthShore Farms Supermarkets; Honey Grams Skin Care Products; Dale Spina, Golf Professional at Alley Pond Driver Range; Lemon Tree; HenryGurindi, HDS Trading; and Akers Global Travel LLC.

We encourage our members to frequent these merchants and mention you are from WCD and appreciated their donation to our Annual Fundraiser.

In closing, and on a personal note, I would like to share with you two sentences from the Prayer which I was honored to deliver:

"May this food nourish us and the Sisterhood of the Woman's Club of Douglaston. May this Sisterhood continue to enrich our lives and further our purpose."

This truly is my prayer – that our sisterhood will continue to flourish; will continue to support each other; continue to achieve; continue to grow; continue to expand; continue to stimulate us intellectually and entertain us with exciting programs, trips and festivities.

"Sisterhood is a funny thing. It's easy to recognize, but hard to define." (Pearl Cleage)

Sisterhood defined: "Noun. Unity and friendship among women; a deep bond based on eternal love and respect; solidarity and support for a lifetime..."

*Is this not us? Is this not the **Woman's Club of Douglaston**? I answer in the affirmative!*

A.A.